THE GOLDEN AGE
BATMAN
VOLUME THREE
DC

THE GOLDEN AGE BATMAN

VOLUME THREE

BILL FINGER
WITH JOSEPH GREENE, EDMOND HAMILTON AND JACK SCHIFF
WRITERS

BOB KANE
WITH JACK BURNLEY, FRED RAY, JERRY ROBINSON AND GEORGE ROUSSOS
ARTISTS

MICHAEL CHO
COVER ARTIST

BATMAN created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER.

THE GOLDEN AGE
BATMAN
VOLUME THREE

WHITNEY ELLSWORTH Editor – Original Series **JEB WOODARD** Group Editor – Collected Editions
STEVE COOK Design Director – Books **LOUIS PRANDI** Publication Design

BOB HARRAS Senior VP – Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics

President **DIANE NELSON**
Publisher **DAN DiDIO**
Publisher **JIM LEE**
President & Chief Creative Officer **GEOFF JOHNS**
Executive VP – Business & Marketing Strategy, Direct to Consumer & Global Franchise Management **AMIT DESAI**
Senior VP – Direct to Consumer **SAM ADES**
VP – Talent Development **BOBBIE CHASE**
Senior VP – Art, Design & Collected Editions **MARK CHIARELLO**
Senior VP – Sales & Trade Marketing **JOHN CUNNINGHAM**
Senior VP – Business Strategy, Finance & Administration **ANNE DePIES**
VP – Manufacturing Operations **DON FALLETTI**

LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Administration & Talent Relations
ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations
HANK KANALZ Senior VP – Editorial Strategy & Administration
JAY KOGAN VP – Legal Affairs
THOMAS LOFTUS VP – Business Affairs
JACK MAHAN VP – Business Affairs
NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration
EDDIE SCANNELL VP – Consumer Marketing
COURTNEY SIMMONS Senior VP – Publicity & Communications
JIM (SKI) SOKOLOWSKI VP – Comic Book Specialty Sales & Trade Marketing
NANCY SPEARS VP – Mass, Book, Digital Sales & Trade Marketing

BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE VOLUME 3

Published by DC Comics. Compilation, cover and all new material Copyright © 2017 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. Originally published in single magazine form in BATMAN 8-11, DETECTIVE COMICS 57-65, WORLD'S FINEST COMICS 4-6. Copyright © 1941, 1942 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters, their distinctive likenesses and related elements featured in this publication are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork.

DC Comics, 2900 West Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91505

All stories by **BILL FINGER**, *except where noted. All covers and stories pencilled by* **BOB KANE** *and inked by* **JERRY ROBINSON**, *except where noted.*

DETECTIVE COMICS #57 November 1941
"Twenty-Four Hours to Live"
7

DETECTIVE COMICS #58 December 1941
Cover art by Jerry Robinson
"One of The Most Perfect Frame-Ups"*
21

BATMAN #8 December 1941–January 1942
Cover art by Fred Ray and Jerry Robinson
"Stone Walls Do Not a Prison Make"
"The Strange Case of Professor Radium"
"The Superstition Murders"
"The Cross Country Crimes"
35

DETECTIVE COMICS #59 January 1942
Cover art by Bob Kane
"The King of The Jungle"
Writer: Joseph Greene
88

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #4 Winter 1942
Cover art by Fred Ray
"The Ghost Gang Goes West"
102

DETECTIVE COMICS #60 February 1942
Cover art by Jerry Robinson
"The Case of the Costume-Clad Killers"
Writer: Jack Schiff
116

BATMAN #9 February–March 1942
Cover art by Jack Burnley
"The Four Fates"
"The White Whale"
"The Case of the Lucky Law-Breakers"
"Christmas"*
130

DETECTIVE COMICS #61 March 1942
"The Three Racketeers"
182

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #5 Spring 1942
Cover art by Jerry Robinson
"Crime Takes a Holiday"
196

DETECTIVE COMICS #62 April 1942
"Laugh, Town, Laugh"
210

BATMAN #10 April–March 1942
"The Isle That Time Forgot"
Writer: Joseph Greene
"Report Card Blues"
Writer: Joseph Greene
"The Princess of Plunder"
Writer: Jack Schiff
Artist: Jerry Robinson
"Sheriff of Ghost Town"
224

DETECTIVE COMICS #63 May 1942
"A Gentleman in Gotham"
276

DETECTIVE COMICS #64 June 1942
"The Joker Walks the Last Mile"
290

BATMAN #11 June–July 1942
Cover art by Fred Ray
"The Joker's Advertising Campaign"*
"Payment in Full"
"Bandits in Toyland"
Writer: Edmond Hamilton
"Four Birds of a Feather"
304

WORLD'S FINEST #6 Summer 1942
Cover art by Fred Ray
"The Secret of Bruce Wayne"
Writer: Joseph Greene
Artist: Jerry Robinson
357

DETECTIVE COMICS #65 July 1942
Cover art by Jack Kirby and Joe Simon
"The Cop Who Hated The Batman"
Writer: Joseph Greene
Penciller: Jack Burnley
Inker: George Roussos
371

*These titles were originally untitled and are titled here for reader convenience.

Until the 1970s, it was not common practice in the comic book industry to credit all stories. In the preparation of this collection, we have used our best efforts to review any surviving records and consult any available databases and knowledgeable parties. We regret the innate limitations of this process and any missing or misassigned attributions that may occur.

No. 57
The BATMAN
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
Detective
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
NOV.
COMICS
BOB KANE

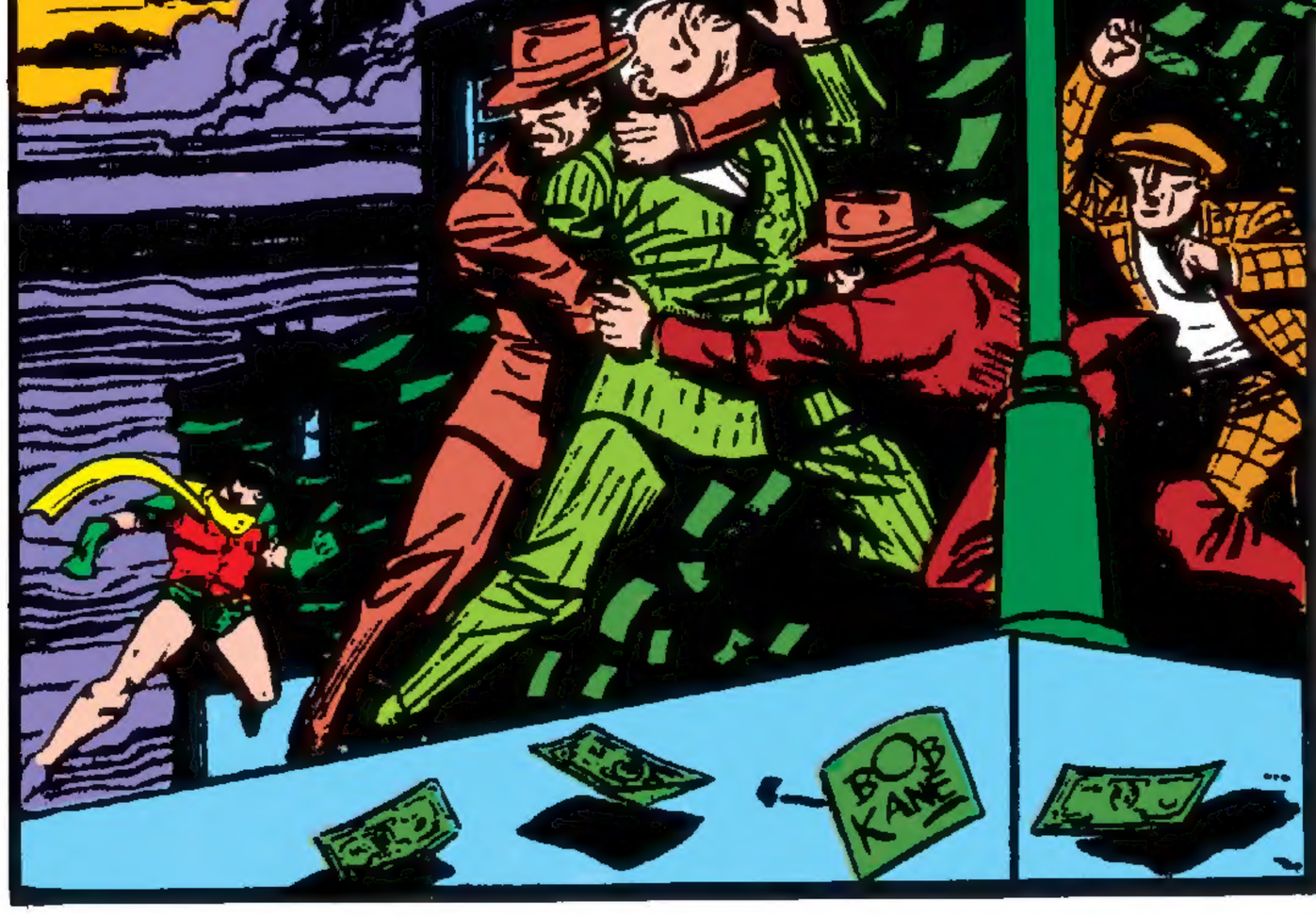
BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

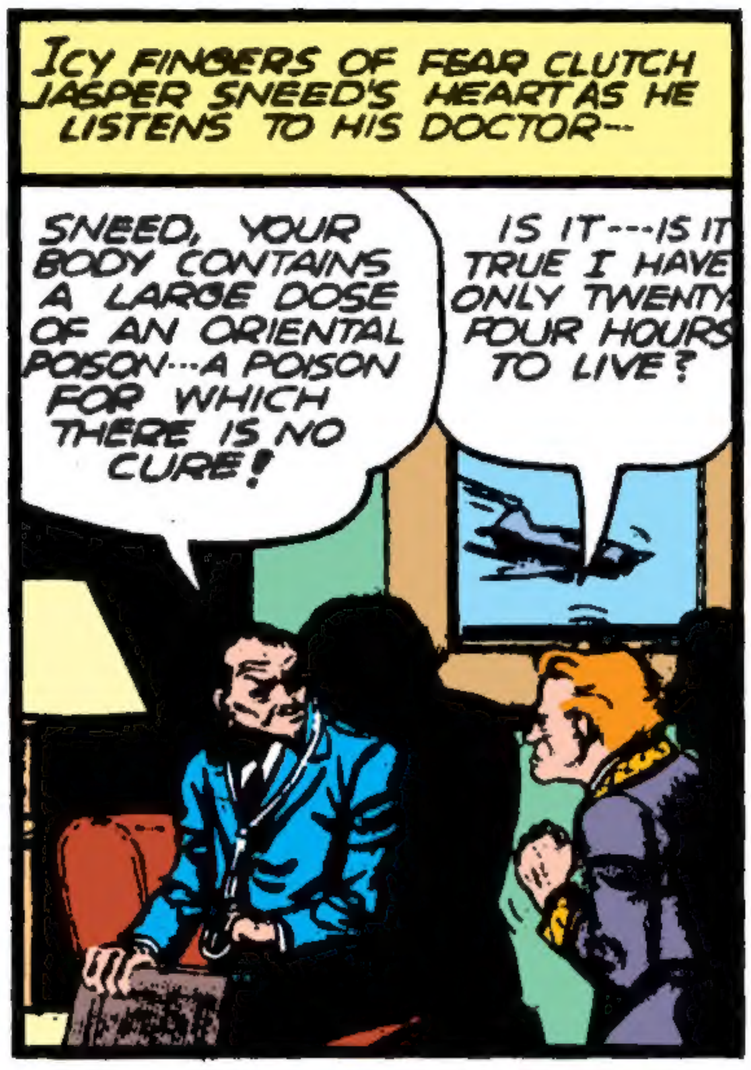
TIME!... JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME AND HIS MILLION DOLLARS WOULD HAVE FINISHED THEM OFF! WHAT FUN, WHAT A TRIUMPH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO KNOW THEY HAD DIED, ONE BY ONE BUT THEY DIDN'T DIE, NOT ALL OF THEM--BECAUSE OF THE TWO FIGURES WHO BENT OVER HIM. THE TALL ONE, MUSCULAR AND WEARING A COSTUME THAT MADE HIM RESEMBLE A BAT. AND THE OTHER, A MERE LAD, ALSO MASKED, BUT LOOKING LIKE A BOY ROBIN HOOD. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THEM HE COULD HAVE KILLED HIS CURSED FAMILY. HOW HE HATED THEM! HOW HE HATED THE WORLD, FOR THAT MATTER. THEY SAID HE WAS MAD. THE FOOLS! THE STUPID, SENTIMENTAL FOOLS!

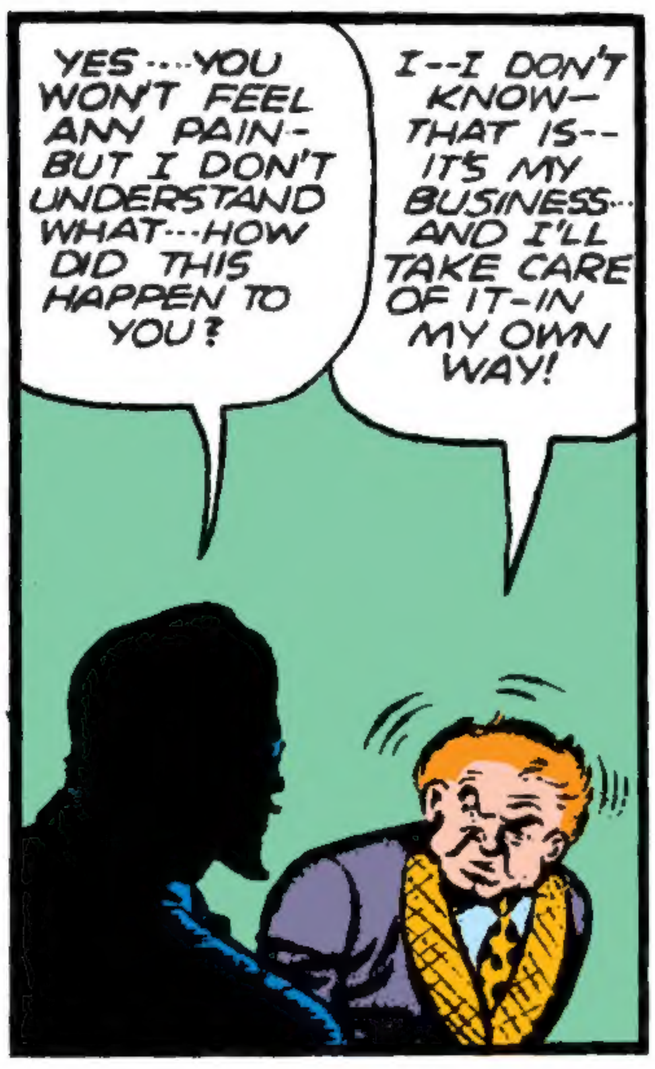
THE HATE-SEARED EYES CLOSED. THE MAN WAS DEAD. THE INSIDIOUS POISON IN HIM HAD FINISHED ITS TASK. THE LAST HOUR HAD COME TO THE MAN WHO HAD - - -

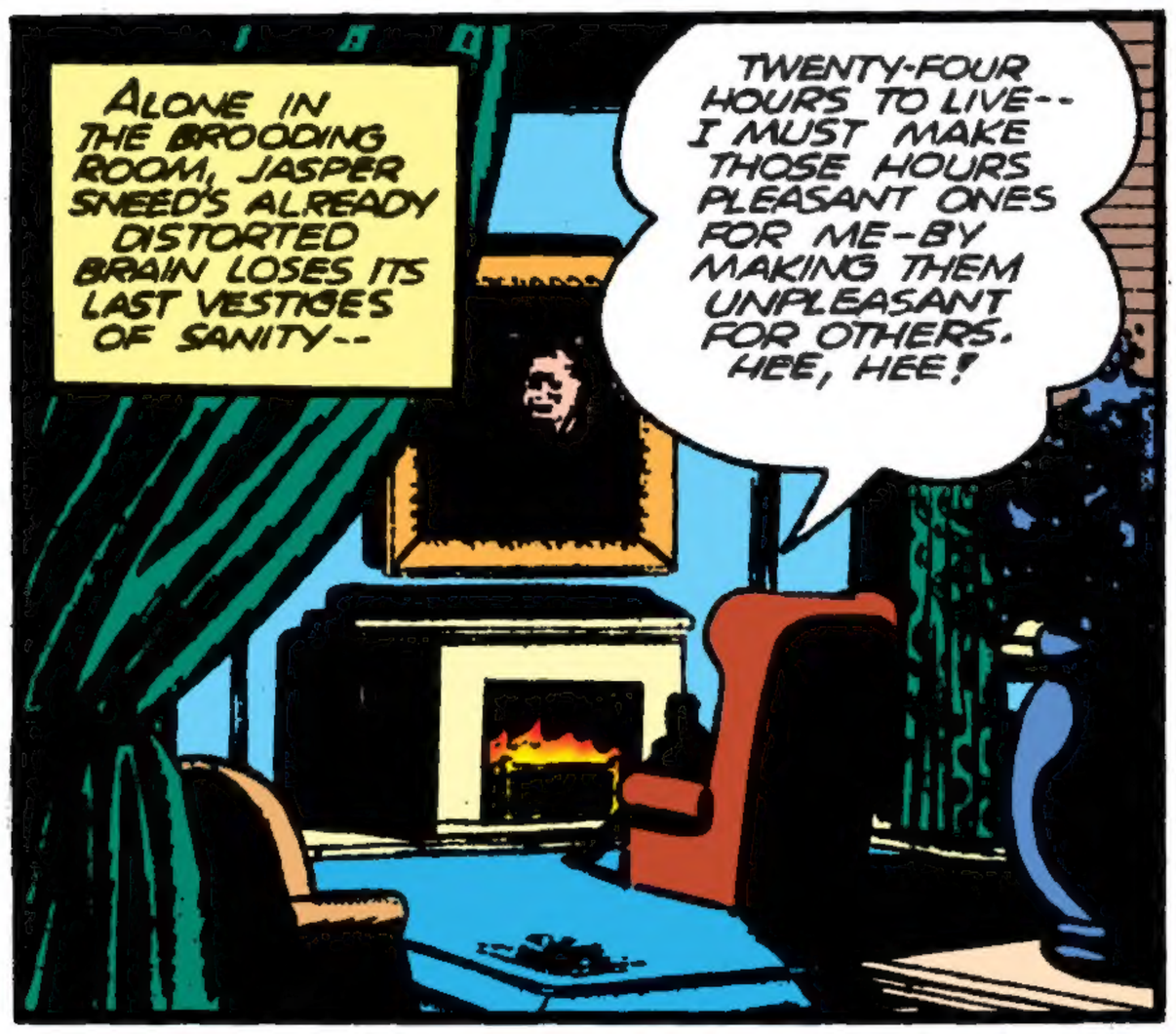
"Twenty-Four Hours to Live!"



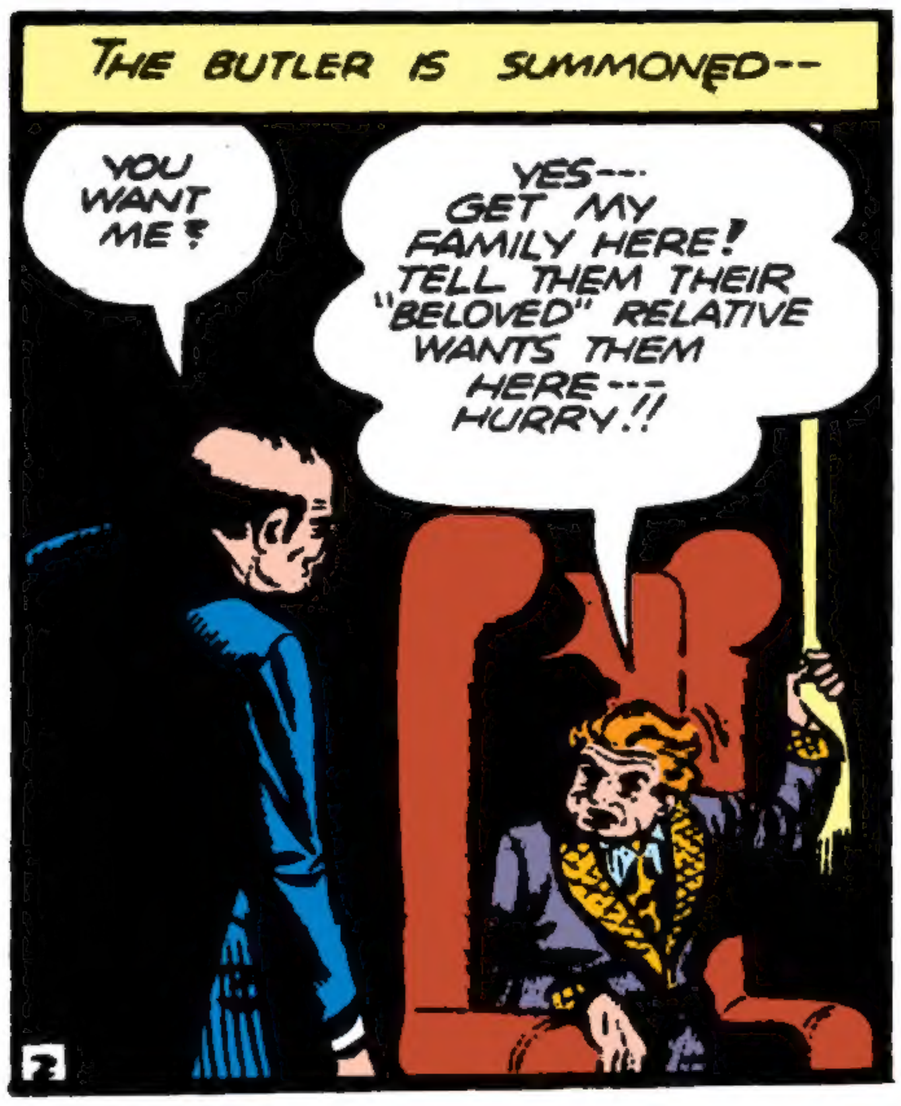
I..I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHY DON'T YOU CALL YOUR DOCTOR AND LET HIM TELL YOU?


ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH JASPER SNEED'S HEART AS HE LISTENS TO HIS DOCTOR--
SNEED, YOUR BODY CONTAINS A LARGE DOSE OF AN ORIENTAL POISON---A POISON FOR WHICH THERE IS NO CURE!
IS IT---IS IT TRUE I HAVE ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS TO LIVE?


YES....YOU WON'T FEEL ANY PAIN- BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT---HOW DID THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?
I--I DON'T KNOW- THAT IS-- IT'S MY BUSINESS... AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT-IN MY OWN WAY!

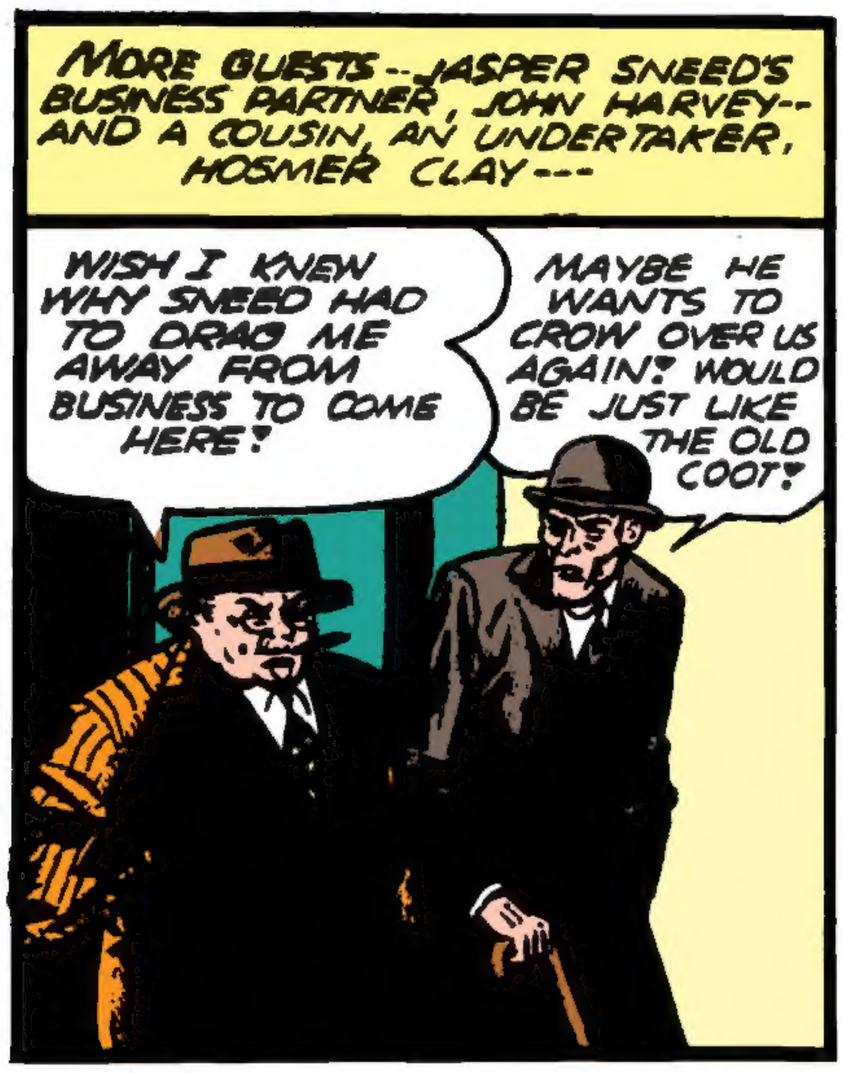

ALONE IN THE BROODING ROOM, JASPER SNEED'S ALREADY DISTORTED BRAIN LOSES ITS LAST VESTIGES OF SANITY--
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO LIVE-- I MUST MAKE THOSE HOURS PLEASANT ONES FOR ME-BY MAKING THEM UNPLEASANT FOR OTHERS. HEE, HEE!

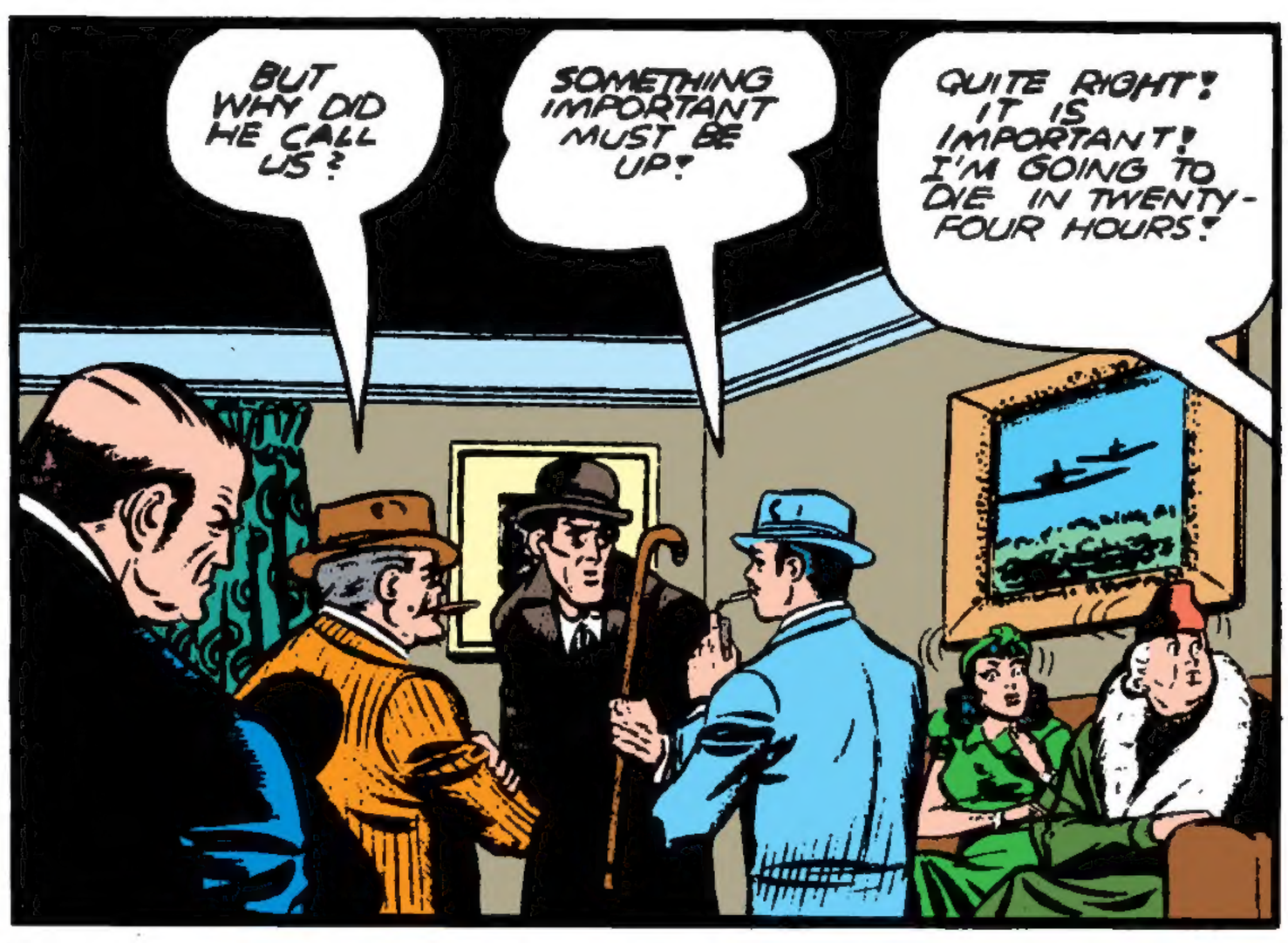
MY FAMILY, EVERYBODY HATES ME! BUT THEY'RE NICE TO ME BECAUSE THEY THINK I'M GOING TO LEAVE THEM MY MONEY! WELL--I'LL GIVE THEM MONEY--BUT NOT IN THE WAY THEY EXPECT!

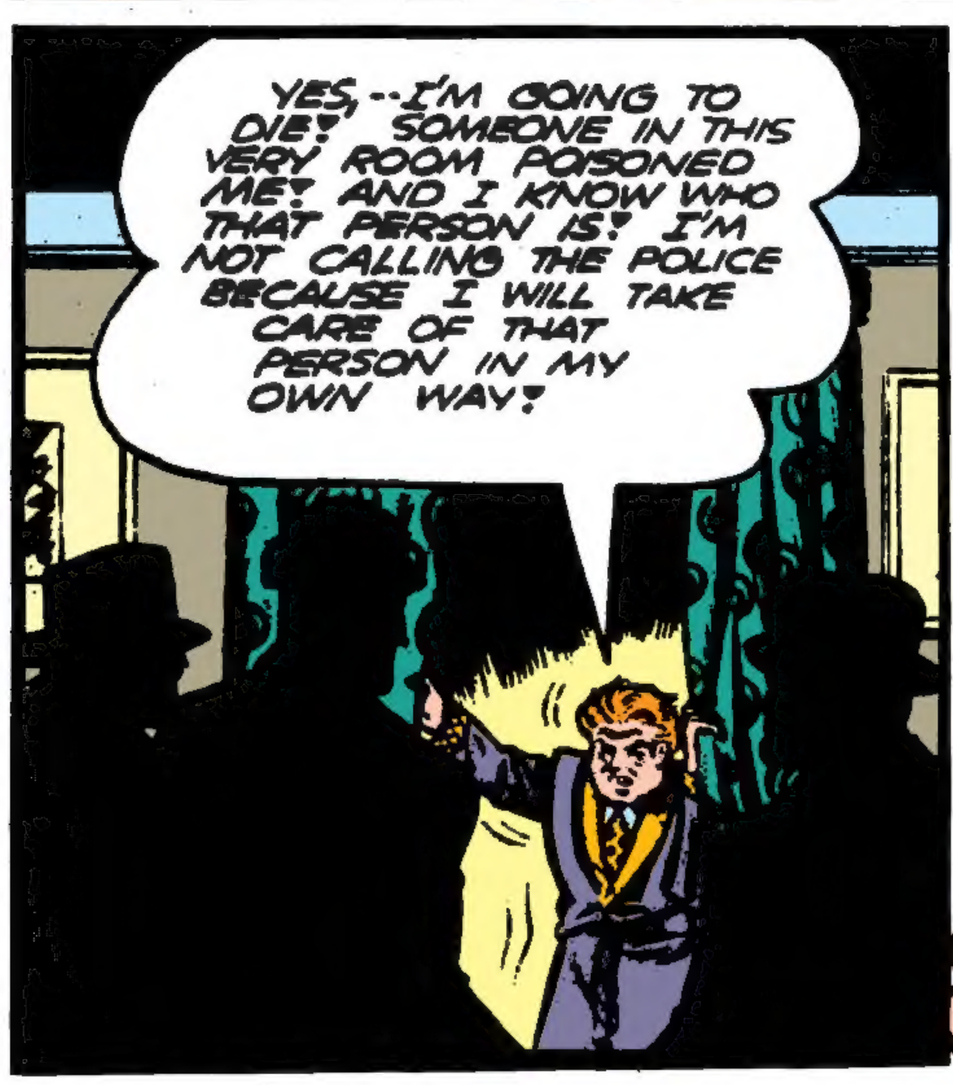

THE BUTLER IS SUMMONED--
YOU WANT ME?
YES--- GET MY FAMILY HERE! TELL THEM THEIR "BELOVED" RELATIVE WANTS THEM HERE--- HURRY!!

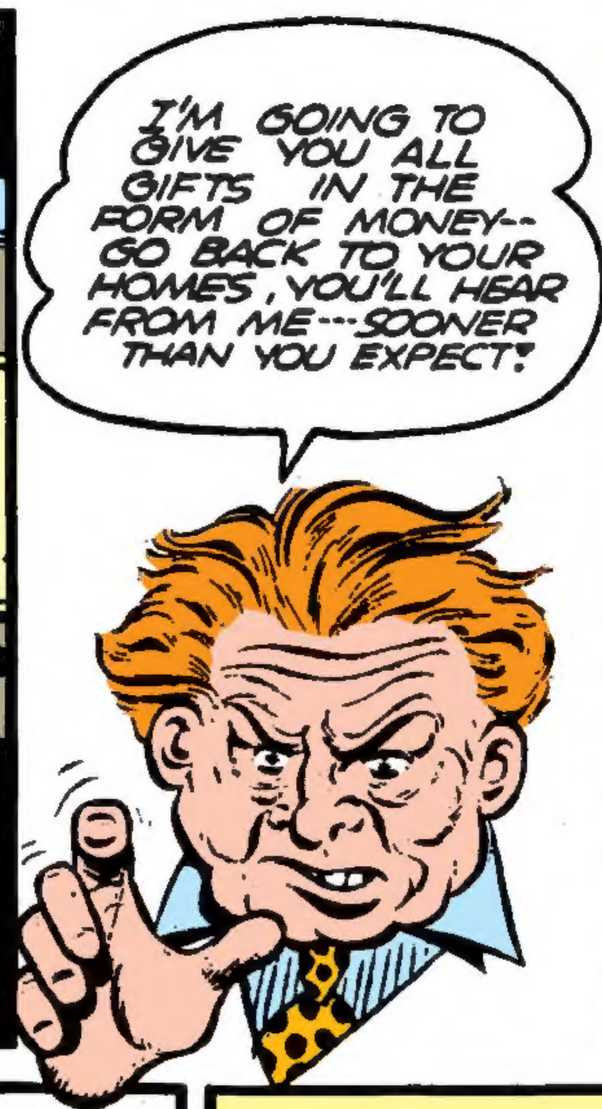
THE FAMILY SOON ARRIVES-- A WIDOWED SISTER AND HER LOOSE-LIVING SON--
WONDER WHAT THE OLD GUY WANTS? MAYBE HE'S GOIN' TO BREAK DOWN AND DISTRIBUTE SOME OF THAT MONEY HE'S GOT LAID IN THE BANK- EH, MOM?
STANLEY, THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK! BUT, OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE NICE IF HE DECIDED TO BE BOUNTIFUL! AHEM-

AN ORPHAN NIECE---WHO WORKS HARD FOR A LIVING--
AH GOOD DAY, MISS LUCILLE. STILL TAKING SINGING LESSONS, SO SOME DAY YOU MAY SING AT THE OPERA?
YES, BARKIS! IF I FAIL IT WON'T BE BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRY!

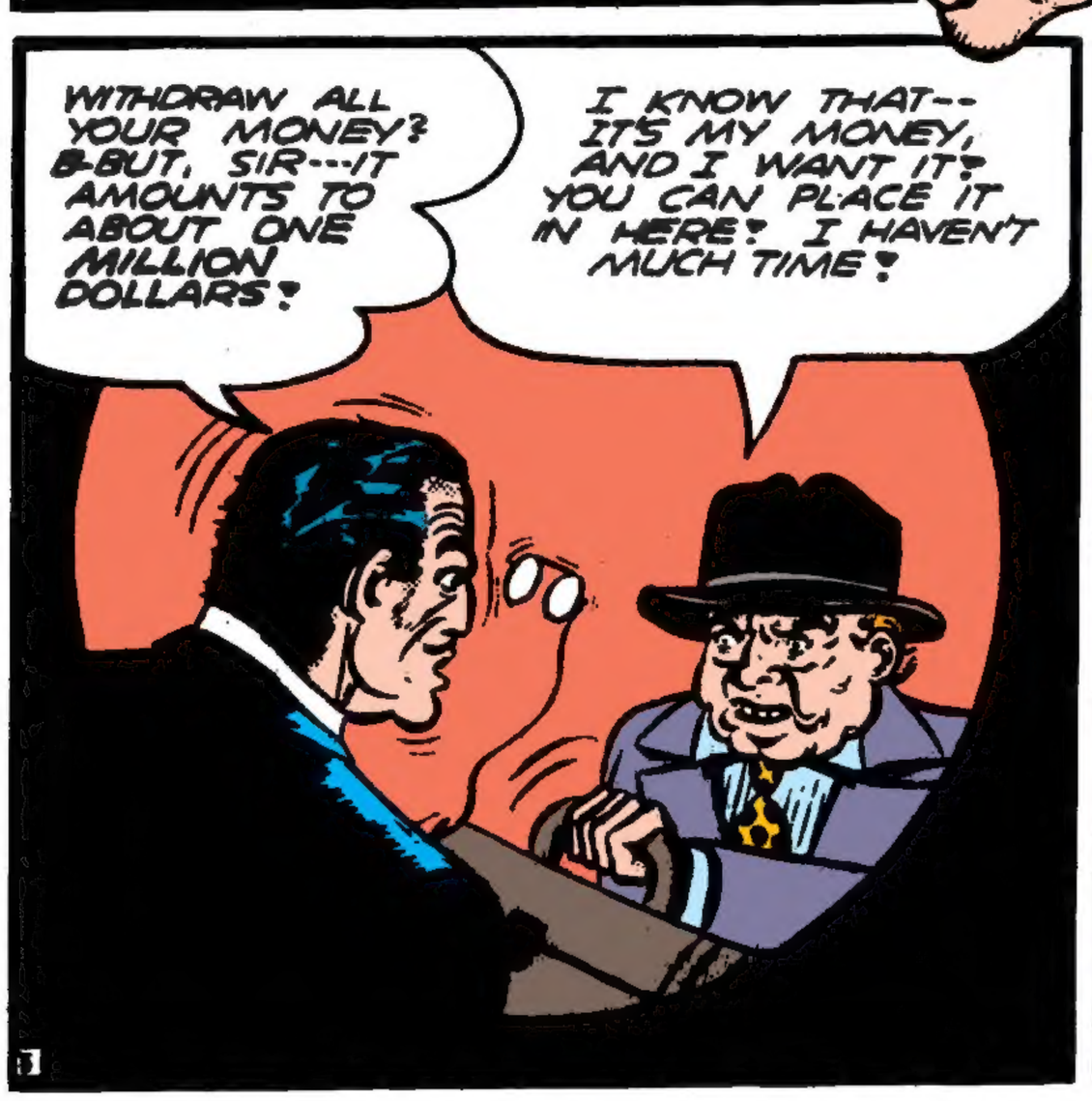

MORE GUESTS--JASPER SNEED'S BUSINESS PARTNER, JOHN HARVEY--AND A COUSIN, AN UNDERTAKER, HOSMER CLAY---
WISH I KNEW WHY SNEED HAD TO DRAG ME AWAY FROM BUSINESS TO COME HERE!
MAYBE HE WANTS TO CROW OVER US AGAIN! WOULD BE JUST LIKE THE OLD COOT!

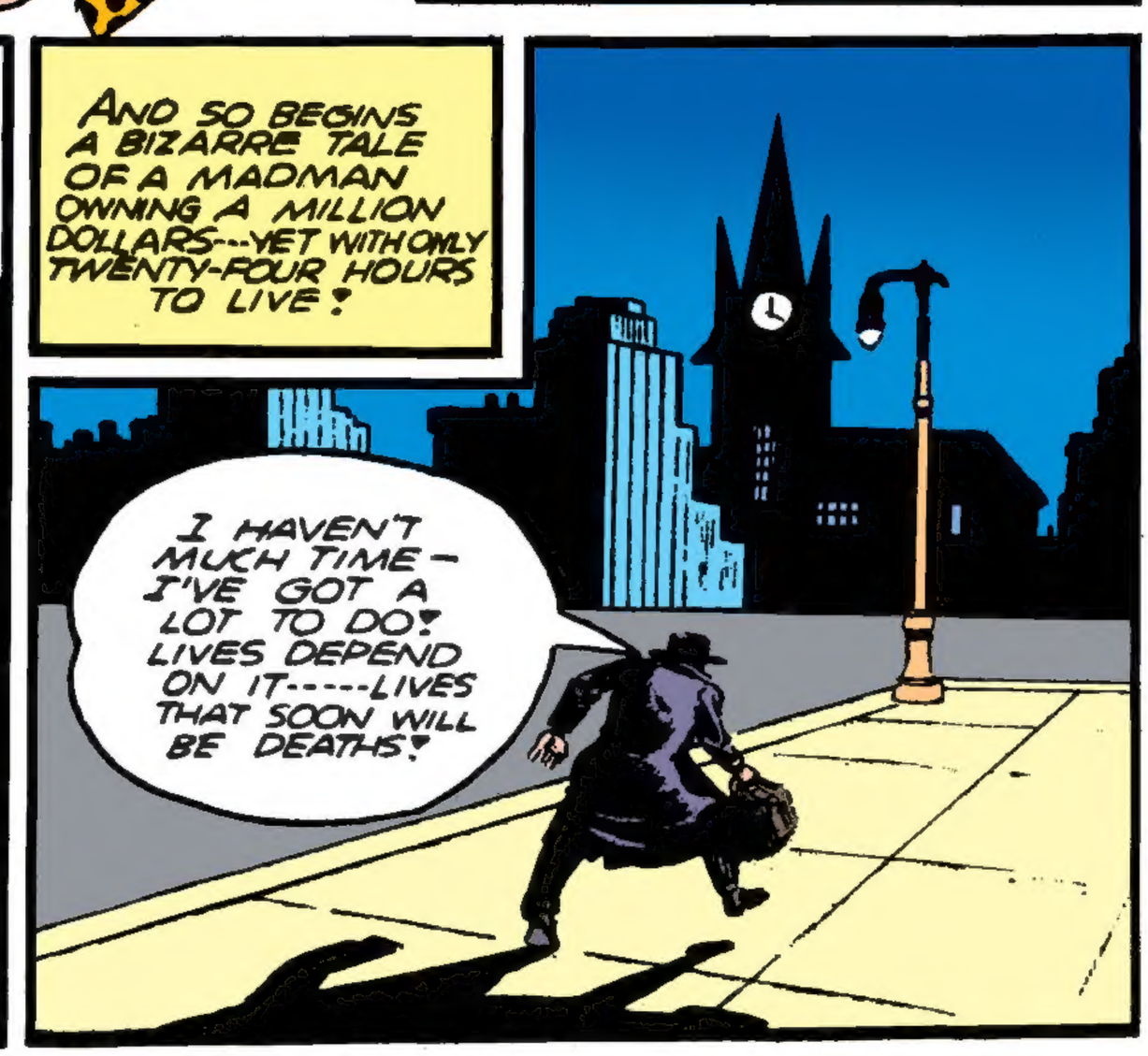

BUT WHY DID HE CALL US?
SOMETHING IMPORTANT MUST BE UP!
QUITE RIGHT! IT IS IMPORTANT! I'M GOING TO DIE IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!


YES,--I'M GOING TO DIE! SOMEONE IN THIS VERY ROOM POISONED ME! AND I KNOW WHO THAT PERSON IS! I'M NOT CALLING THE POLICE BECAUSE I WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT PERSON IN MY OWN WAY!


I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ALL GIFTS IN THE FORM OF MONEY--GO BACK TO YOUR HOMES, YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME---SOONER THAN YOU EXPECT!

SOMETIME LATER, SNEED WALKS INTO HIS BANK--
AH, MR. SNEED--WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YOU CAN BRING ME THE MONEY I'VE DEPOSITED IN THIS BANK! I'M WITHDRAWING IT ALL!

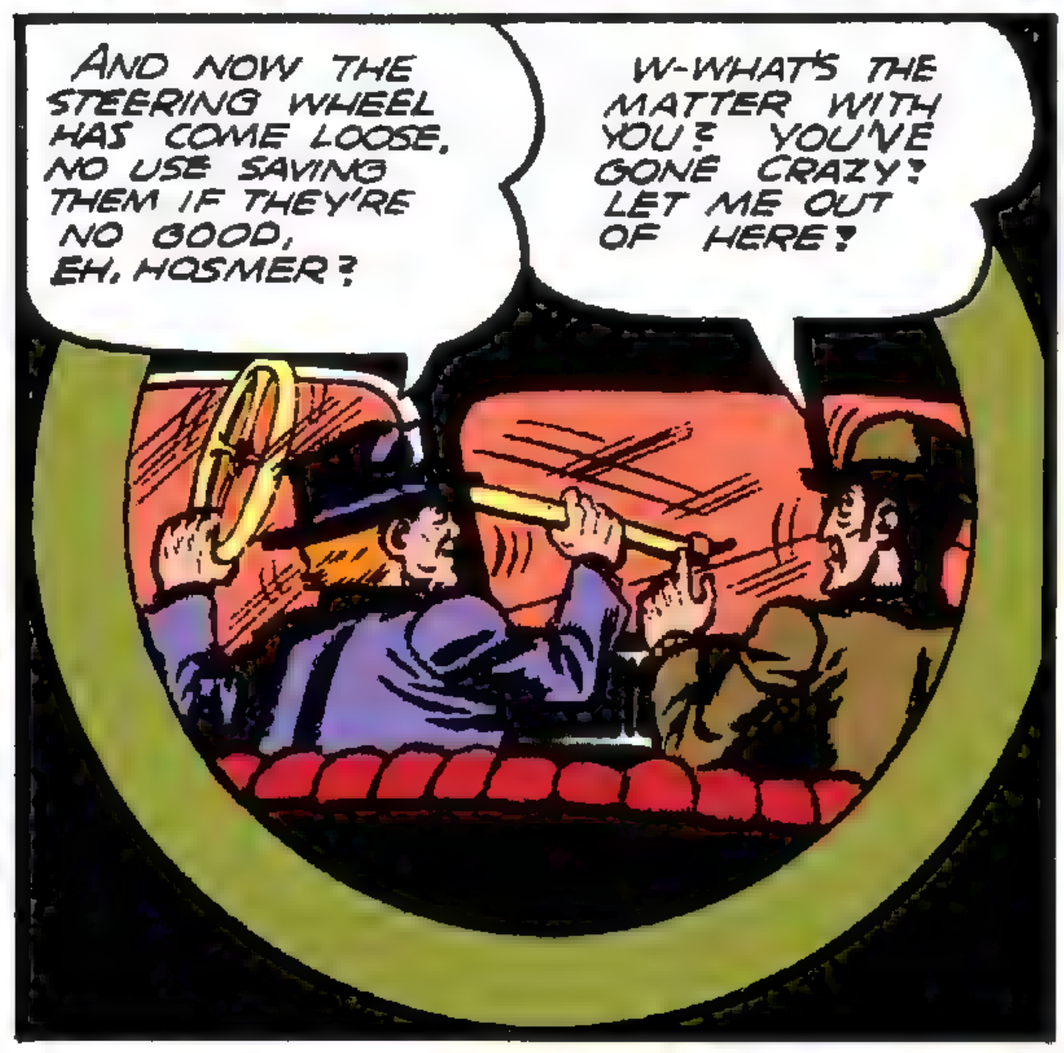

WITHDRAW ALL YOUR MONEY? B-BUT, SIR---IT AMOUNTS TO ABOUT ONE MILLION DOLLARS!
I KNOW THAT--IT'S MY MONEY, AND I WANT IT! YOU CAN PLACE IT IN HERE! I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!

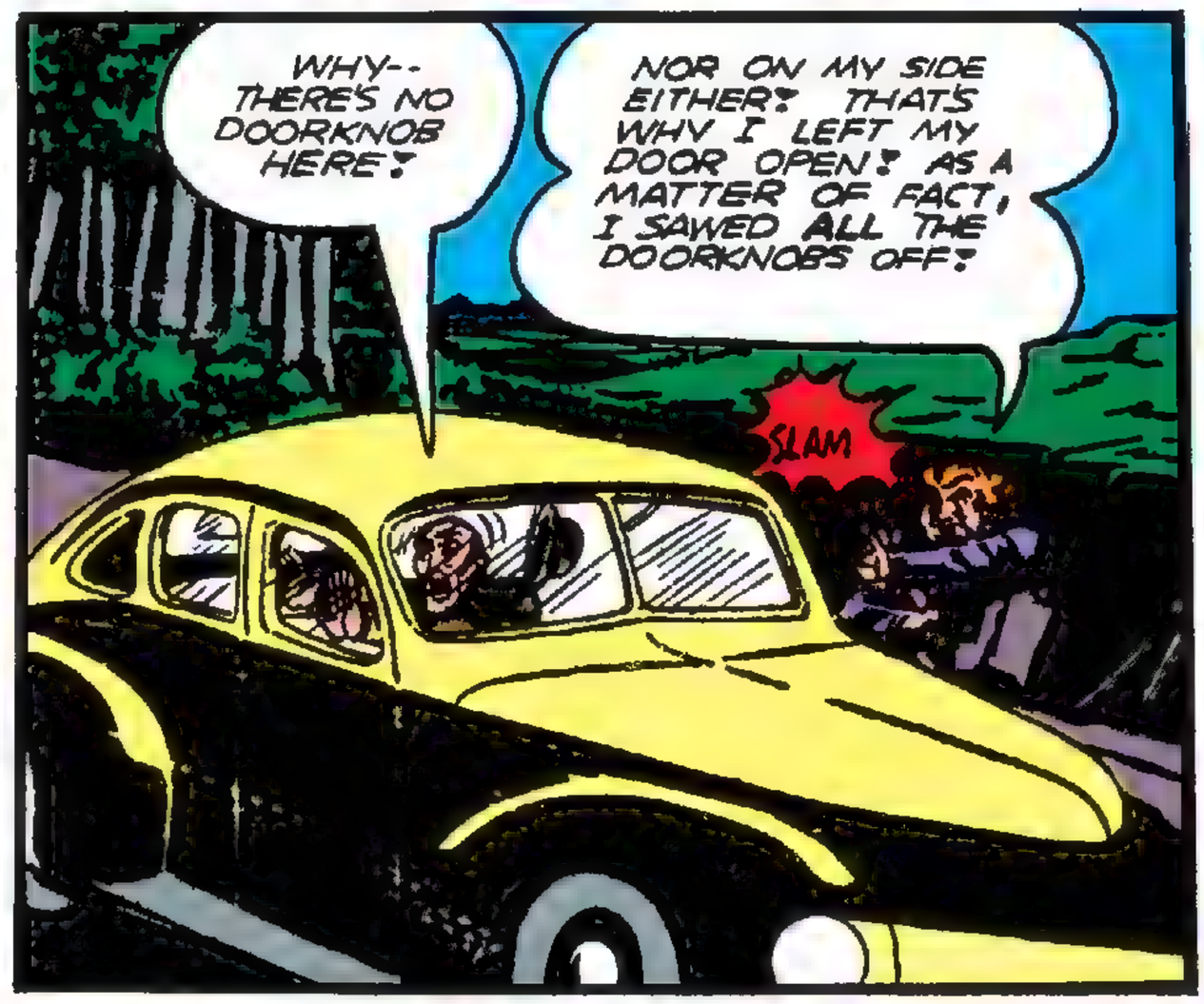

AND SO BEGINS A BIZARRE TALE OF A MADMAN OWNING A MILLION DOLLARS---YET WITH ONLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO LIVE!
I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME--I'VE GOT A LOT TO DO! LIVES DEPEND ON IT-----LIVES THAT SOON WILL BE DEATHS!

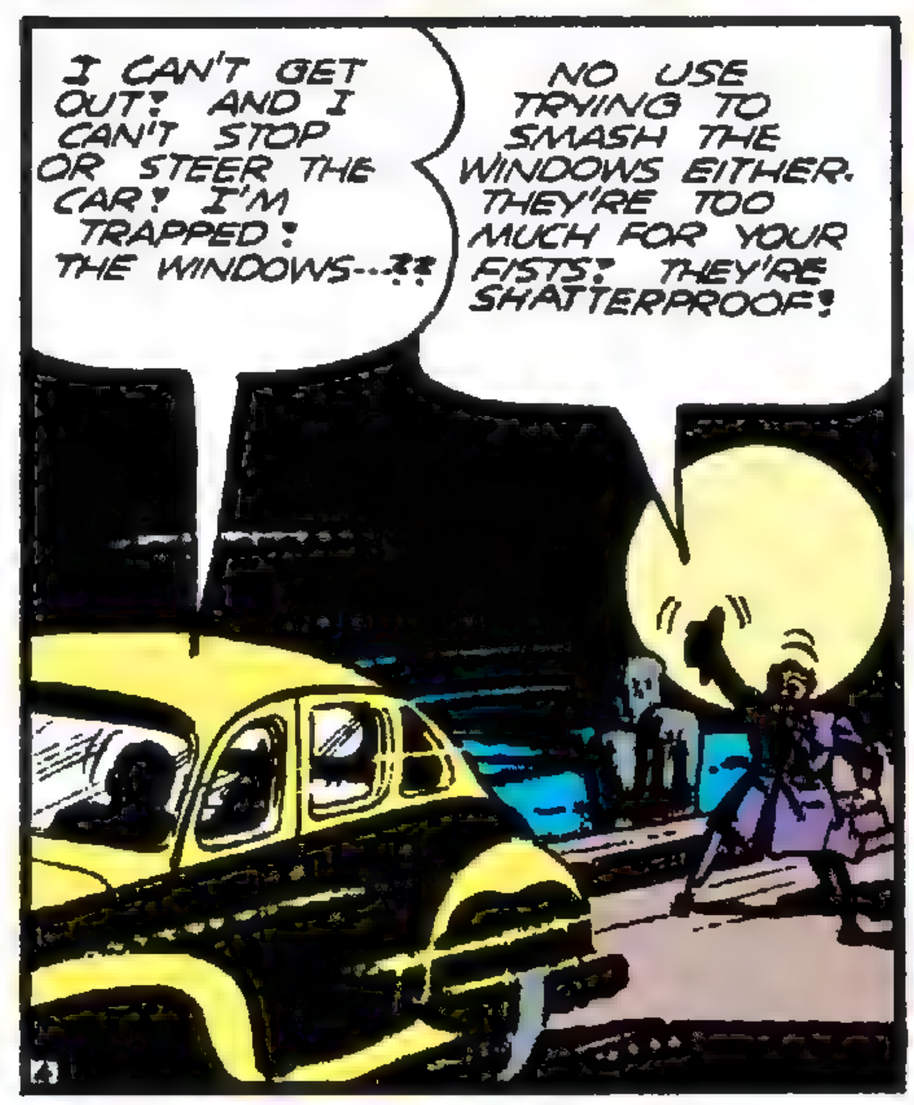
JASPER SNEED MAKES HIS FIRST PURCHASE-
HERE YOU ARE, SIR.. A FINE CAR- SHALL I DELIVER IT TO YOUR HOME?
NO...I'LL TAKE IT WITH ME AND PAY CASH NOW!

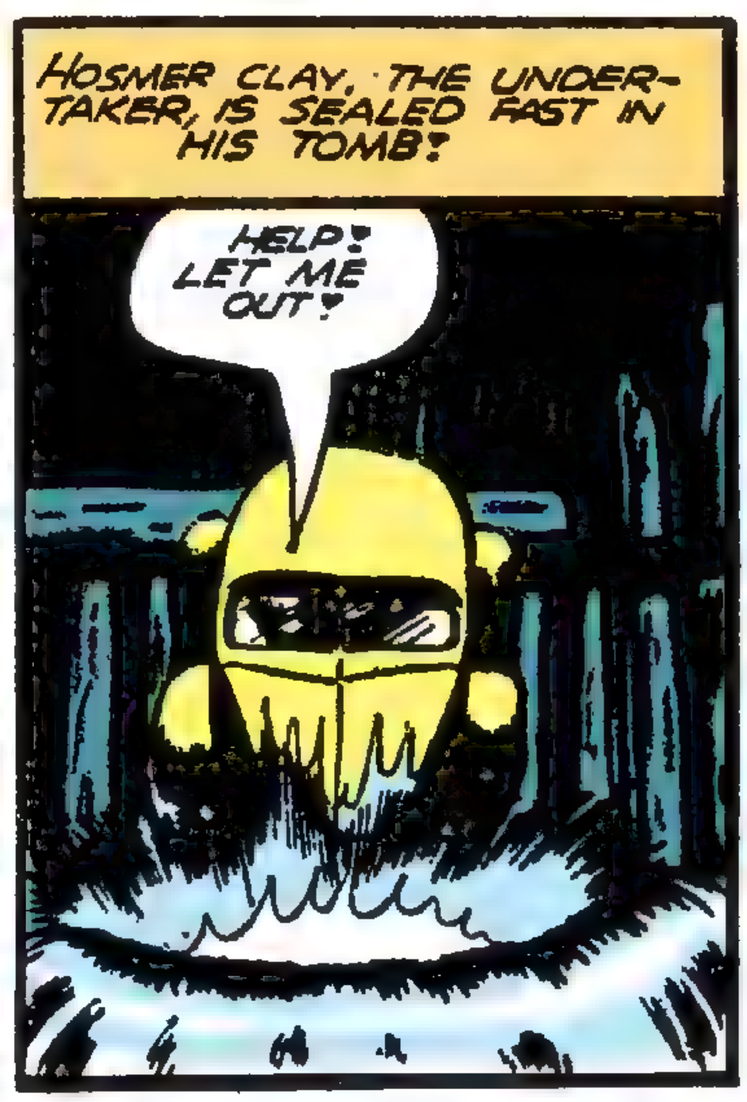
JASPER SNEED MAKES HIS SECOND PURCHASE...
I'D LIKE A STEEL SAW AND A SCREW DRIVER-
YES, SIR-.

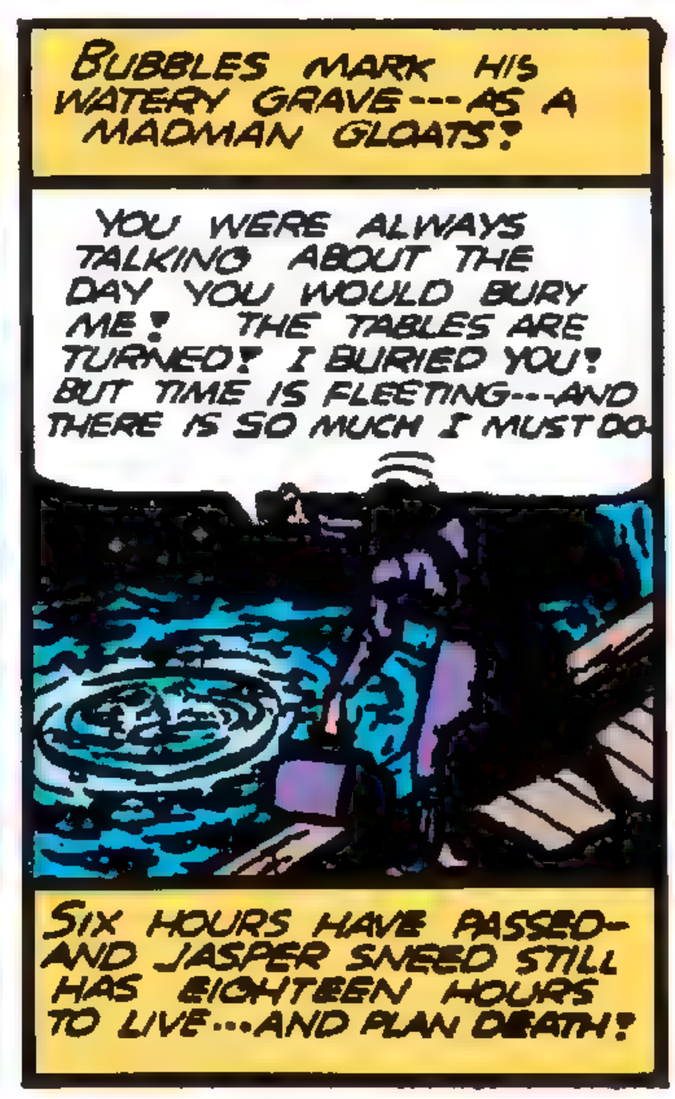
A SHORT TIME LATER--
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO BUY THIS CAR FOR ME, JASPER!
NOT AT ALL, HOSMER.. I PROMISED YOU A GIFT, DIDN'T I? LOOK--THE BRAKE CAME OFF!

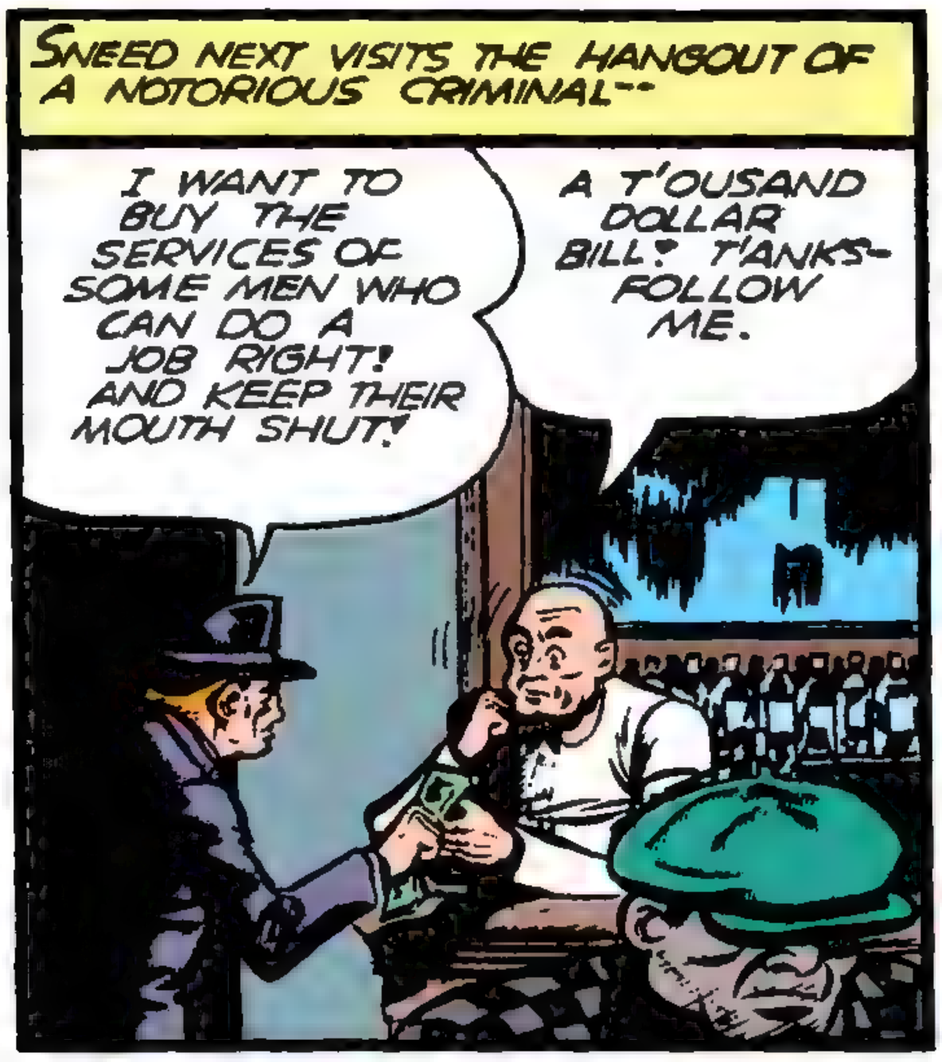

AND NOW THE STEERING WHEEL HAS COME LOOSE. NO USE SAVING THEM IF THEY'RE NO GOOD, EH, HOSMER?
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU'VE GONE CRAZY! LET ME OUT OF HERE!


WHY-- THERE'S NO DOORKNOB HERE!
NOR ON MY SIDE EITHER! THAT'S WHY I LEFT MY DOOR OPEN! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I SAWED ALL THE DOORKNOBS OFF!
SLAM

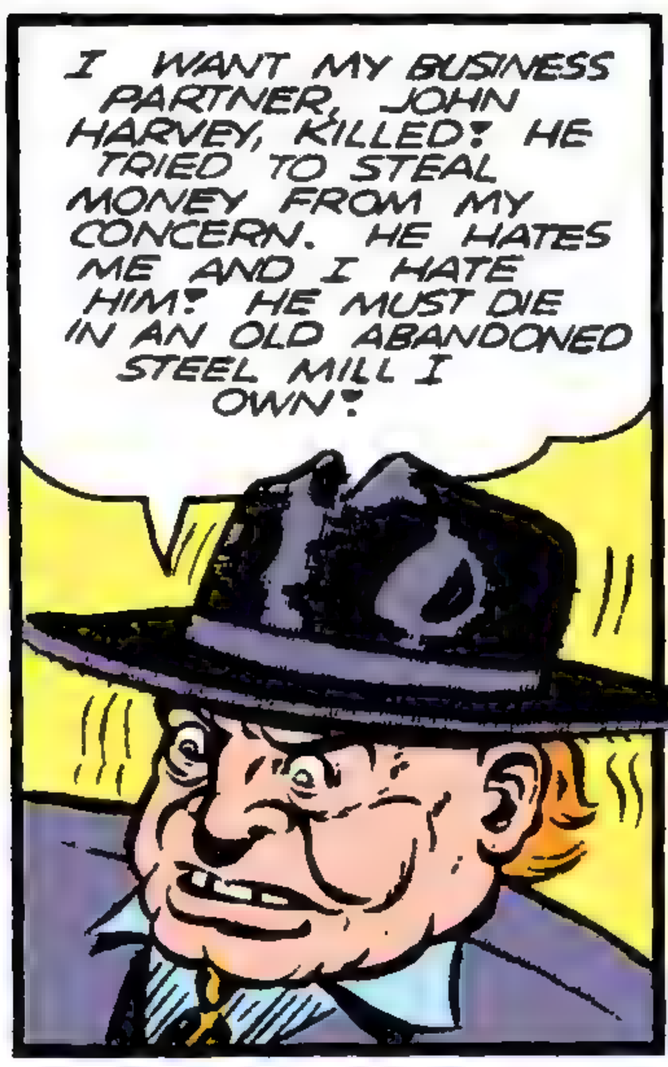

I CAN'T GET OUT! AND I CAN'T STOP OR STEER THE CAR! I'M TRAPPED! THE WINDOWS--??
NO USE TRYING TO SMASH THE WINDOWS EITHER. THEY'RE TOO MUCH FOR YOUR FISTS! THEY'RE SHATTERPROOF!

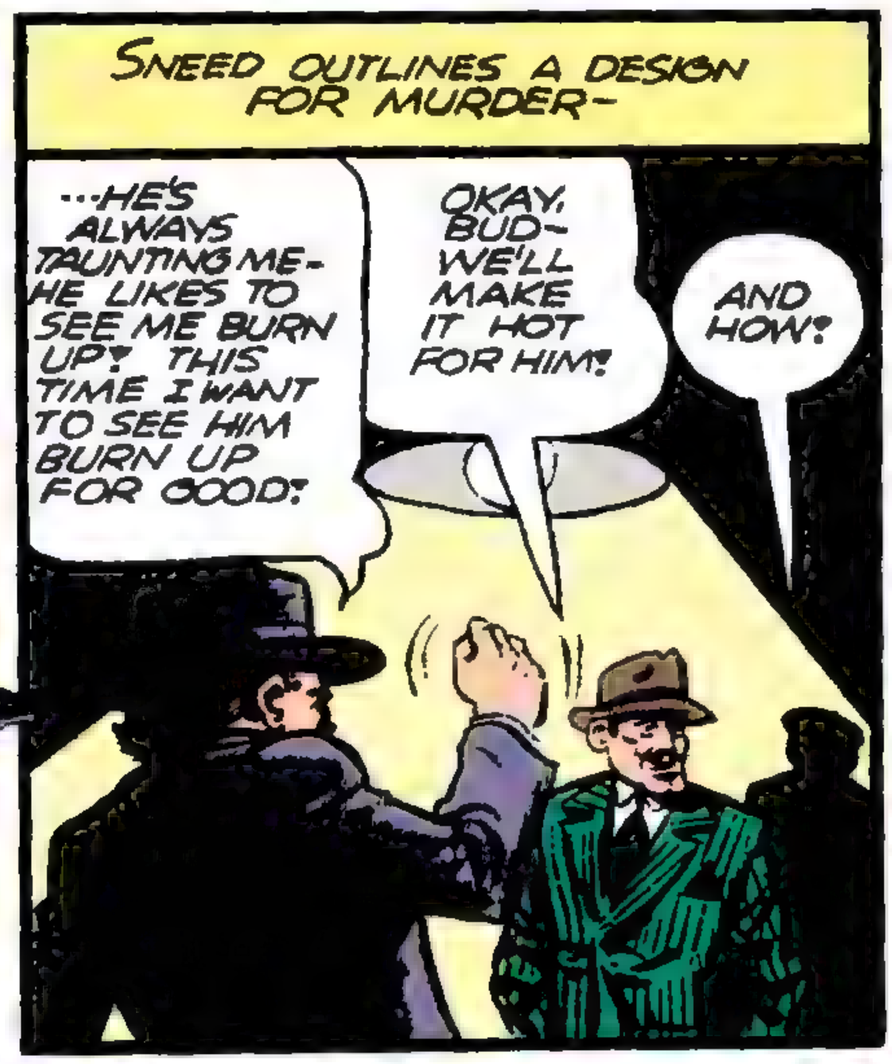

HOSMER CLAY, THE UNDER-TAKER, IS SEALED FAST IN HIS TOMB!
HELP! LET ME OUT!

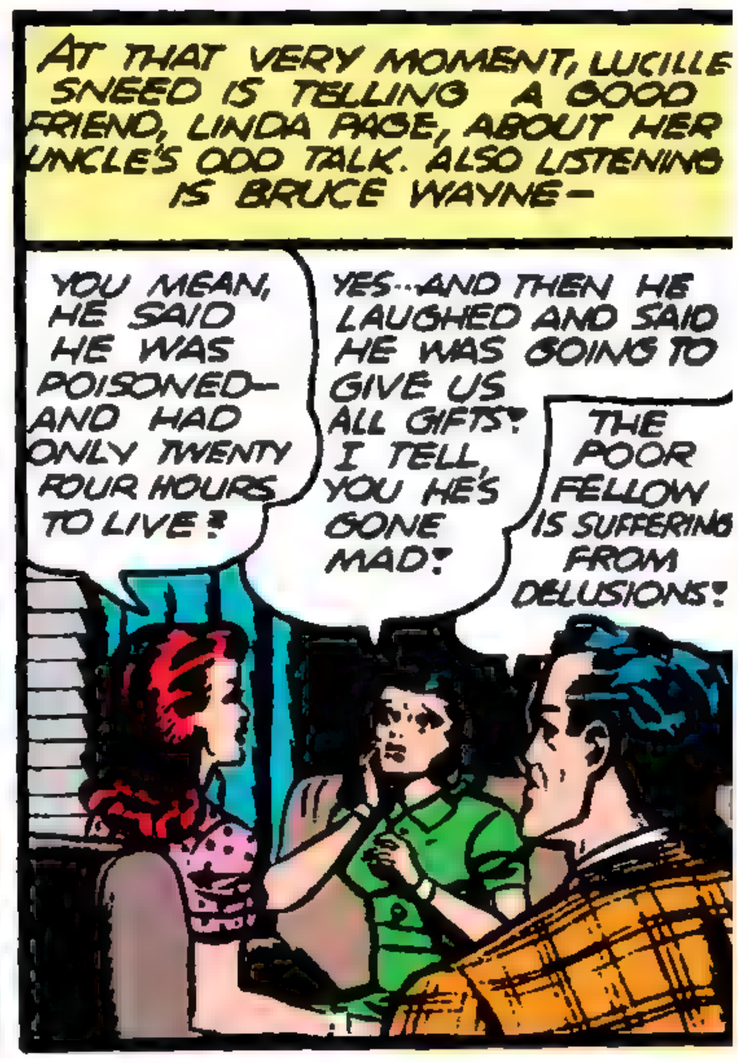

BUBBLES MARK HIS WATERY GRAVE---AS A MADMAN GLOATS!
YOU WERE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE DAY YOU WOULD BURY ME! THE TABLES ARE TURNED! I BURIED YOU! BUT TIME IS FLEETING---AND THERE IS SO MUCH I MUST DO.
SIX HOURS HAVE PASSED- AND JASPER SNEED STILL HAS EIGHTEEN HOURS TO LIVE...AND PLAN DEATH!


SNEED NEXT VISITS THE HANGOUT OF A NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL--
I WANT TO BUY THE SERVICES OF SOME MEN WHO CAN DO A JOB RIGHT! AND KEEP THEIR MOUTH SHUT!
A T'OUSAND DOLLAR BILL! T'ANKS- FOLLOW ME.

I HOLD $100,000 IN MY HAND — BUT THE BILLS ARE CUT IN HALF! DO WHAT I ASK AND YOU'LL GET THE OTHER HALVES!
A HUNDRED GRAND? OKAY, MISTER...WHO DO YOU WANT RUBBED OUT?


I WANT MY BUSINESS PARTNER, JOHN HARVEY, KILLED! HE TRIED TO STEAL MONEY FROM MY CONCERN. HE HATES ME AND I HATE HIM! HE MUST DIE IN AN OLD ABANDONED STEEL MILL I OWN!

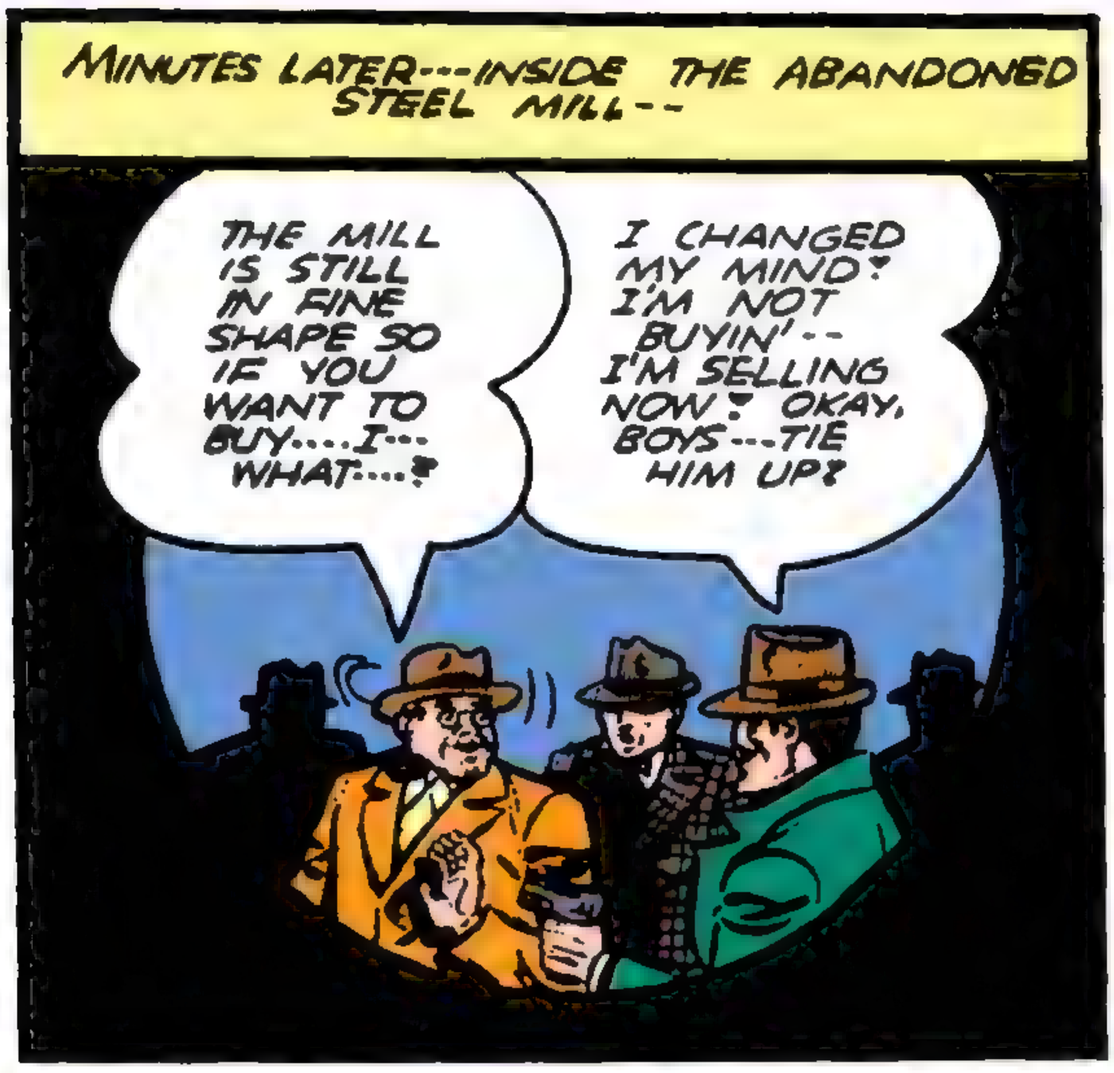

SNEED OUTLINES A DESIGN FOR MURDER-
...HE'S ALWAYS TAUNTING ME- HE LIKES TO SEE ME BURN UP! THIS TIME I WANT TO SEE HIM BURN UP FOR GOOD!
OKAY, BUD- WE'LL MAKE IT HOT FOR HIM!
AND HOW!

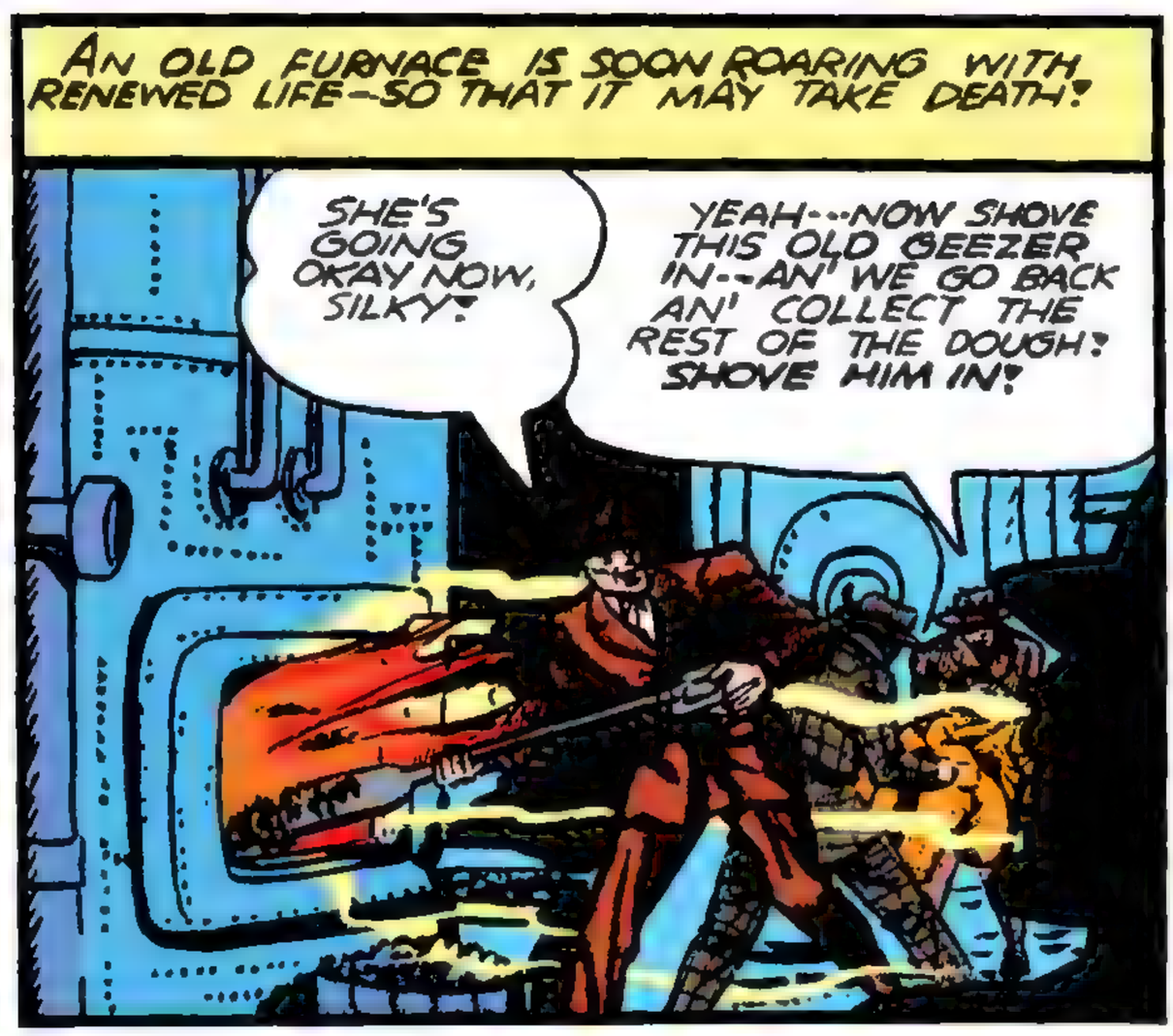

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, LUCILLE SNEED IS TELLING A GOOD FRIEND, LINDA PAGE, ABOUT HER UNCLE'S ODD TALK. ALSO LISTENING IS BRUCE WAYNE-
YOU MEAN, HE SAID HE WAS POISONED- AND HAD ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS TO LIVE?
YES...AND THEN HE LAUGHED AND SAID HE WAS GOING TO GIVE US ALL GIFTS! I TELL YOU HE'S GONE MAD!
THE POOR FELLOW IS SUFFERING FROM DELUSIONS!

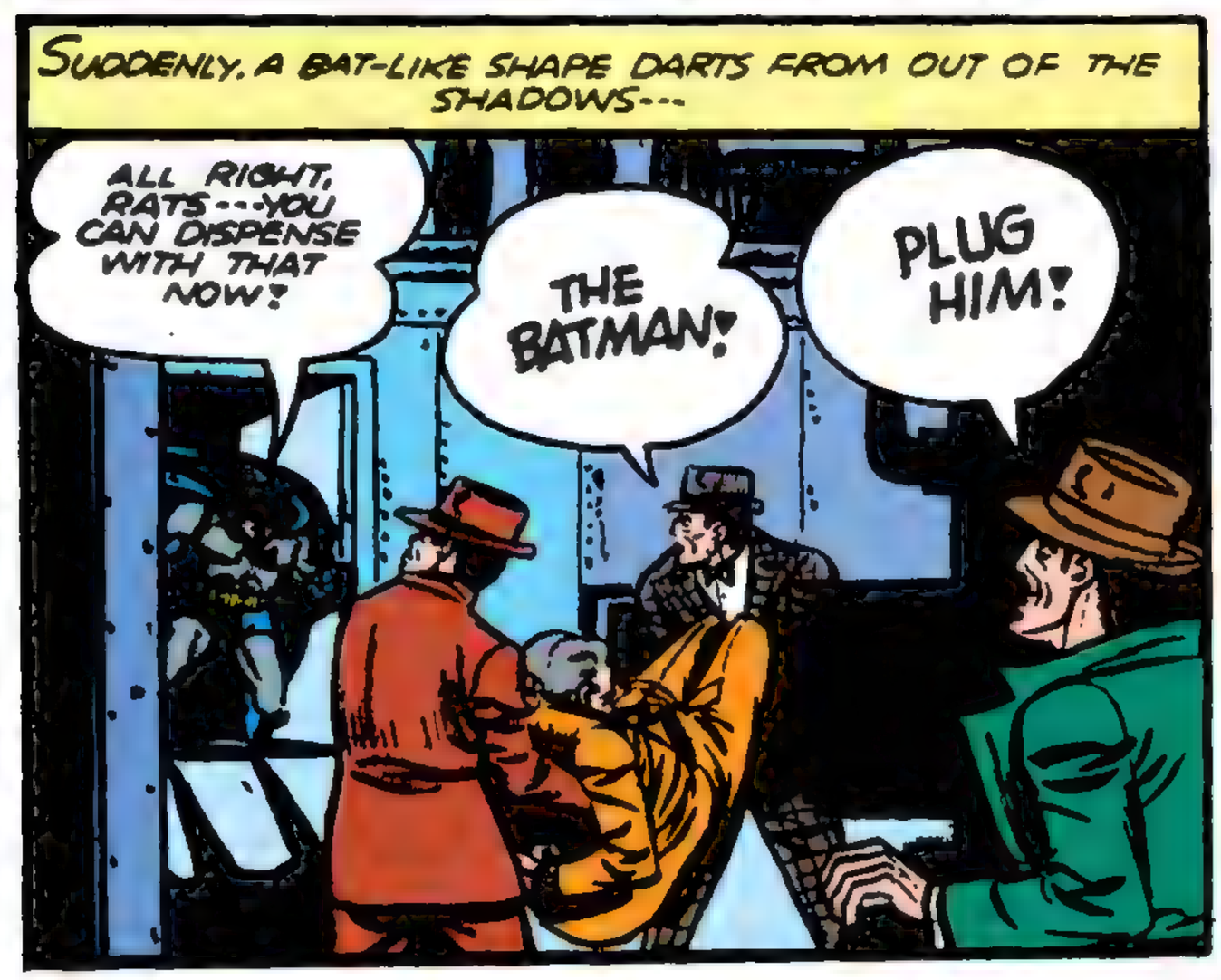
BUT LATER AT HIS HOME, BRUCE'S THOUGHTS SEEM VERY DIFFERENT AS HE SPEAKS TO HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON-
YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S SOMETHING TO WHAT THE GIRL SAID?
YES...AND ONE MAN PROBABLY KNOWS MORE ABOUT SNEED THAN ANYONE ELSE...JOHN HARVEY, HIS BUSINESS PARTNER-

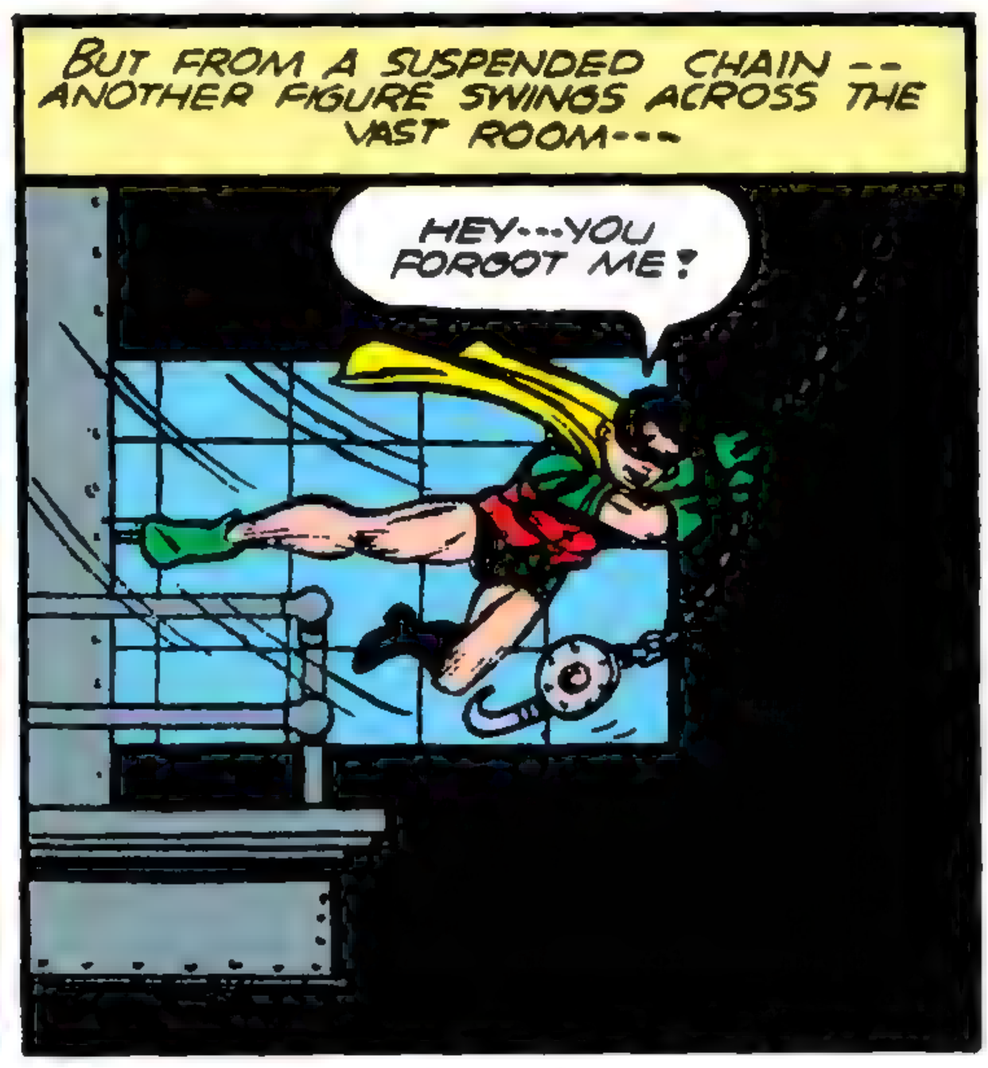
C'MON, THERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS I MUST ASK JOHN HARVEY!

AND SOME MOMENTS LATER---
UH...WHY...N-NO...M-MR. HARVEY WENT OUT WITH S-SOME MEN...I T-THINK THEY WERE INTERESTED IN BUYING THE OLD STEEL MILL! AHEM... GULP...W-WHO SHALL I SAY C-CALLED?
SANTA CLAUS! LET'S GO, ROBIN. I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'RE GOING TO SEE SOME ACTION!


MINUTES LATER---INSIDE THE ABANDONED STEEL MILL--
THE MILL IS STILL IN FINE SHAPE SO IF YOU WANT TO BUY....I... WHAT....?
I CHANGED MY MIND! I'M NOT BUYIN'-- I'M SELLING NOW! OKAY, BOYS---TIE HIM UP!


AN OLD FURNACE IS SOON ROARING WITH RENEWED LIFE--SO THAT IT MAY TAKE DEATH!
SHE'S GOING OKAY NOW, SILKY!
YEAH---NOW SHOVE THIS OLD GEEZER IN--AN' WE GO BACK AN' COLLECT THE REST OF THE DOUGH! SHOVE HIM IN!

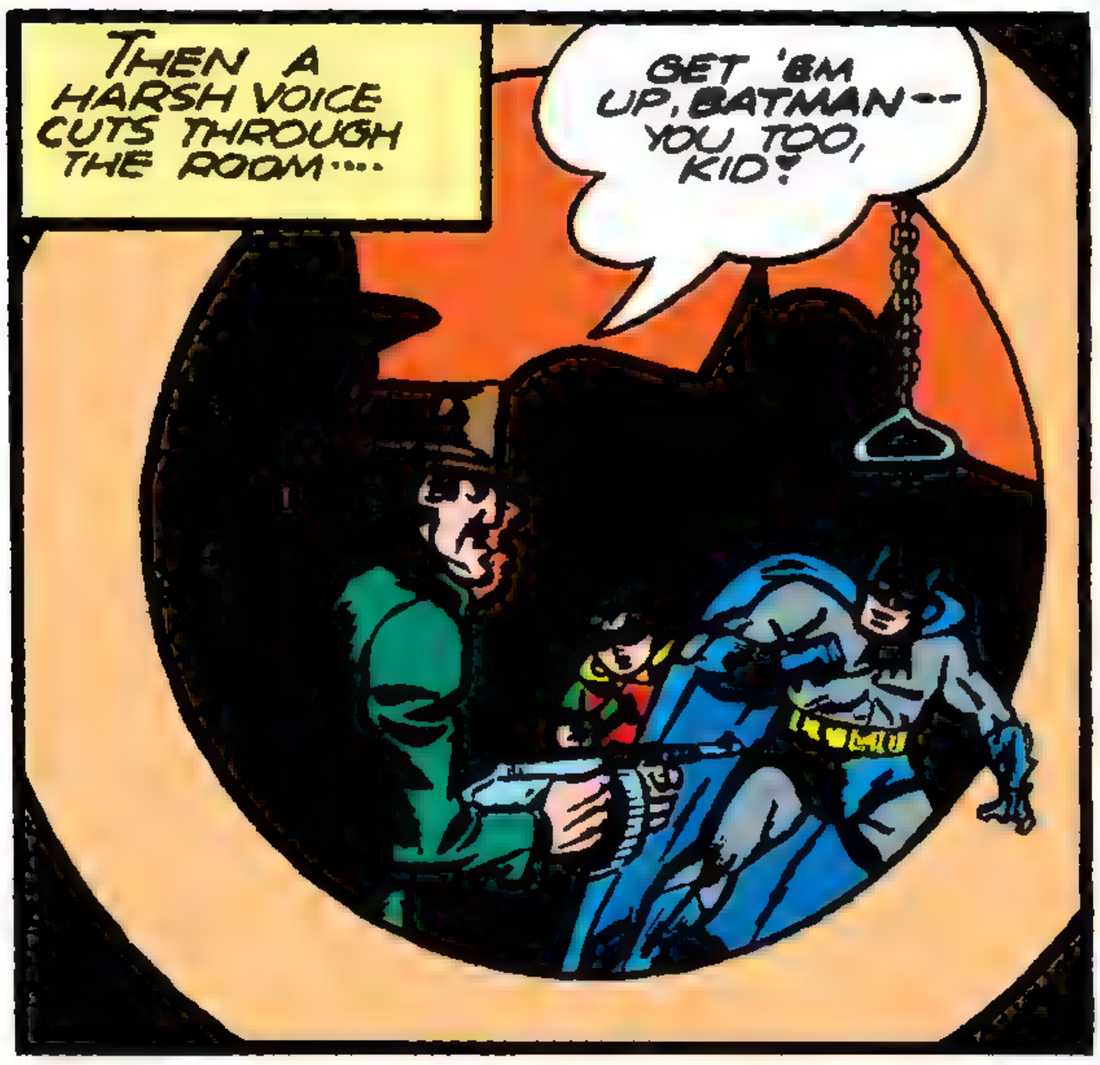

SUDDENLY, A BAT-LIKE SHAPE DARTS FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS---
ALL RIGHT, RATS---YOU CAN DISPENSE WITH THAT NOW!
THE BATMAN!
PLUG HIM!

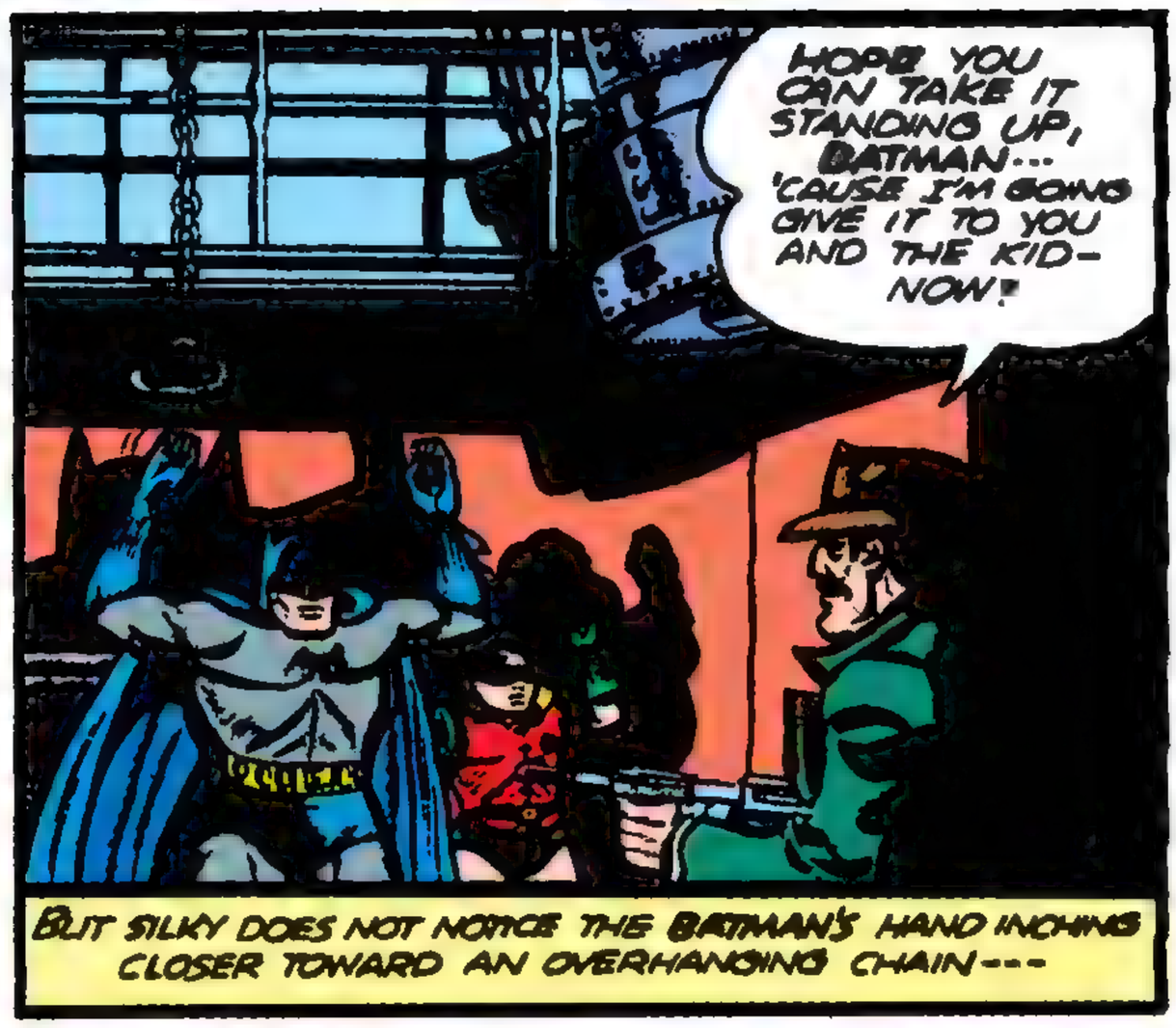

BUT FROM A SUSPENDED CHAIN -- ANOTHER FIGURE SWINGS ACROSS THE VAST ROOM---
HEY---YOU FORGOT ME!

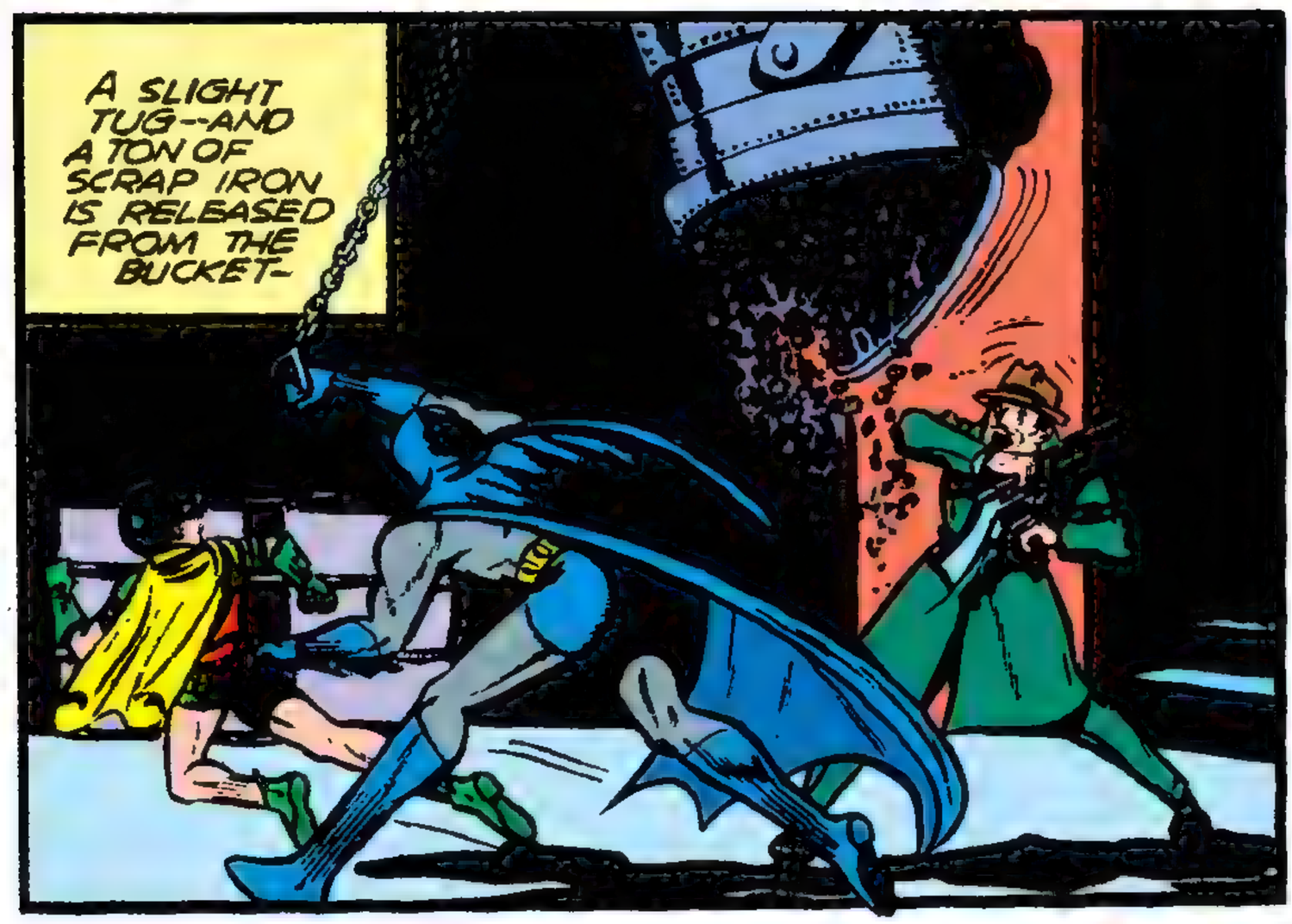
AH! VERY SATISFYING-- VERY SATISFYING, INDEED!
LOVELY WEATHER WE'RE HAVING LATELY, ISN'T IT?

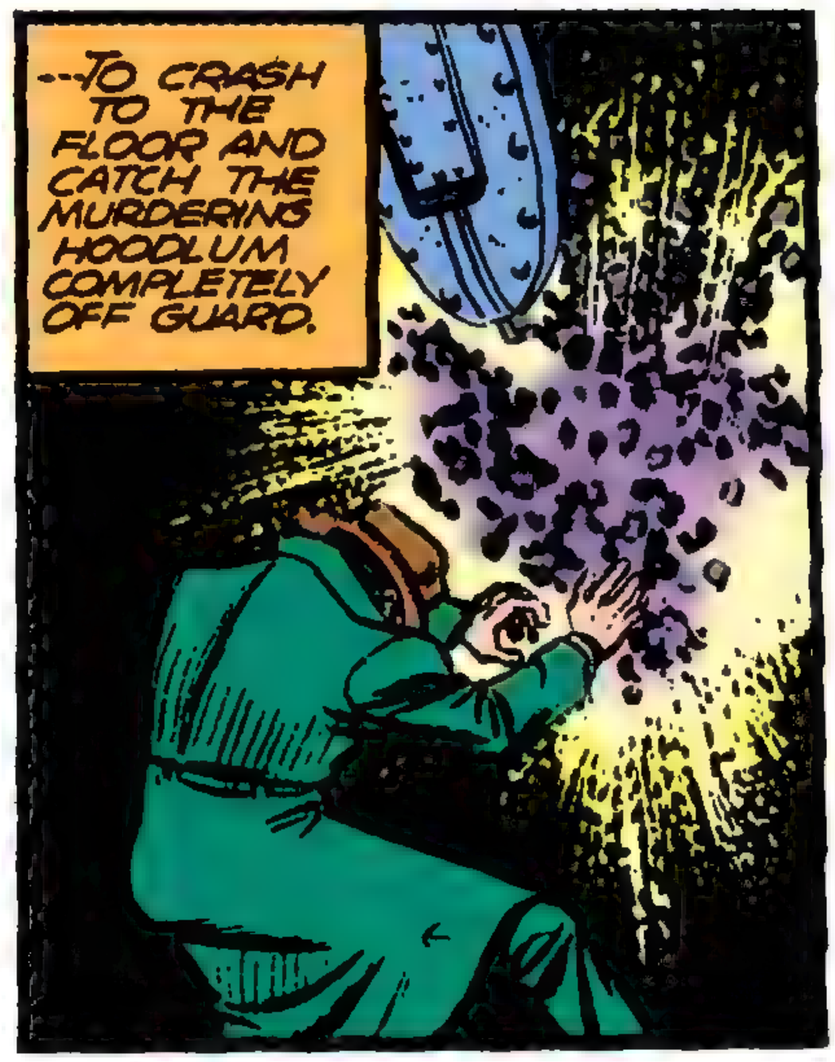
YA LITTLE BRAT! I'LL--
WOW! HE AIN'T FOOLING WITH THAT GUN!

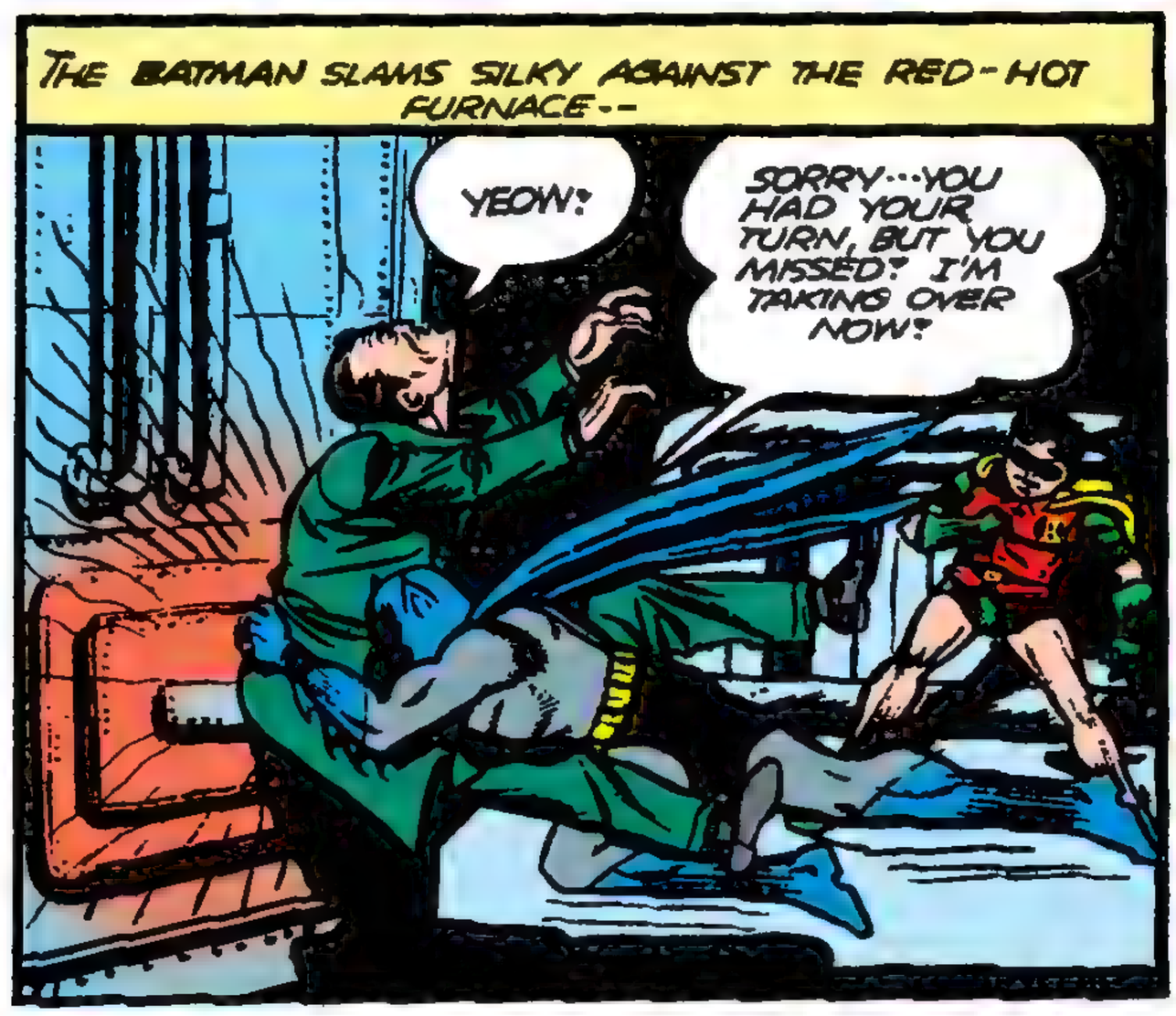
YOU SHOULD TAKE MORE EXERCISE-- YOU'RE PUTTING ON WEIGHT!
PHHHFT!


THEN A HARSH VOICE CUTS THROUGH THE ROOM....
GET 'EM UP, BATMAN-- YOU TOO, KID!


HOPE YOU CAN TAKE IT STANDING UP, BATMAN... 'CAUSE I'M GOING GIVE IT TO YOU AND THE KID- NOW!
BUT SILKY DOES NOT NOTICE THE BATMAN'S HAND INCHING CLOSER TOWARD AN OVERHANGING CHAIN---

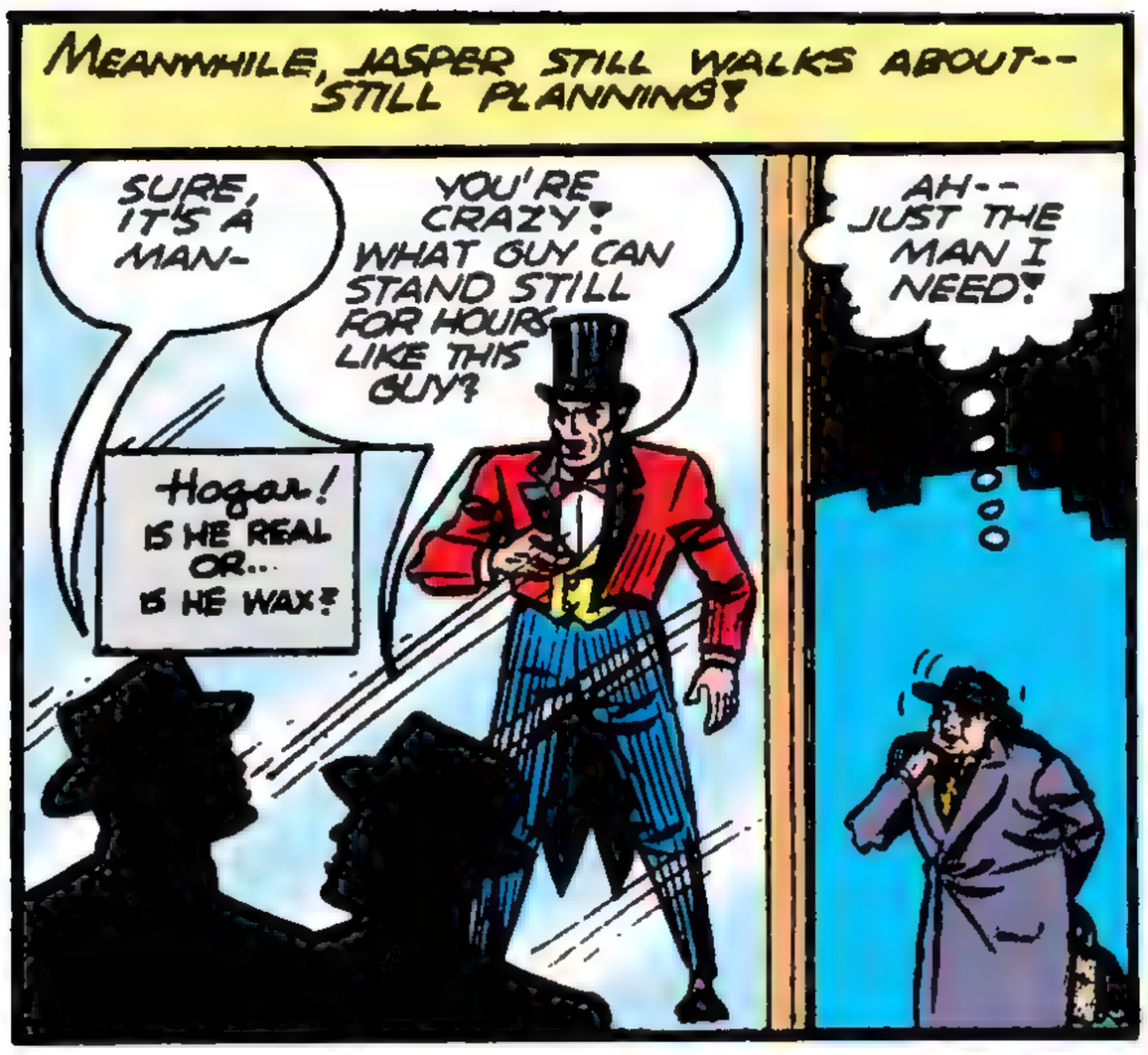

A SLIGHT TUG--AND A TON OF SCRAP IRON IS RELEASED FROM THE BUCKET-


---TO CRASH TO THE FLOOR AND CATCH THE MURDERING HOODLUM COMPLETELY OFF GUARD.

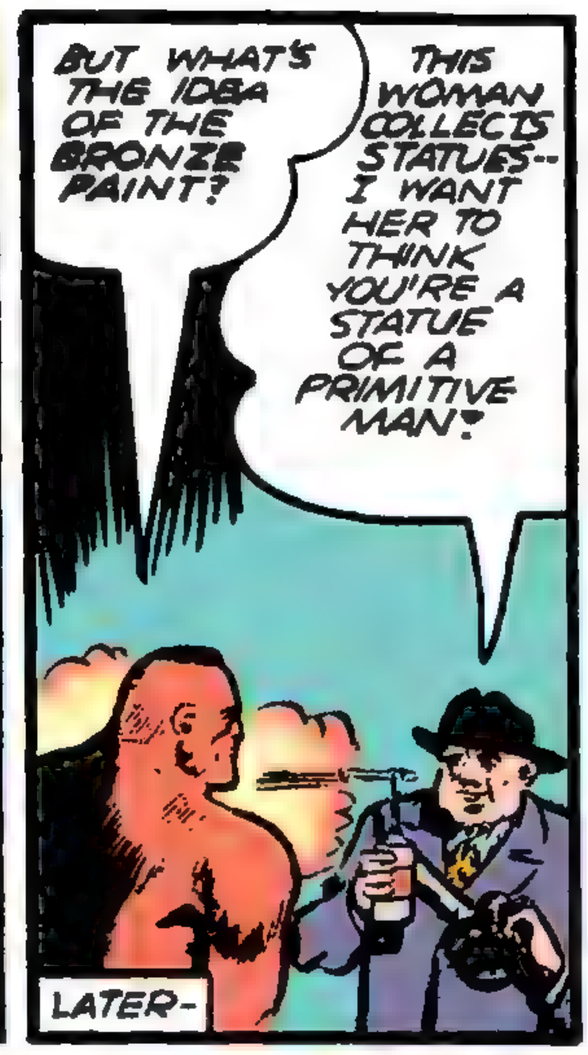

THE BATMAN SLAMS SILKY AGAINST THE RED-HOT FURNACE--
YEOW!
SORRY...YOU HAD YOUR TURN, BUT YOU MISSED! I'M TAKING OVER NOW!

AND THIS WILL KNOCK HIM COLD!

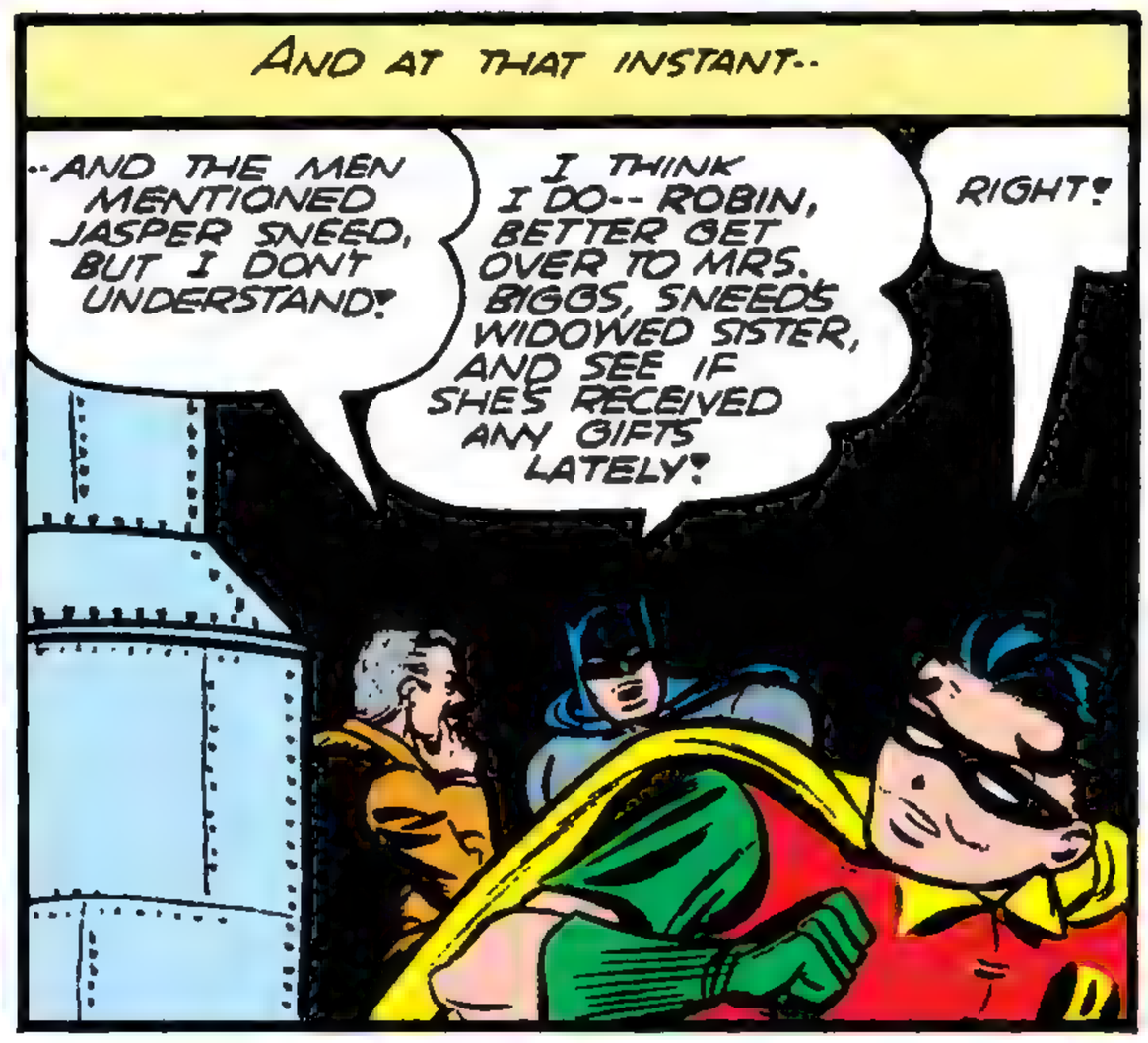
A MINUTE LATER--
OH-- THANK YOU... THANK YOU... OHHH!
TAKE IT EASY! I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS!

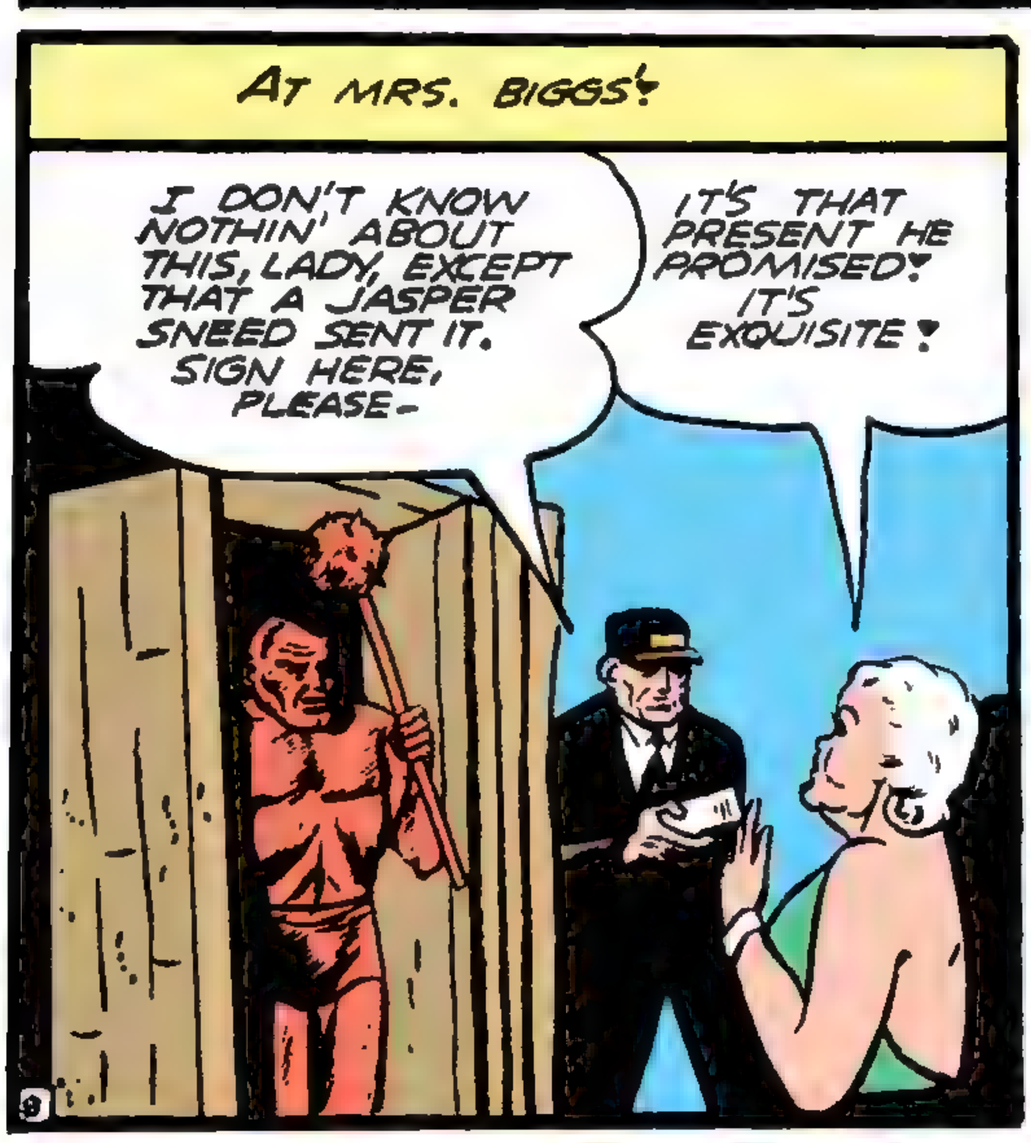

MEANWHILE, JASPER STILL WALKS ABOUT-- STILL PLANNING!
SURE, IT'S A MAN-
YOU'RE CRAZY! WHAT GUY CAN STAND STILL FOR HOURS LIKE THIS GUY?
Hogar! IS HE REAL OR... IS HE WAX?
AH-- JUST THE MAN I NEED!

JASPER VISITS THE LIVING "WAXMAN-"
SURE--I CAN HOLD ANY POSITION FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR- IT'S A GIFT, I GUESS!
HEE, HEE- FINE! I'LL PAY $10,000 IF YOU'LL PLAY A JOKE ON A PERSON FOR ME!


BUT WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THE BRONZE PAINT?
THIS WOMAN COLLECTS STATUES-- I WANT HER TO THINK YOU'RE A STATUE OF A PRIMITIVE MAN!
LATER-

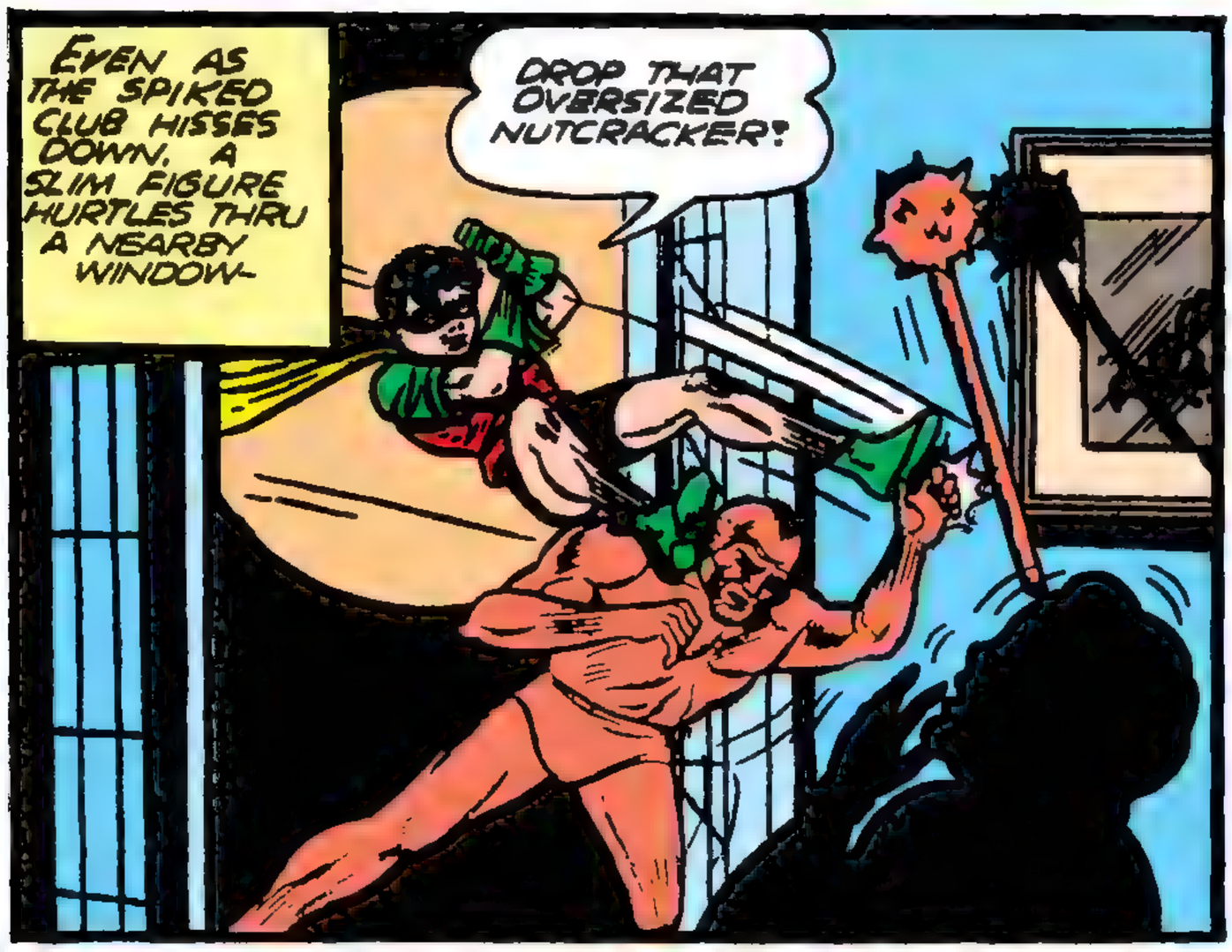
NOW---I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER $50,000 IF-- IF YOU'LL USE THAT CLUB ON HER!
$60,000! FOR THAT MONEY I'LL DO MOST ANYTHING!


AND AT THAT INSTANT--
--AND THE MEN MENTIONED JASPER SNEED, BUT I DONT UNDERSTAND!
I THINK I DO-- ROBIN, BETTER GET OVER TO MRS. BIGGS, SNEED'S WIDOWED SISTER, AND SEE IF SHE'S RECEIVED ANY GIFTS LATELY!
RIGHT!

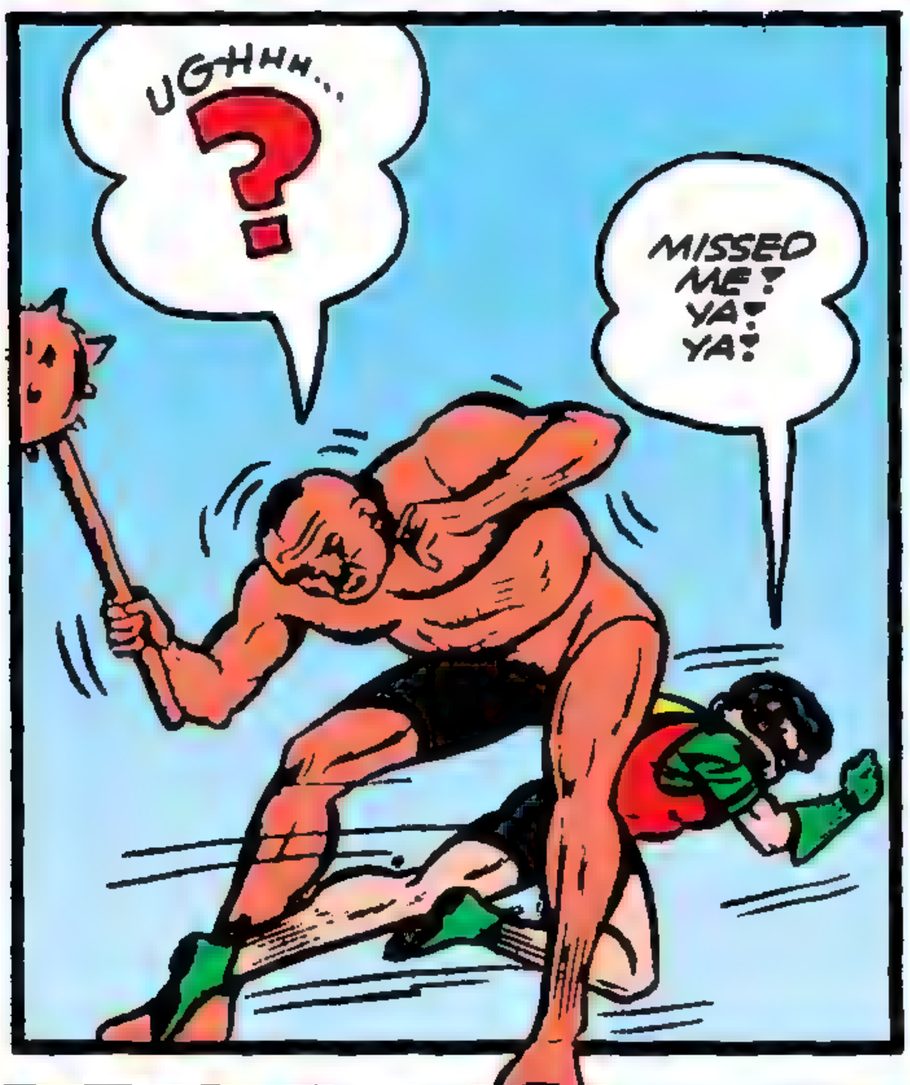

AT MRS. BIGGS'
I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT THIS, LADY, EXCEPT THAT A JASPER SNEED SENT IT. SIGN HERE, PLEASE-
IT'S THAT PRESENT HE PROMISED! IT'S EXQUISITE!

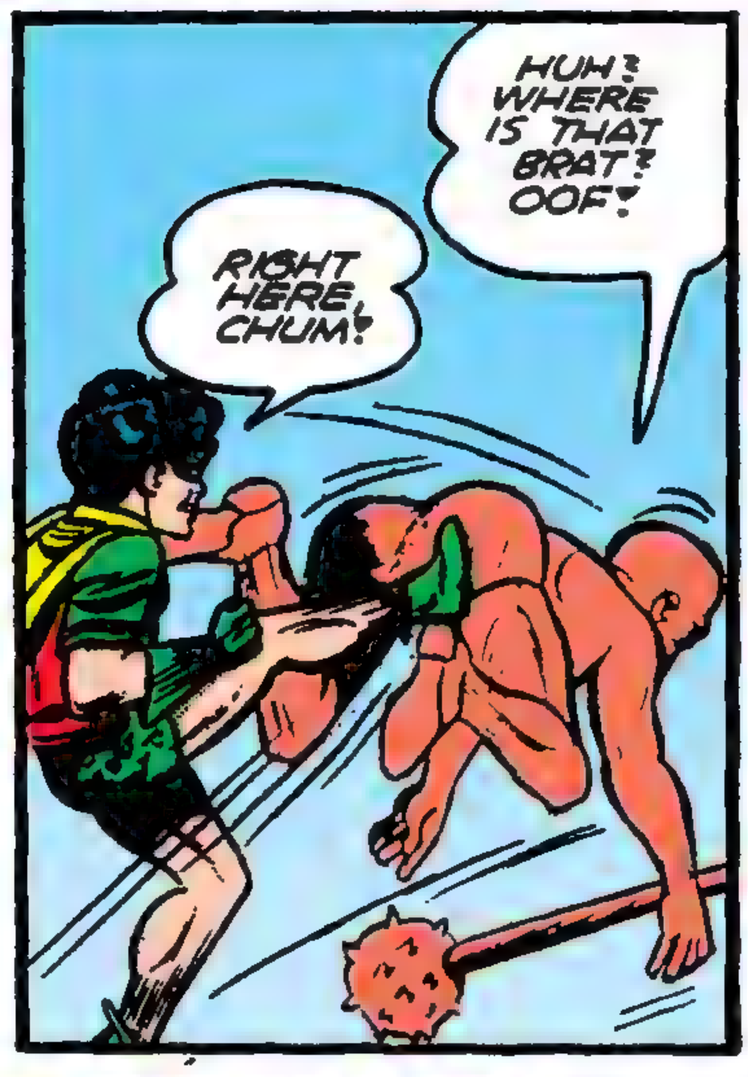
LATER, MRS. BIGGS STILL ADMIRES HER STATUE....
AMAZING HOW LIFELIKE IT IS! A PERFECT BIT OF WORKMANSHIP!

WHY-- IT'S MOVING! IT'S COME TO LIFE... ...IT'S..
I'M ALIVE-- BUT YOU WON'T BE IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES.

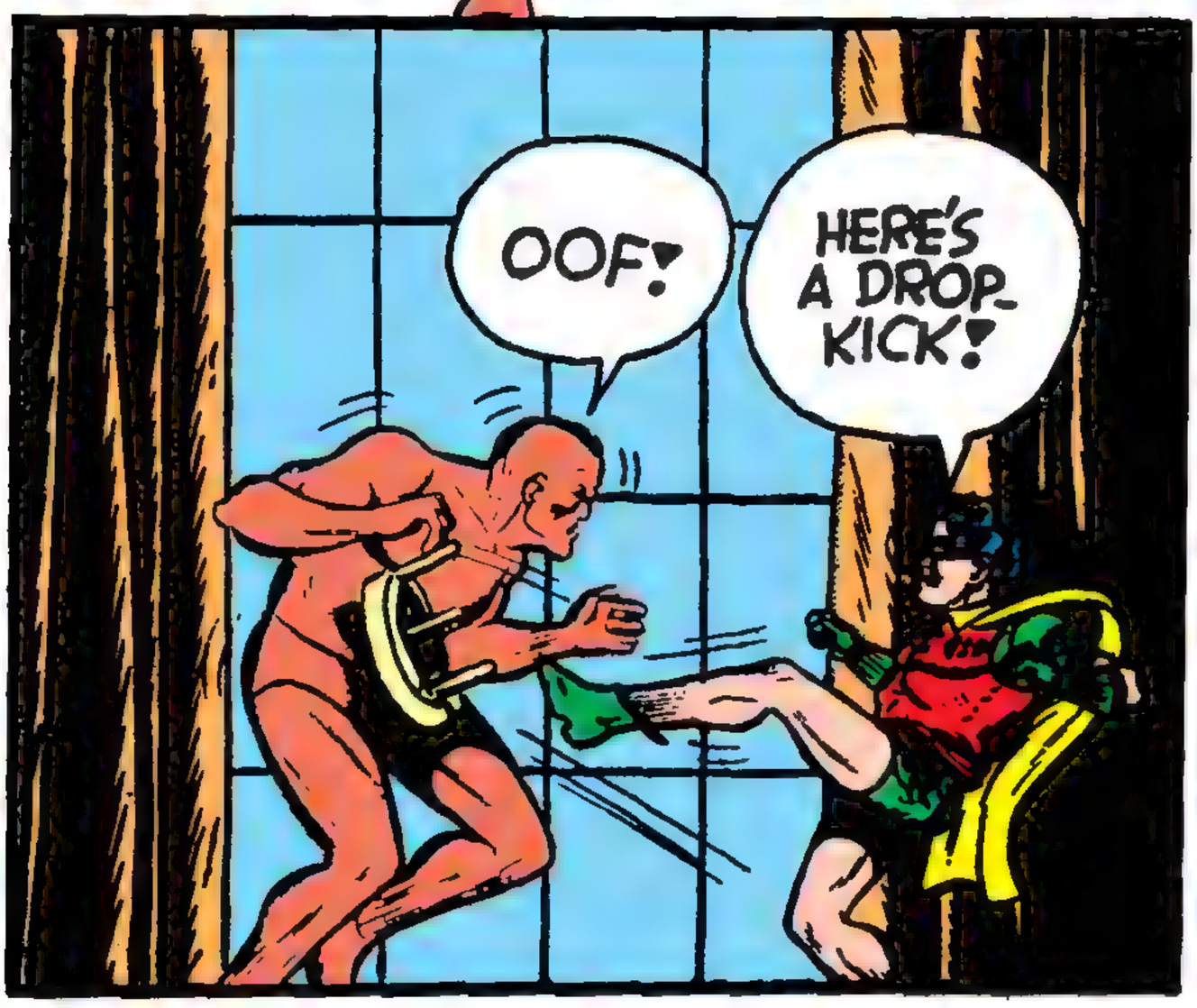

EVEN AS THE SPIKED CLUB HISSES DOWN, A SLIM FIGURE HURTLES THRU A NEARBY WINDOW-
DROP THAT OVERSIZED NUTCRACKER!

WHY, YOU LITTLE SQUIRT! I'M GONNA BUST YOU WIDE OPEN!
YOU TALK BIG, MISTER!

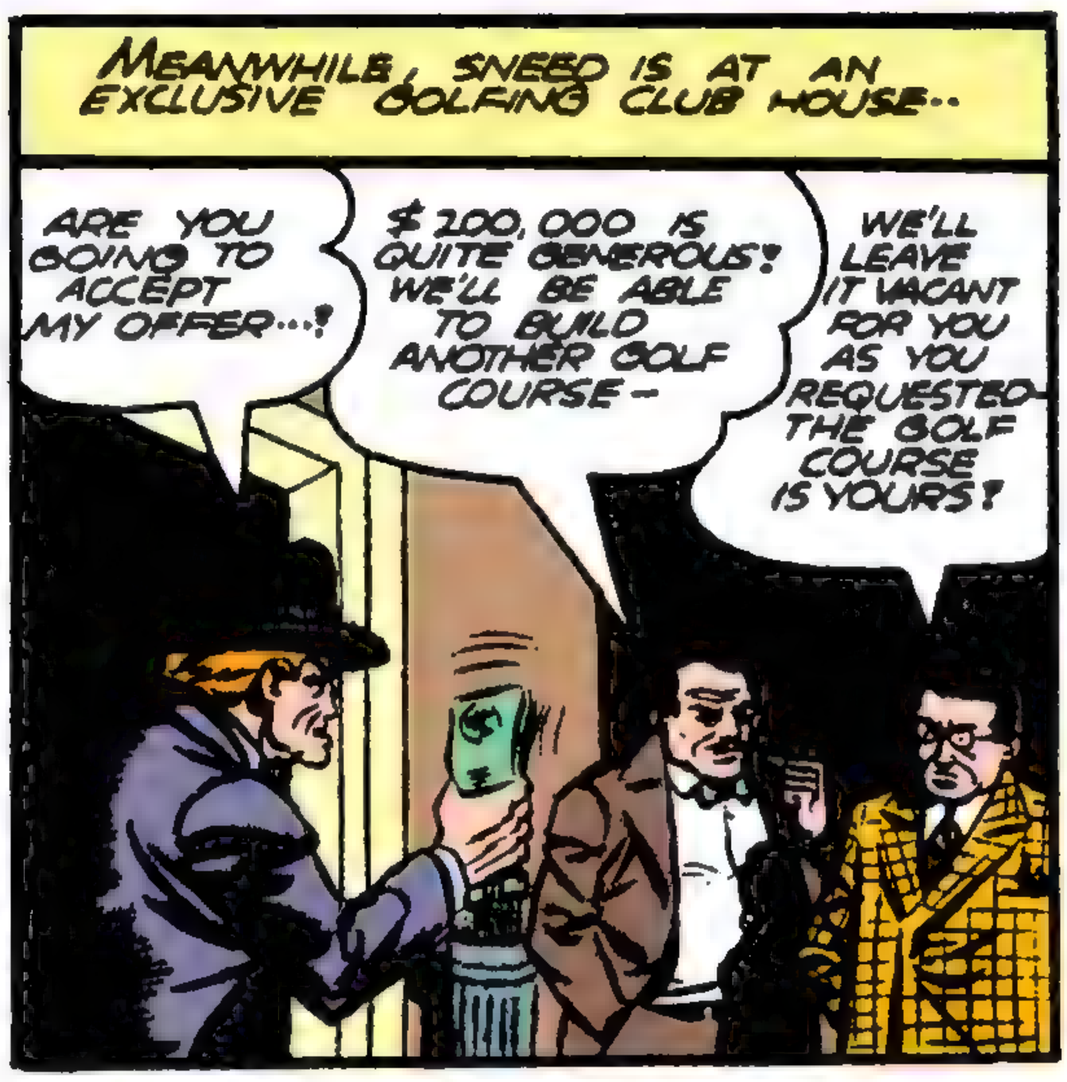

UGHHH...
?
MISSED ME! YA! YA!


HUH? WHERE IS THAT BRAT? OOF!
RIGHT HERE, CHUM!

AGAIN, THE BRUTE CHARGES ROBIN, BUT THE BOY WONDER IS UNPERTURBED AS HE TOO DARTS FORWARD--
I'M THROUGH PLAYIN' GAMES!
I'M NOT- HOW ABOUT SOME FOOTBALL?


OOF!
HERE'S A DROP-KICK!

WHAT COOPERATION!

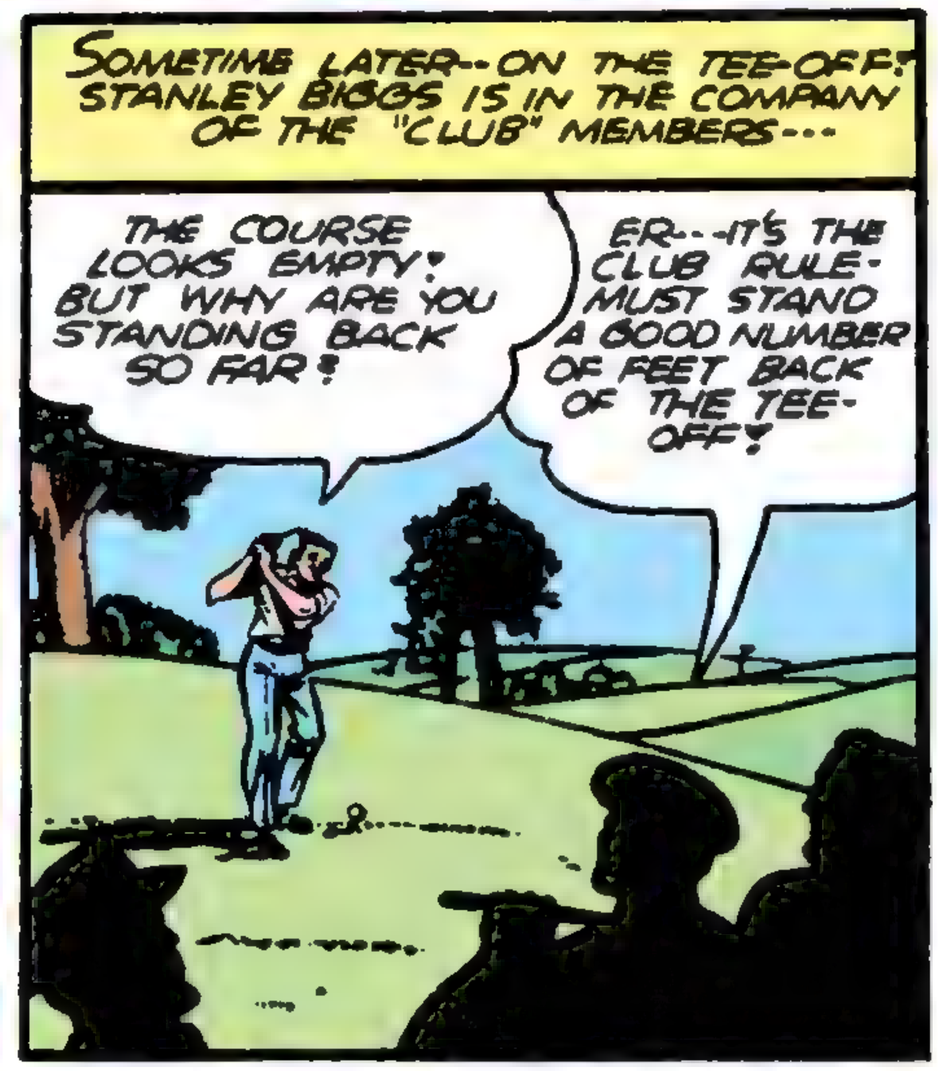

MEANWHILE, SNEED IS AT AN EXCLUSIVE GOLFING CLUB HOUSE..
ARE YOU GOING TO ACCEPT MY OFFER...?
$200,000 IS QUITE GENEROUS! WE'LL BE ABLE TO BUILD ANOTHER GOLF COURSE –
WE'LL LEAVE IT VACANT FOR YOU AS YOU REQUESTED. THE GOLF COURSE IS YOURS!

NEXT, THE MADMAN RETURNS TO THE CRIMINAL HANGOUT...
SO THE OTHERS HAVEN'T RETURNED YET? NO DOUBT THE JOB IS TAKING THEM A LITTLE TIME! NO MATTER..NOW I WANT THREE MEN WHO CAN POSE AS GENTLEMEN.
SURE.. ANYTHING FOR YOU, MISTER!

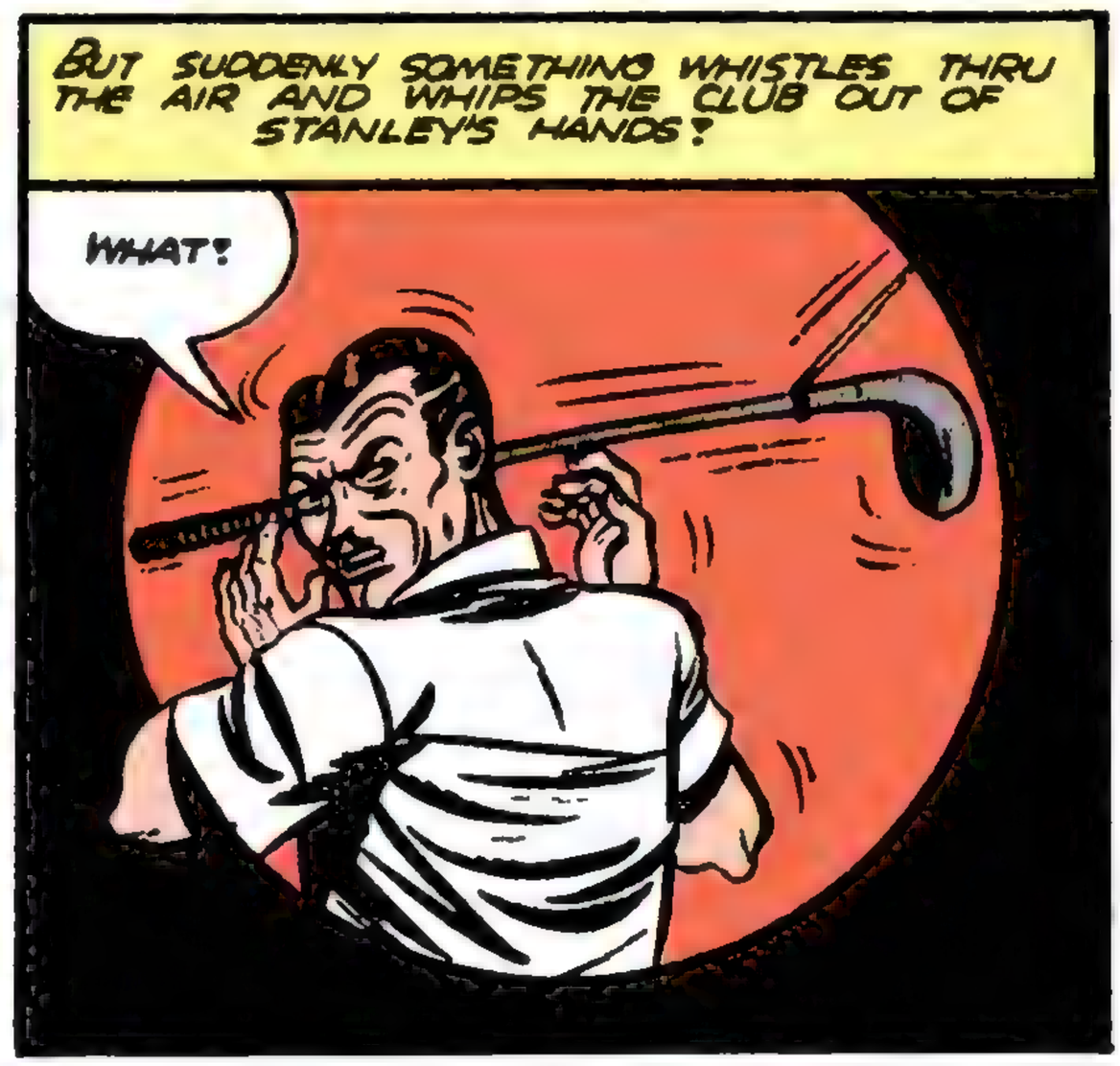
AND SOME MOMENTS LATER, IN MRS. BIGGS' RESIDENCE....
...AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
CHECKING UP ON THE SNEED FAMILY HISTORY!
OH, TO THINK THAT JASPER WOULD TRY TO KILL ME! THE PHONE IS RINGING!

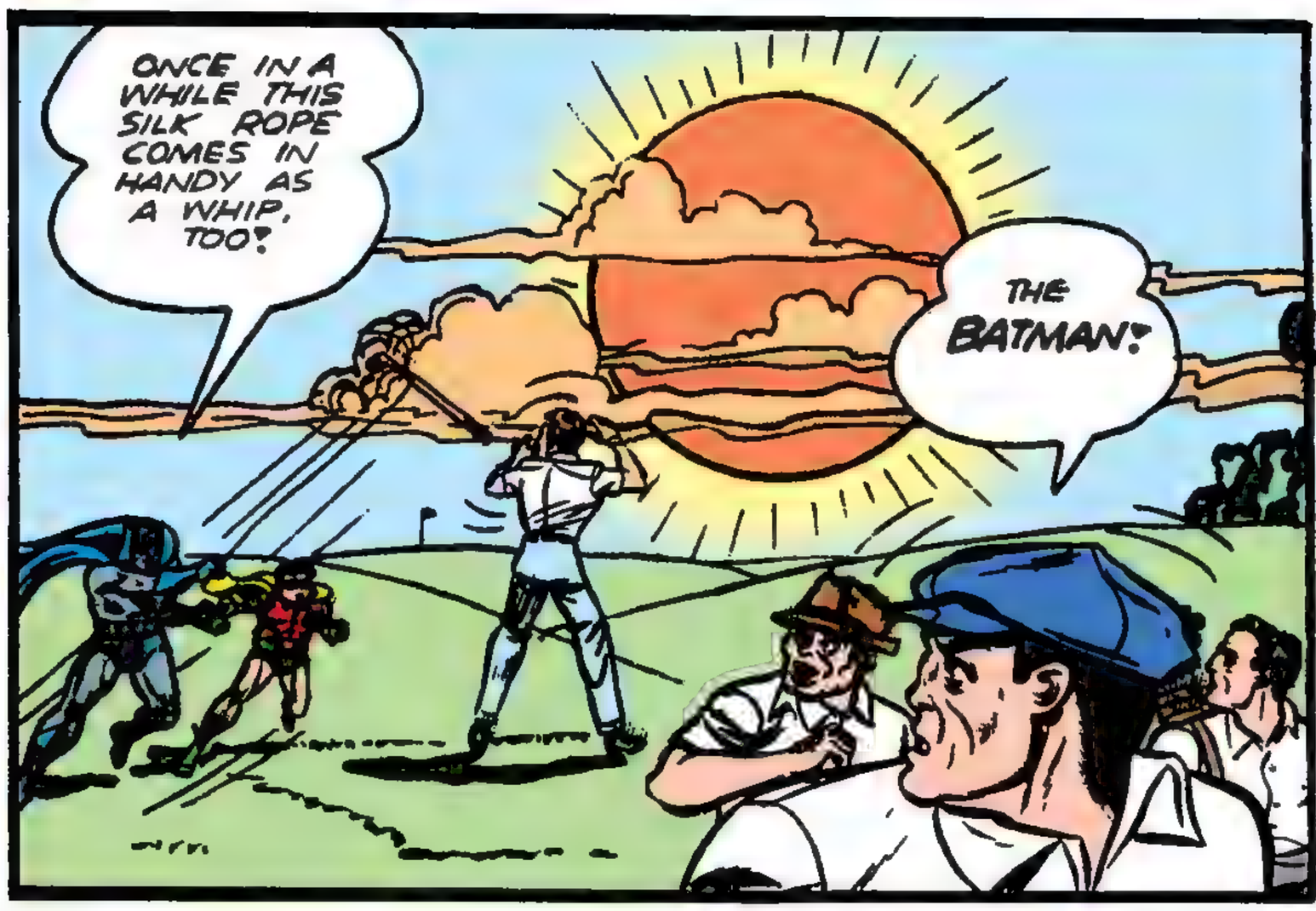
STANLEY?
YES, MOTHER! I'VE JUST GOTTEN AN INVITATION FROM UNCLE JASPER TO JOIN THAT EXCLUSIVE GOLF CLUB. I'M GOING THERE FOR A ROUND NOW!
PHONE

STANLEY! DON'T..DON'T GO! DON'T... HE...HE'S HUNG UP! HE DIDN'T HEAR ME!
SOMETHING TO DO WITH JASPER EH? GIVE US THE DETAILS. WE'LL SAVE YOUR SON!


SOMETIME LATER..ON THE TEE-OFF! STANLEY BIGGS IS IN THE COMPANY OF THE "CLUB" MEMBERS...
THE COURSE LOOKS EMPTY! BUT WHY ARE YOU STANDING BACK SO FAR?
ER...IT'S THE CLUB RULE- MUST STAND A GOOD NUMBER OF FEET BACK OF THE TEE-OFF!

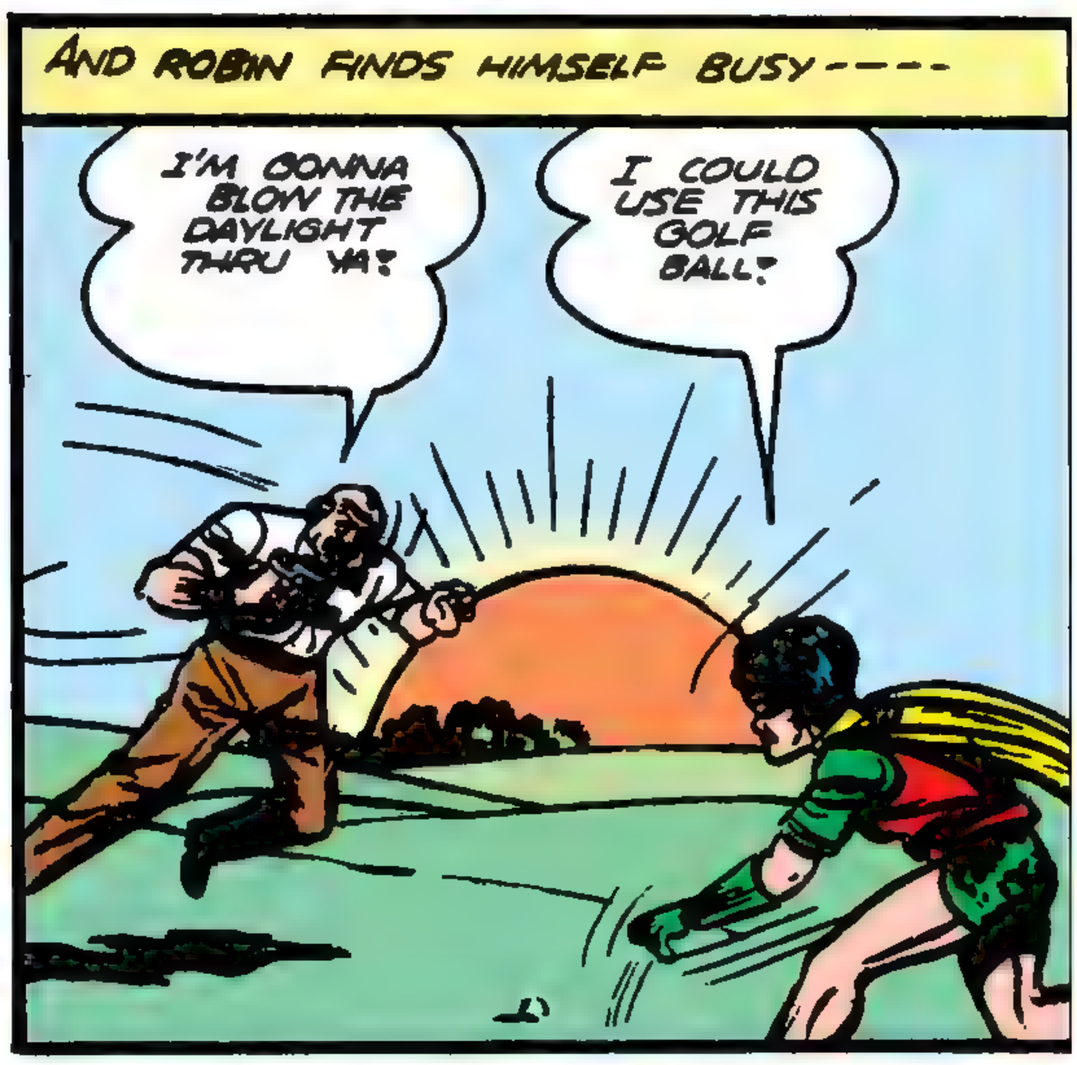
TAKING HIS STANCE, STANLEY DRAWS BACK HIS CLUB FOR A SMASHING DRIVE...


BUT SUDDENLY SOMETHING WHISTLES THRU THE AIR AND WHIPS THE CLUB OUT OF STANLEY'S HANDS!
WHAT!


ONCE IN A WHILE THIS SILK ROPE COMES IN HANDY AS A WHIP, TOO!
THE BATMAN!

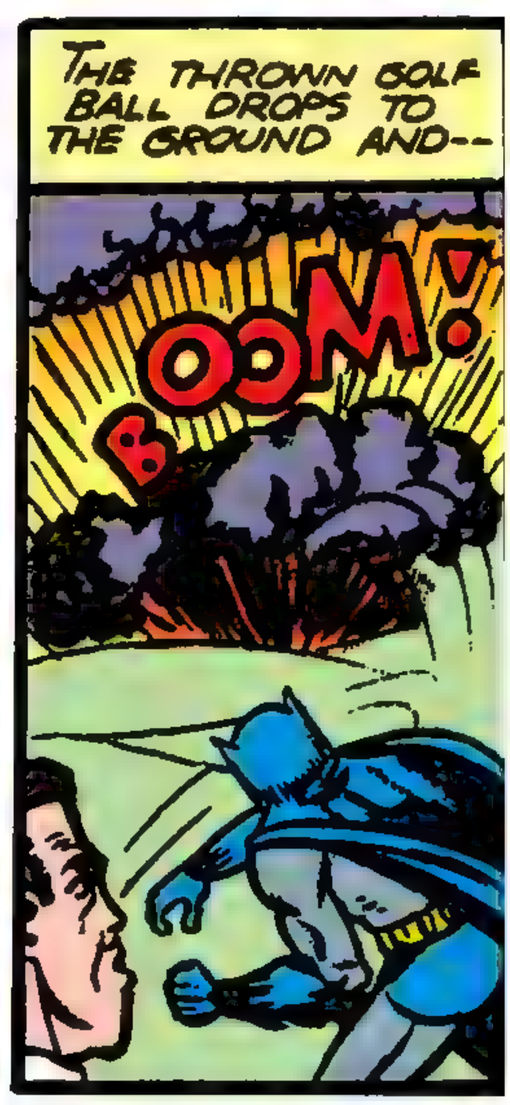
WITH A HOWL, TWO THUGS CLOSE IN ON THE BATMAN!
SURROUNDED, EH!
YEAH! LET'S SEE YA GET OUTA THIS ONE!

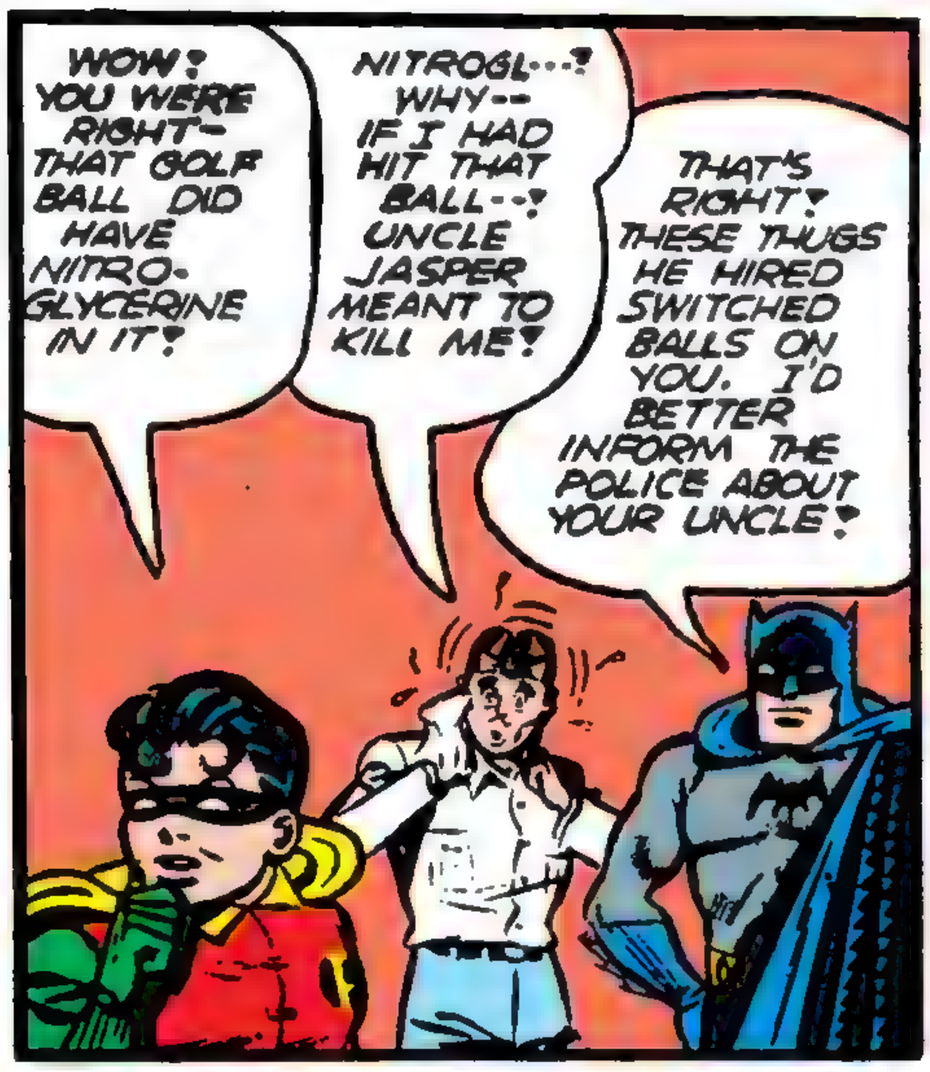
REALLY, IT'S SO SIMPLE!

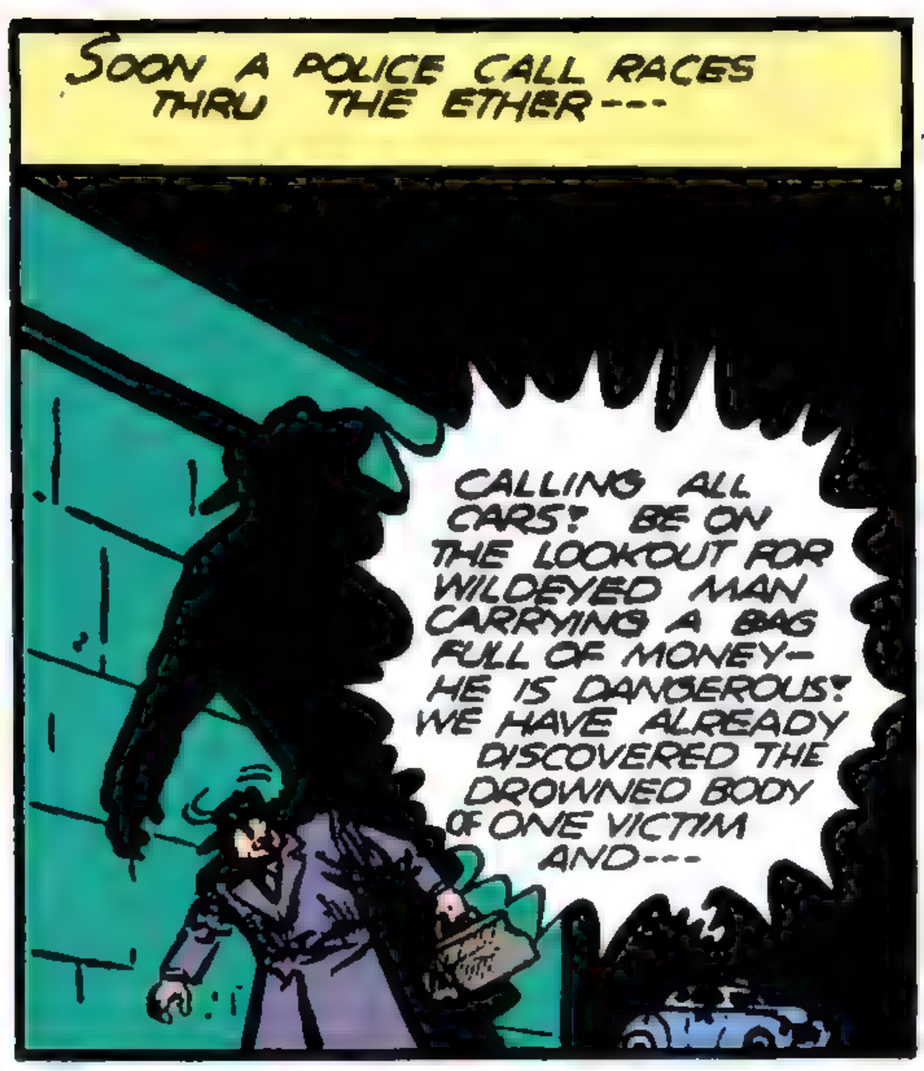

AND ROBIN FINDS HIMSELF BUSY----
I'M GONNA BLOW THE DAYLIGHT THRU YA!
I COULD USE THIS GOLF BALL!

HA! HA! UGH-H-H!
A HOLE-IN-ONE!

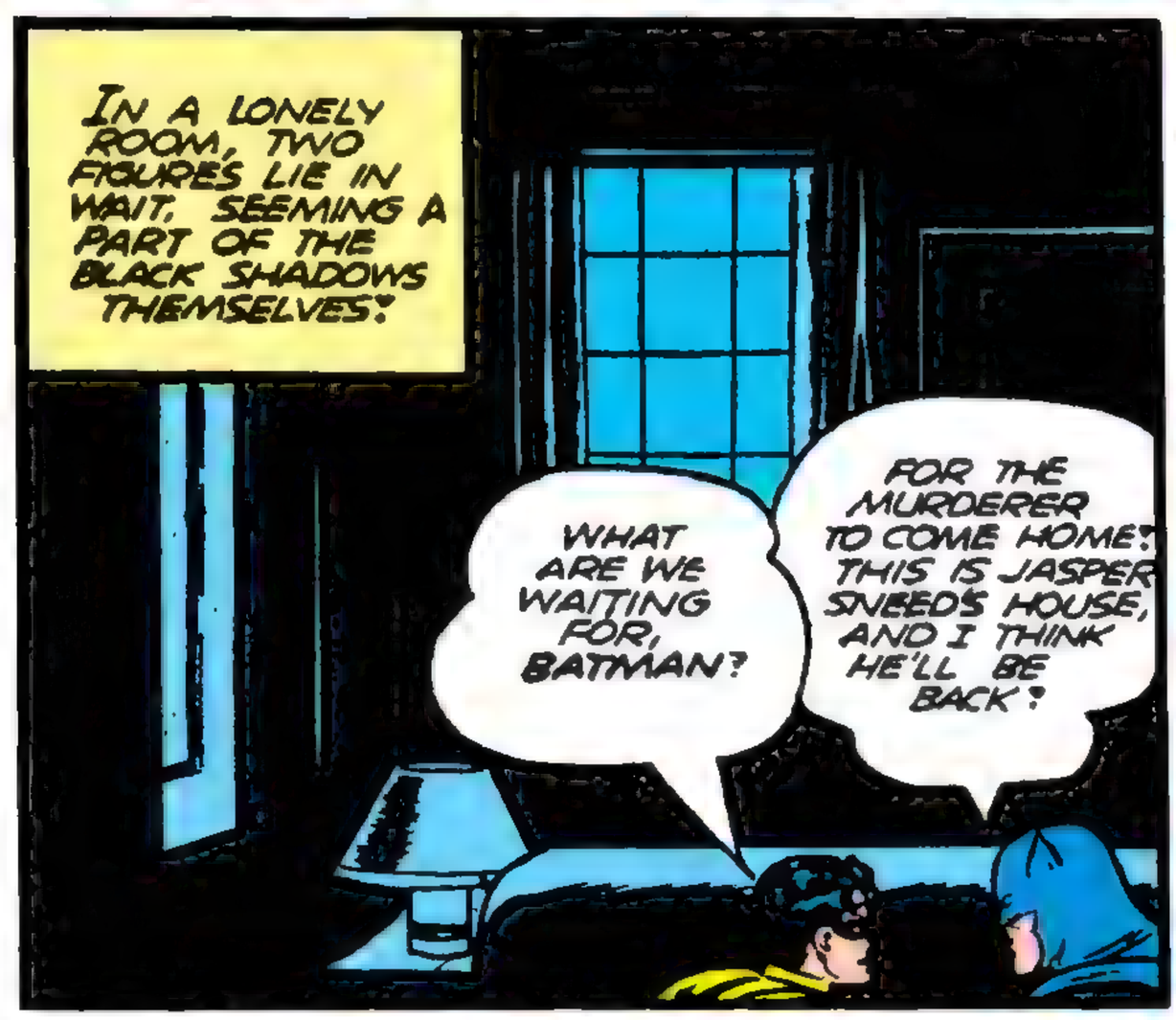
SAY-- WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S THE IDEA?
--NOW LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TOSS THIS GOLF BALL YOU WERE GOING TO HIT OUT ONTO THE FAIRWAY!

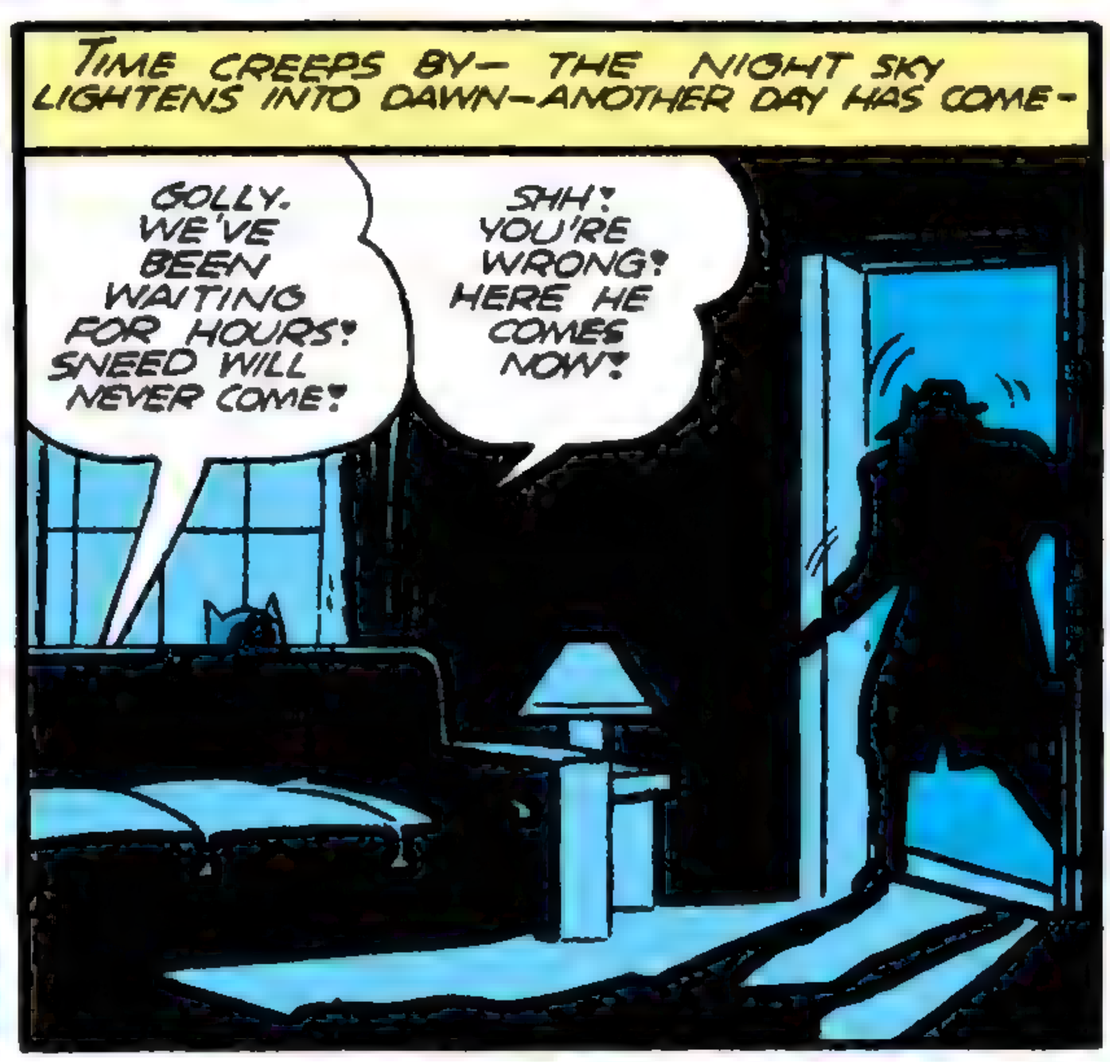

THE THROWN GOLF BALL DROPS TO THE GROUND AND--
BOOM!


WOW! YOU WERE RIGHT— THAT GOLF BALL DID HAVE NITRO-GLYCERINE IN IT!
NITROGL...! WHY-- IF I HAD HIT THAT BALL--! UNCLE JASPER MEANT TO KILL ME!
THAT'S RIGHT! THESE THUGS HE HIRED SWITCHED BALLS ON YOU. I'D BETTER INFORM THE POLICE ABOUT YOUR UNCLE!


SOON A POLICE CALL RACES THRU THE ETHER---
CALLING ALL CARS! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WILDEYED MAN CARRYING A BAG FULL OF MONEY— HE IS DANGEROUS! WE HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED THE DROWNED BODY OF ONE VICTIM AND---

THEY'RE AFTER ME! NOW I WONT BE ABLE TO SEND LUCILLE THIS THROAT SPRAY-- WHICH REALLY IS FULL OF ACID AND WOULD DESTROY HER VOICE FOREVER!

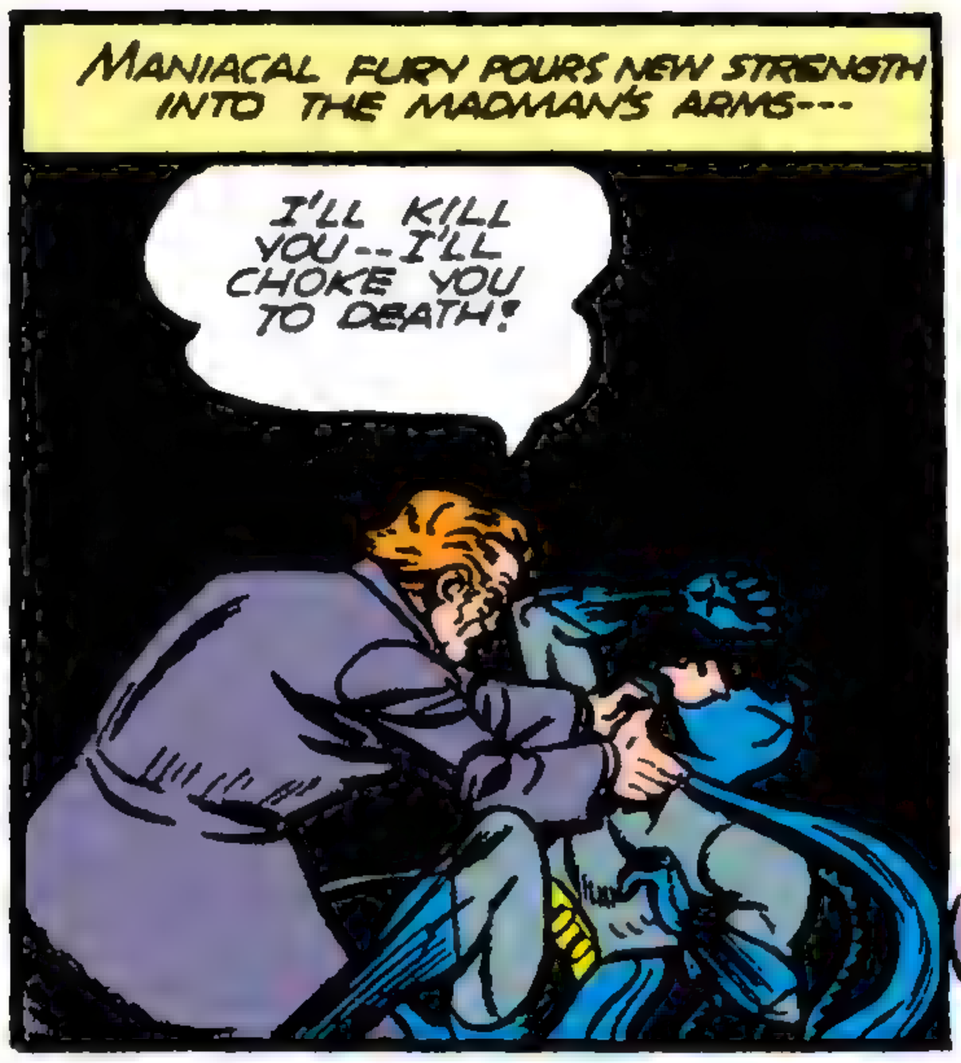

IN A LONELY ROOM, TWO FIGURES LIE IN WAIT, SEEMING A PART OF THE BLACK SHADOWS THEMSELVES!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, BATMAN?
FOR THE MURDERER TO COME HOME! THIS IS JASPER SNEED'S HOUSE, AND I THINK HE'LL BE BACK!

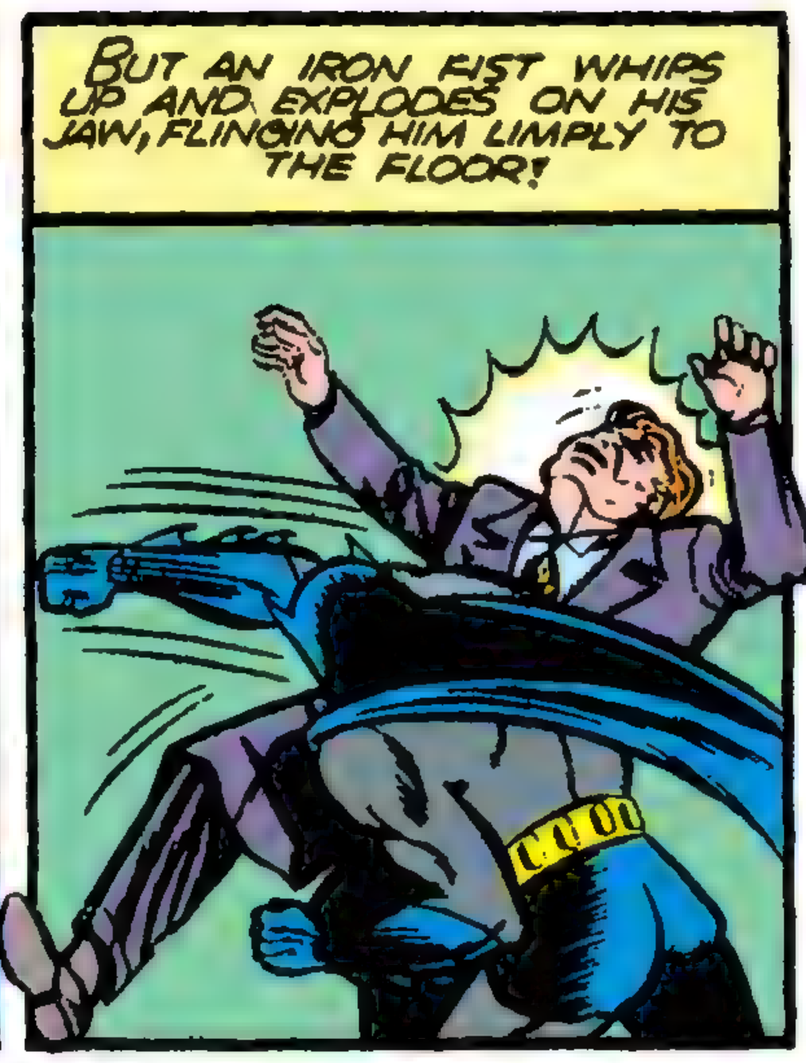

TIME CREEPS BY— THE NIGHT SKY LIGHTENS INTO DAWN—ANOTHER DAY HAS COME-
GOLLY. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS! SNEED WILL NEVER COME!
SHH! YOU'RE WRONG! HERE HE COMES NOW!

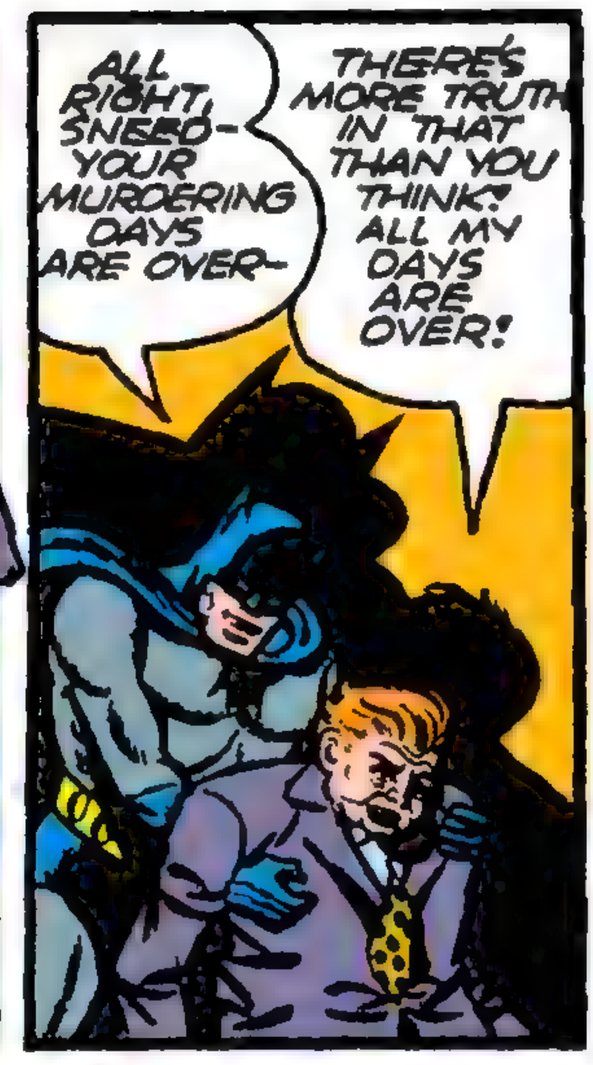
LET'S FOLLOW AND SEE!
WHERE'S HE GOING?

A DOOR SWINGS OPEN SILENTLY, AND SNEED CONFRONTS--THE BUTLER, BARKIS-
OH- YOU'RE BACK! I EXPECTED YOU SOONER!
YOU PUT THE POISON IN MY DRINK. NOW I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

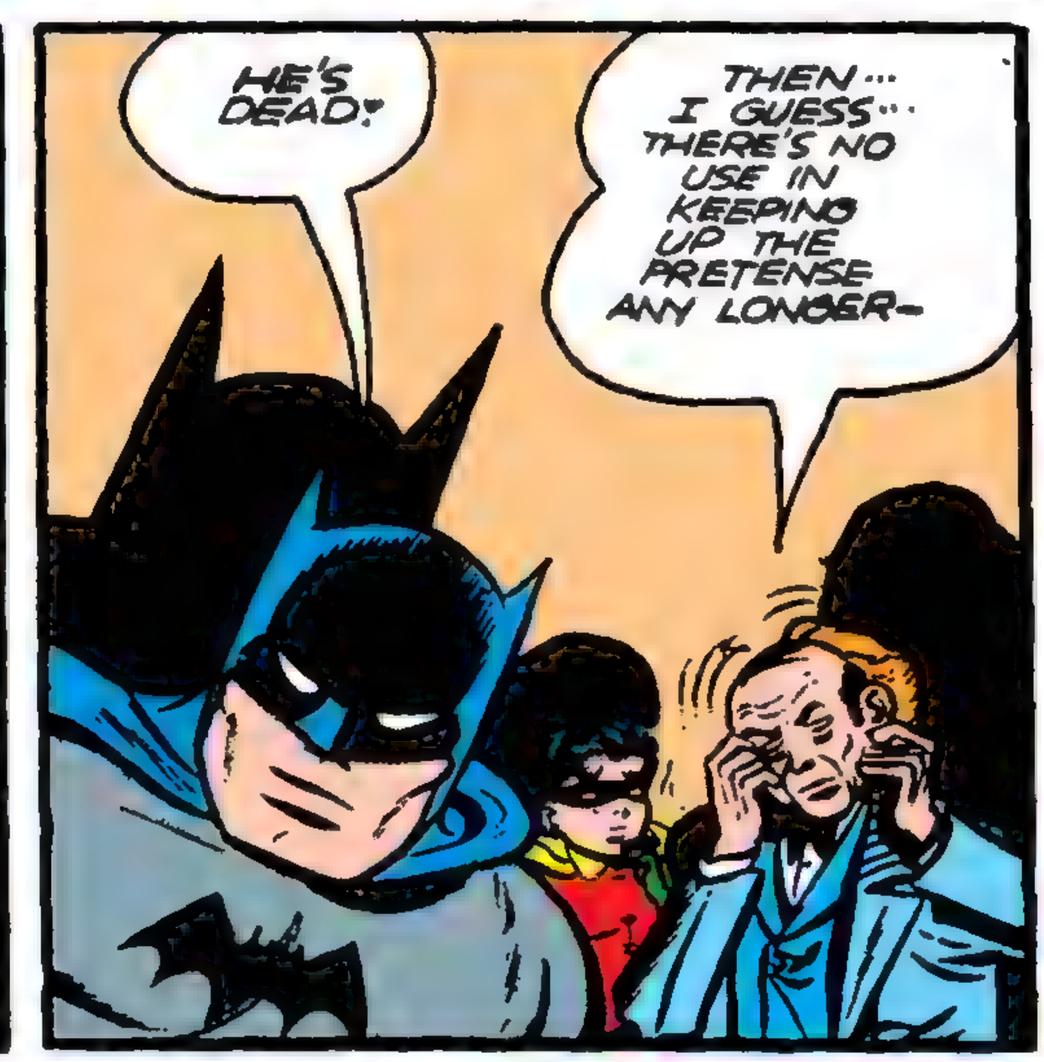
YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAST ATTEMPT AT MURDER, SNEED!

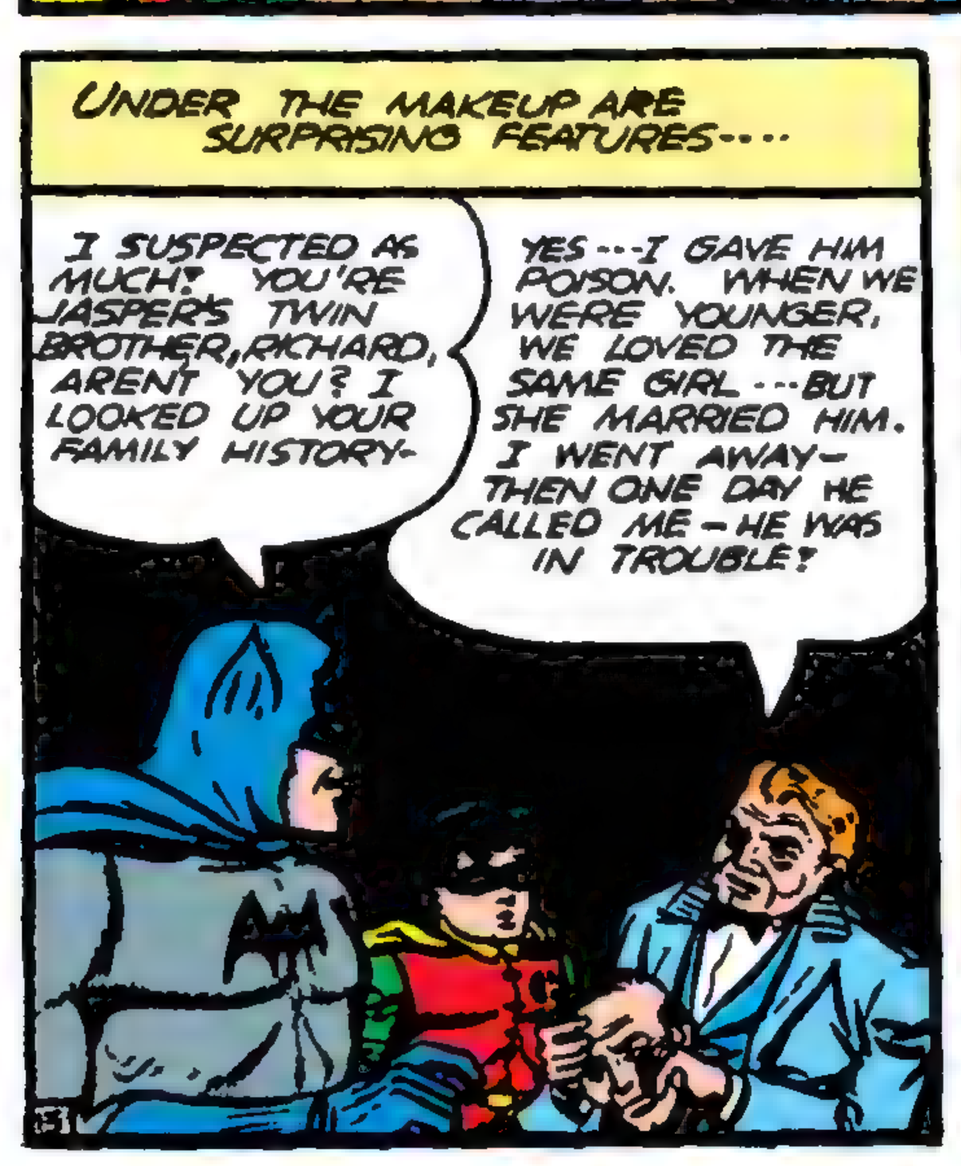

MANIACAL FURY POURS NEW STRENGTH INTO THE MADMAN'S ARMS---
I'LL KILL YOU--I'LL CHOKE YOU TO DEATH!

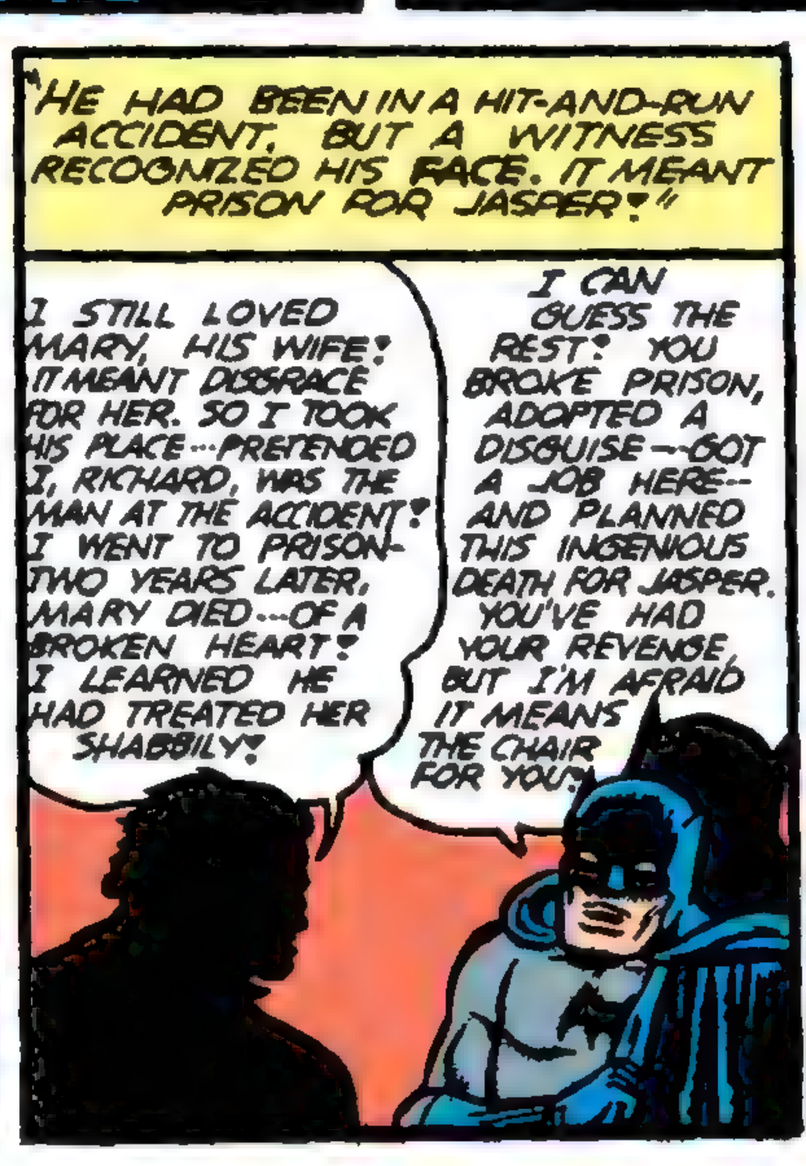

BUT AN IRON FIST WHIPS UP AND EXPLODES ON HIS JAW, FLINGING HIM LIMPLY TO THE FLOOR!


ALL RIGHT, SNEED-YOUR MURDERING DAYS ARE OVER-
THERE'S MORE TRUTH IN THAT THAN YOU THINK! ALL MY DAYS ARE OVER!

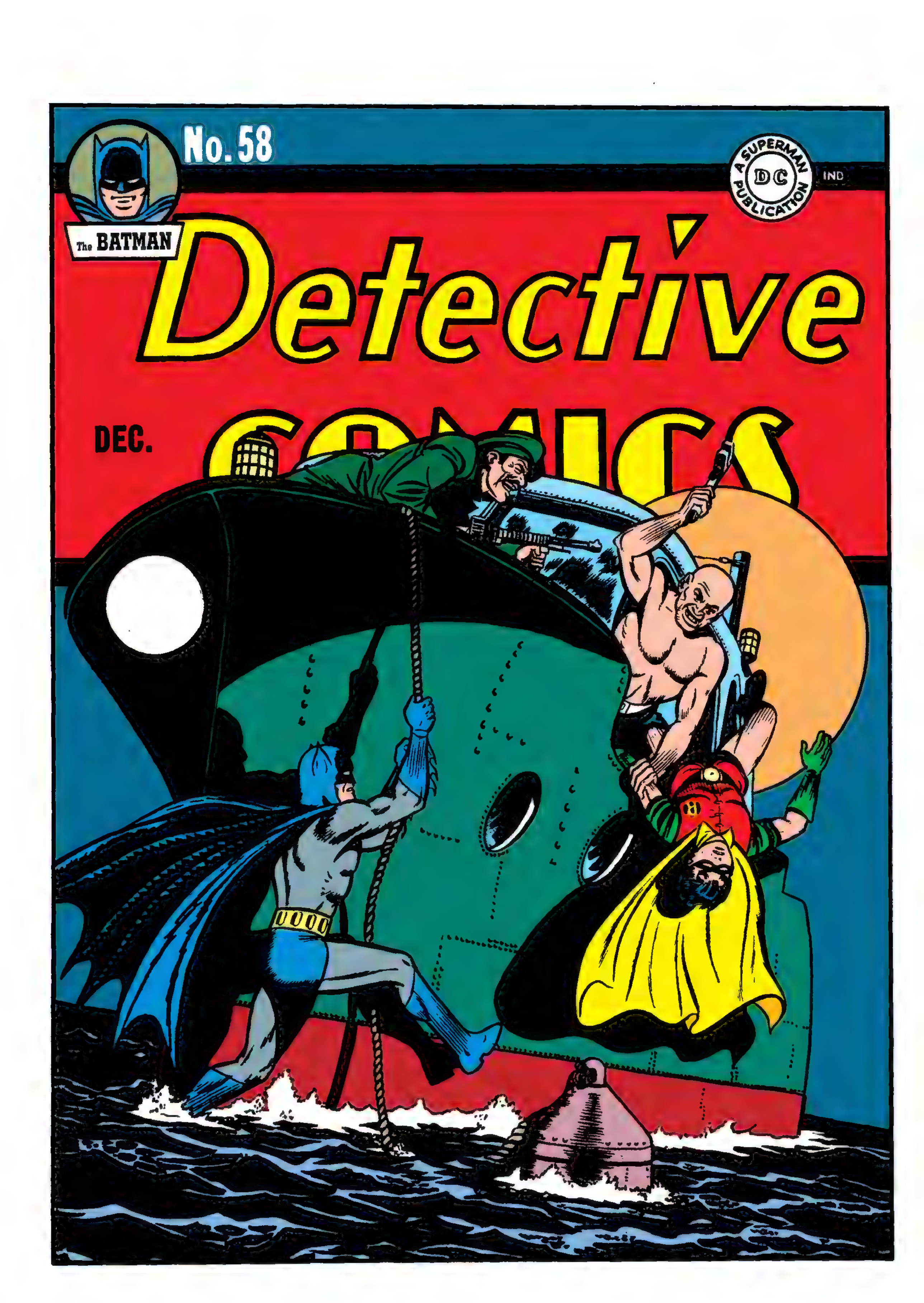
MY TIME IS UP...MY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF LIFE....ARE OVER... AHHHH--

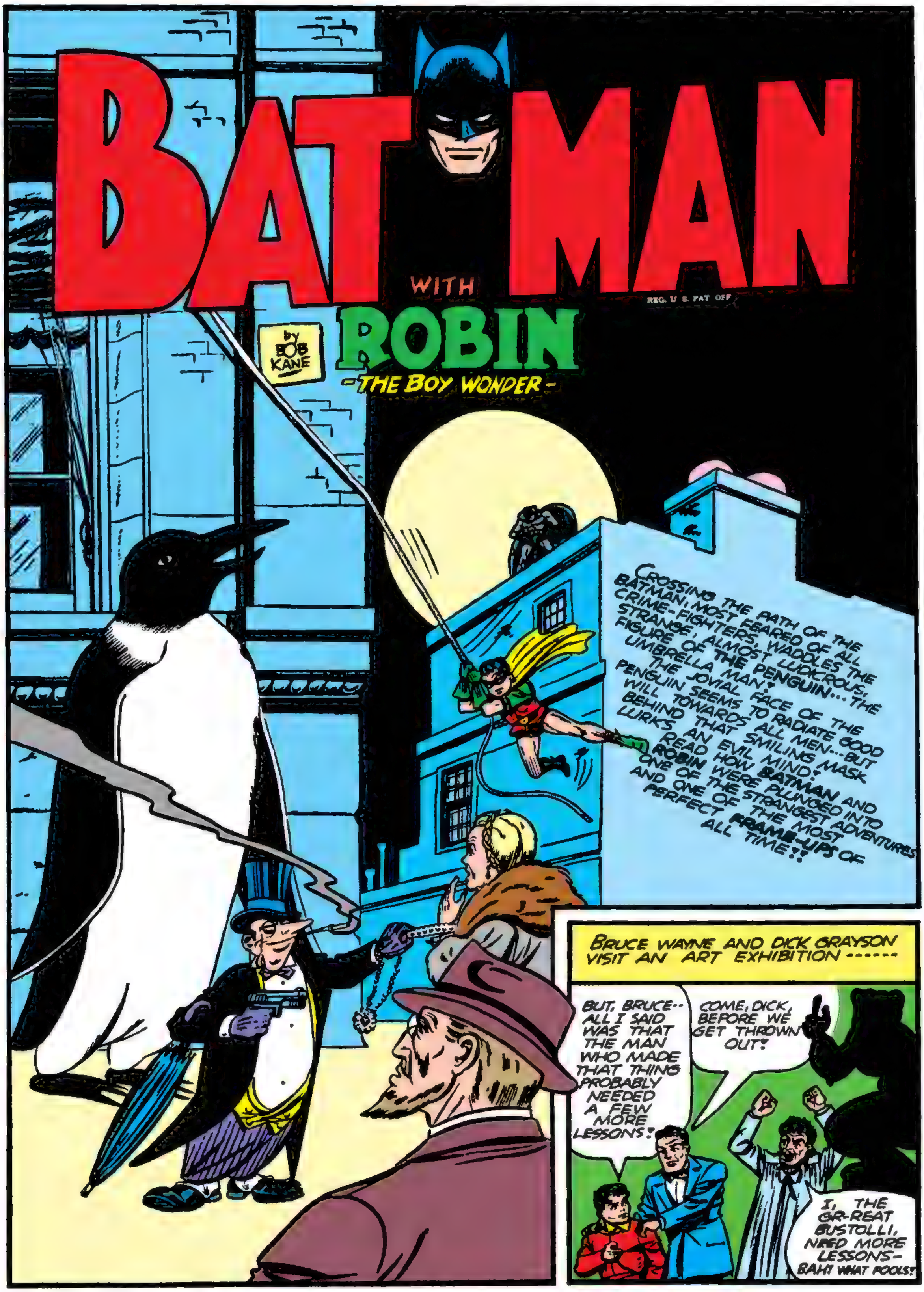

HE'S DEAD!
THEN... I GUESS... THERE'S NO USE IN KEEPING UP THE PRETENSE ANY LONGER-


UNDER THE MAKEUP ARE SURPRISING FEATURES....
I SUSPECTED AS MUCH! YOU'RE JASPER'S TWIN BROTHER, RICHARD, AREN'T YOU? I LOOKED UP YOUR FAMILY HISTORY-
YES---I GAVE HIM POISON. WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER, WE LOVED THE SAME GIRL---BUT SHE MARRIED HIM. I WENT AWAY- THEN ONE DAY HE CALLED ME - HE WAS IN TROUBLE!

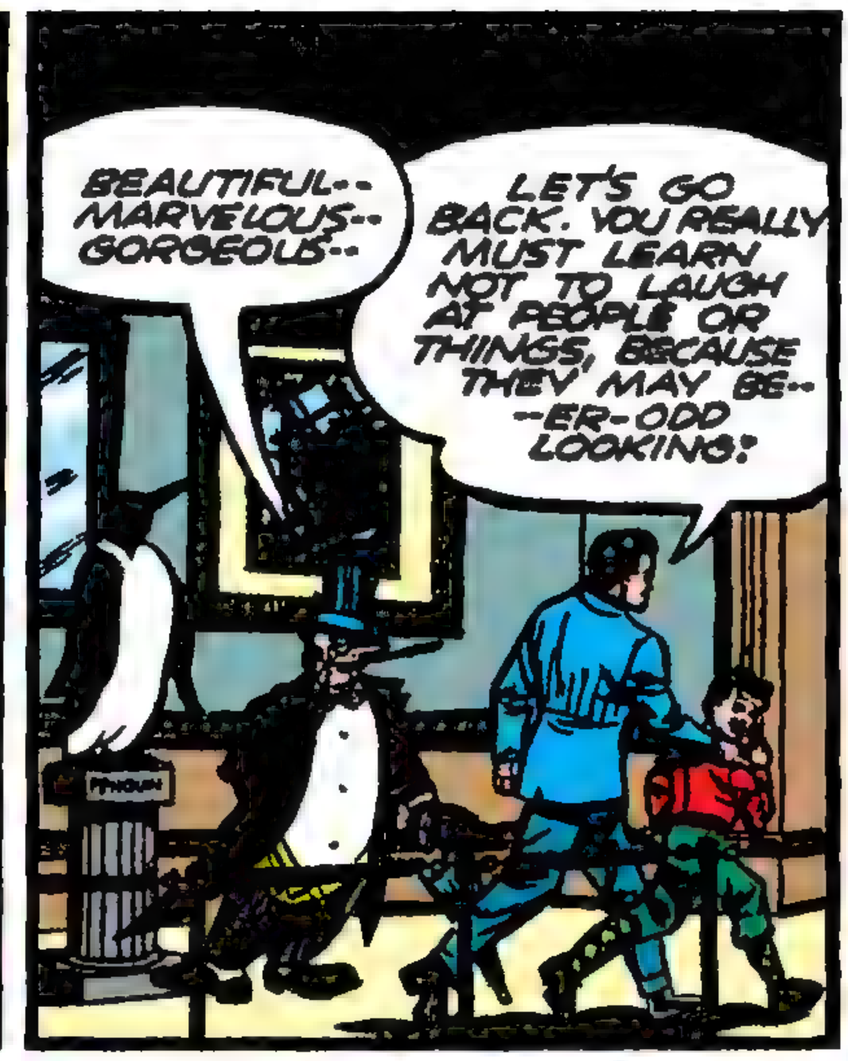

"HE HAD BEEN IN A HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT, BUT A WITNESS RECOGNIZED HIS FACE. IT MEANT PRISON FOR JASPER!"
I STILL LOVED MARY, HIS WIFE! IT MEANT DISGRACE FOR HER. SO I TOOK HIS PLACE---PRETENDED I, RICHARD, WAS THE MAN AT THE ACCIDENT! I WENT TO PRISON- TWO YEARS LATER, MARY DIED---OF A BROKEN HEART! I LEARNED HE HAD TREATED HER SHABBILY!
I CAN GUESS THE REST! YOU BROKE PRISON, ADOPTED A DISGUISE--GOT A JOB HERE-- AND PLANNED THIS INGENIOUS DEATH FOR JASPER. YOU'VE HAD YOUR REVENGE BUT I'M AFRAID IT MEANS THE CHAIR FOR YOU!

BOB KANE
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT I HAVEN'T MUCH LONGER THAN A FEW MINUTES TO LIVE! RIGHT AFTER I GAVE JASPER THAT POISON, I TOOK SOME MYSELF!
THE END

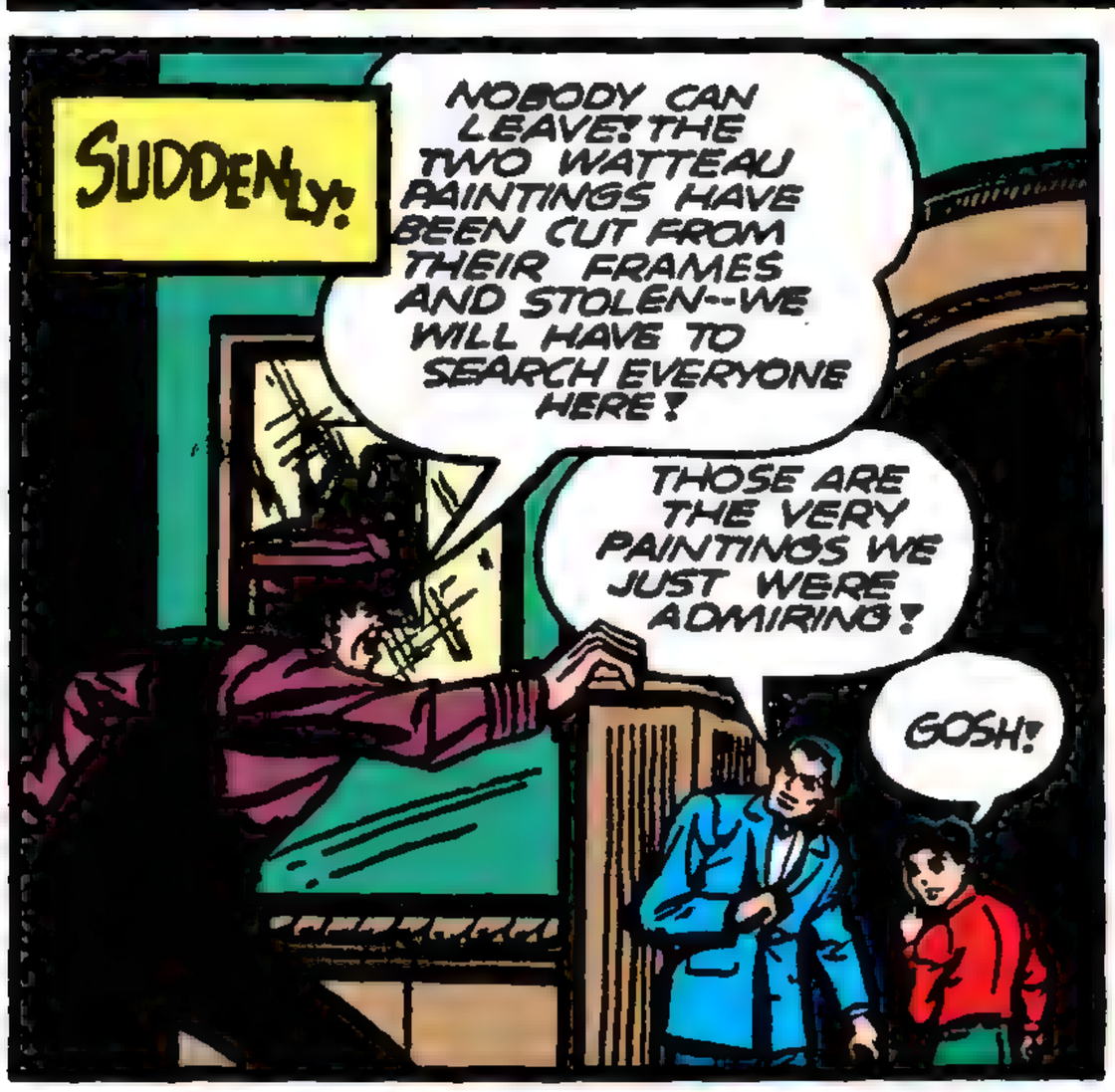

No. 58
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
IND
The BATMAN
Detective
DEC.
COMICS


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
by BOB KANE
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
CROSSING THE PATH OF THE BATMAN, MOST FEARED OF ALL CRIME-FIGHTERS, WADDLES THE STRANGE, ALMOST LUDICROUS, FIGURE OF THE PENGUIN... THE UMBRELLA MAN! THE JOVIAL FACE OF THE PENGUIN SEEMS TO RADIATE GOOD WILL TOWARDS ALL MEN...BUT BEHIND THAT SMILING MASK LURKS AN EVIL MIND! READ HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN WERE PLUNGED INTO ONE OF THE STRANGEST ADVENTURES AND ONE OF THE MOST PERFECT FRAME-UPS OF ALL TIME!!
BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON VISIT AN ART EXHIBITION ------
BUT, BRUCE-- ALL I SAID WAS THAT THE MAN WHO MADE THAT THING PROBABLY NEEDED A FEW MORE LESSONS!
COME, DICK, BEFORE WE GET THROWN OUT!
I, THE GR-REAT BUSTOLLI, NEED MORE LESSONS- BAH! WHAT FOOLS!

DICK LEARNS THAT ART CAN BE EXPENSIVE.
YES, DICK, THESE TWO SMALL WATTEAUS ARE WORTH ROUGHLY A HALF MILLION DOLLARS BETWEEN THEM!
WHEW! MAYBE I OUGHT TO TAKE UP PAINTING!


BEAUTIFUL-- MARVELOUS-- GORGEOUS--
LET'S GO BACK. YOU REALLY MUST LEARN NOT TO LAUGH AT PEOPLE OR THINGS, BECAUSE THEY MAY BE-- --ER-ODD LOOKING!

BUT, BRUCE, LOOK FOR YOURSELF!
HA! HA! HE DOES LOOK LIKE A PENGUIN AT THAT!

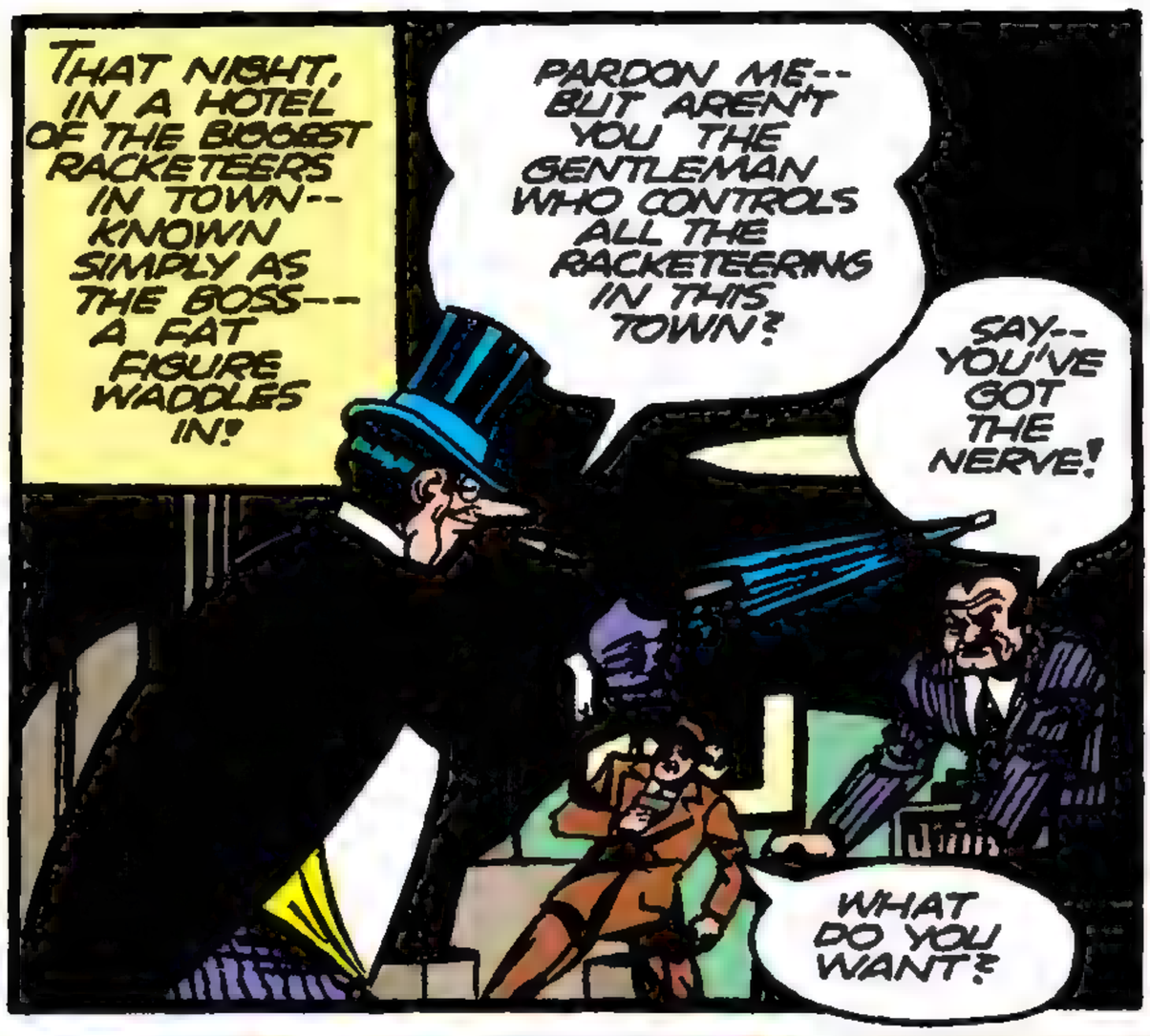

SUDDENLY!
NOBODY CAN LEAVE! THE TWO WATTEAU PAINTINGS HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THEIR FRAMES AND STOLEN--WE WILL HAVE TO SEARCH EVERYONE HERE!
THOSE ARE THE VERY PAINTINGS WE JUST WERE ADMIRING!
GOSH!

RICH MAN--POOR MAN--BEGGARMAN --AND THIEF--ALL MUST SUBMIT TO THE SEARCH!
I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOING TO BE--ER-- EMBARRASSING!
I DON'T MIND A-BEIN SEARCH! I ONLY HOPE-A DEY CATCH DA THIEF!
IT'S OUTRAGEOUS! IMAGINE SEARCHING ME!

CURSES! THERE GOES A MILLION DOLLARS!
COUNT PEREL! WHY, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PHONEY! GOODBYE!
LOOKS LIKE FINE FEATHERS DON'T ALWAYS MAKE FINE BIRDS!
2

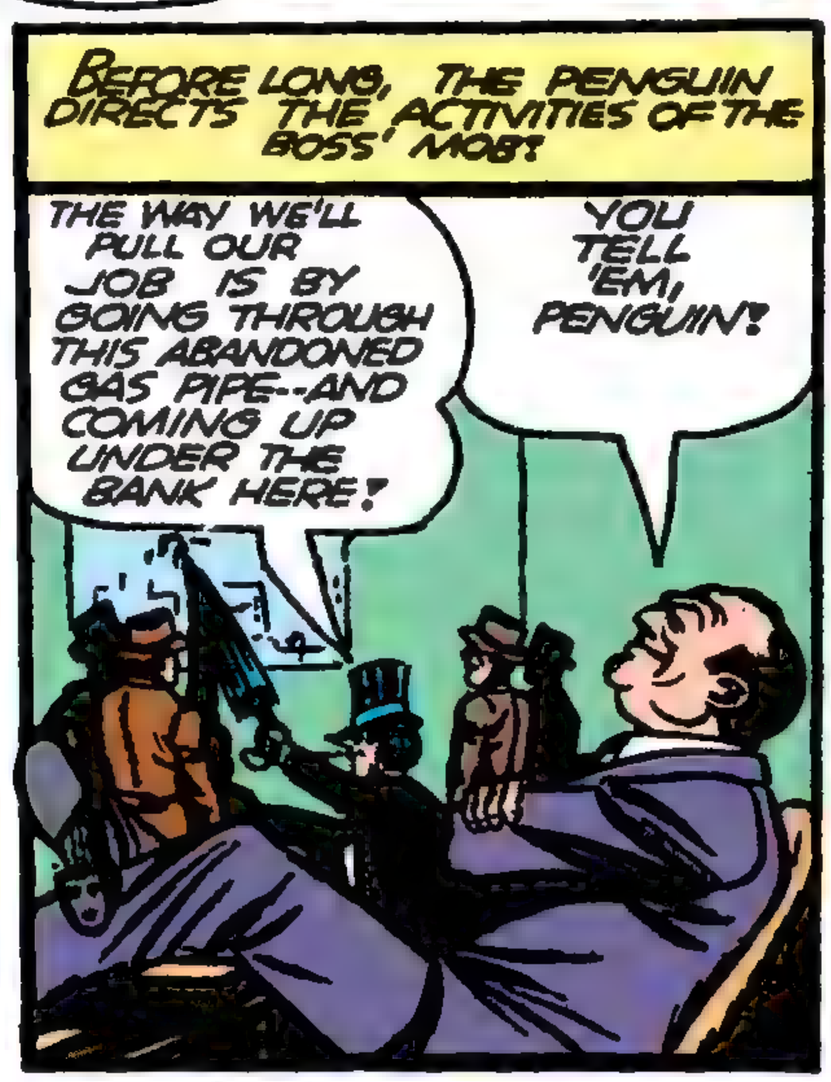
BRUCE AND DICK SUBMIT UNCOMPLAININGLY TO BEING SEARCHED!
SORRY, MR. WAYNE, BUT WE GOTTA CHECK EVERYBODY!
PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT, JONES!
I'D TAKE OFF MY SHOES, BUT I'VE GOT A HOLE IN MY STOCKING.

THE GUARDS ARE BAFFLED AS THEIR SEARCH ENDS FRUITLESSLY!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU-HEE-HEE--- DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S BAD LUCK TO OPEN AN UMBRELLA INDOORS?
HE AIN'T GOT THEM EITHER. THEY WOULDN'T HAVE FLOWN AWAY!


THAT NIGHT, IN A HOTEL OF THE BIGGEST RACKETEERS IN TOWN-- KNOWN SIMPLY AS THE BOSS-- A FAT FIGURE WADDLES IN!
PARDON ME-- BUT AREN'T YOU THE GENTLEMAN WHO CONTROLS ALL THE RACKETEERING IN THIS TOWN?
SAY-- YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

DID YOU HEAR OF THE HALF MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF PAINTINGS THAT WERE---ER-- STOLEN FROM THE ART EXHIBITION?
SHALL I DRILL HIM, BOSS?
WAIT A MINUTE-- LET'S HEAR HIS SPIEL!

HOLY SMOKE! BROTHER, YOU'RE IN--SAY, WHAT'S YOUR HANDLE?
OH--AH--I HAVE SO MANY! WHY NOT CALL ME THE PENGUIN? IT DOES FIT-- HEE-- HEE!


BEFORE LONG, THE PENGUIN DIRECTS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOSS' MOB!
THE WAY WE'LL PULL OUR JOB IS BY GOING THROUGH THIS ABANDONED GAS PIPE--AND COMING UP UNDER THE BANK HERE!
YOU TELL 'EM, PENGUIN!

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES CALL FOR ACTION AS A CRIME-WAVE THREATENS TO ENGULF THE CITY!
ORGANIZED CRIME THREATENS THE CITY
SUN
HAND OF CRIM
MASTER SEEN BA
OF SERIES OF
ROBBERIES

NEXT DAY---AT THE STAHL AUCTIONEERING HOUSE---
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT'S THE FATTY DICK AND I SAW AT THE EXHIBITION. THAT UMBRELLA-- MUST BE ATTACHED TO HIM!
EXCUSE ME--
THIS COLUMBIA DIAMOND IS THE FINEST WHITE STONE IN THE WORLD--

SUDDENLY--THE ROOM PLUNGES INTO DARKNESS--
SOCK!
BAM!

WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON!
THE DIAMOND-- THE GREAT COLUMBIA DIAMOND... IT'S GONE!

FRENZIED VOICES FILL THE AIR AND PEOPLE MILL ABOUT EXCITEDLY--
SORRY-- I WAS SO EXCITED WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT--I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING!
WHAT'S THE IDEA-- TRIPPING ME!

SO SORRY YOU WERE INCONVENIENCED!
QUITE ALL RIGHT! ER--. NO HARM DONE!
I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT KEEPS GROWING. EACH TIME I BUMP IN THAT LITTLE GUY, SOMETHING HAPPENS— I THINK I'LL GO SLUMMING TONIGHT.

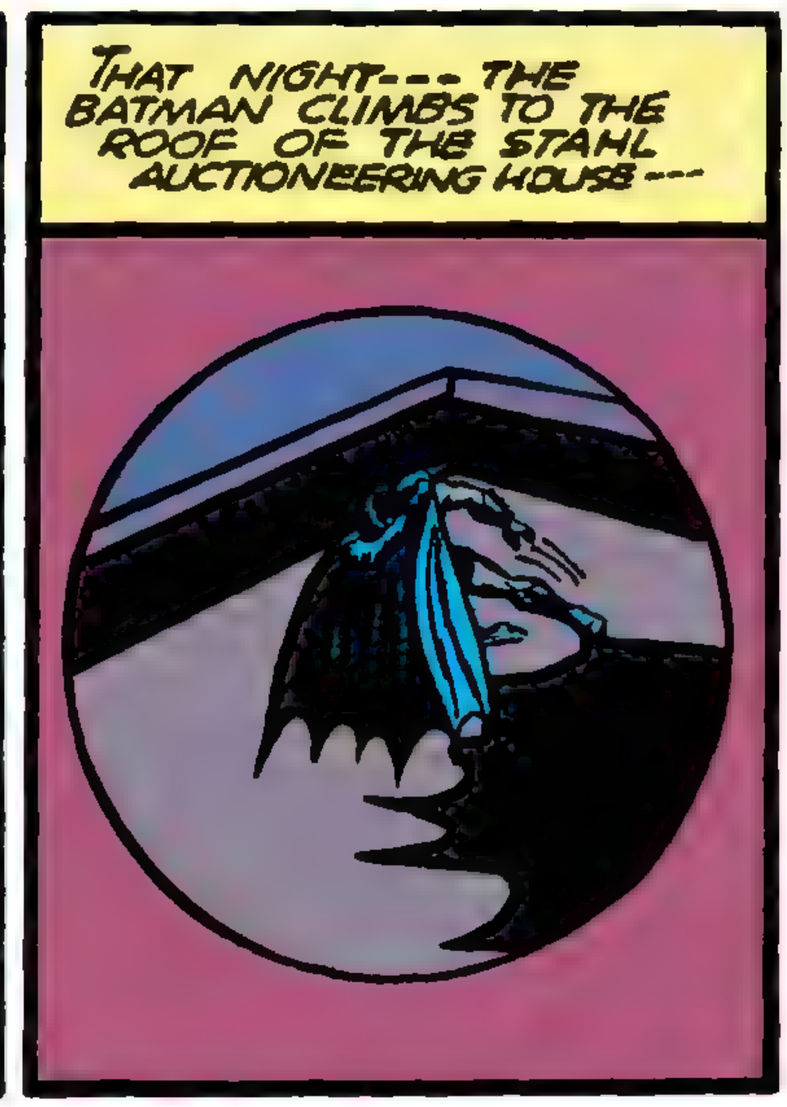
LATER--AT THE BOSS' HEADQUARTERS--
I INSIST ON MY USUAL SHARE OF MONEY FOR ROBBERIES I'VE PLANNED!
YOU'RE GETTIN' TOO BIG FOR YOUR SHOES— I'VE GOTTA TEACH YA A LESSON SO'S YOU WON'T STEP INTO MINE!

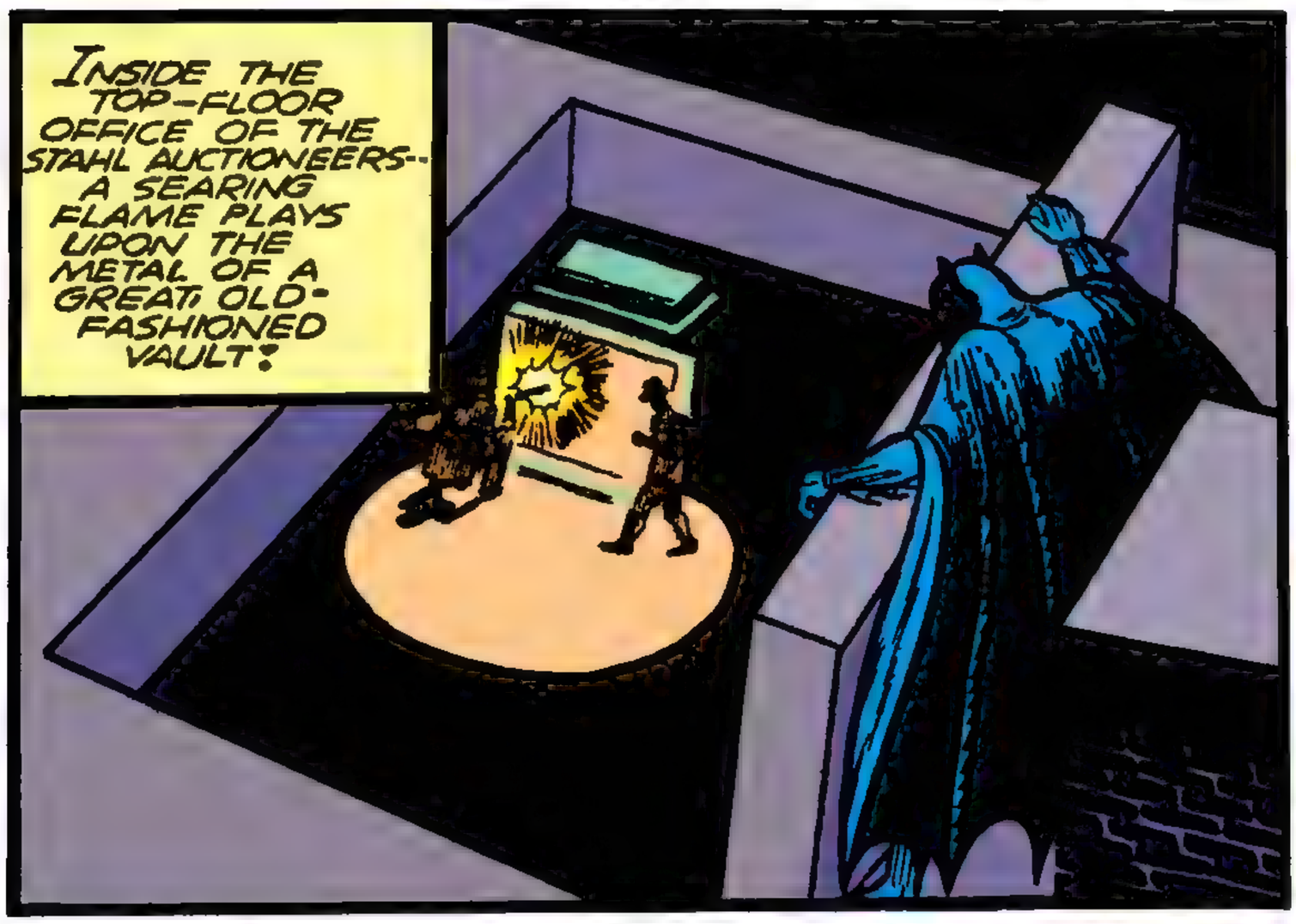
AAAAGH!
THIS WAS BOUND TO OCCUR SOONER OR LATER--- MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH NOW!
BANG!

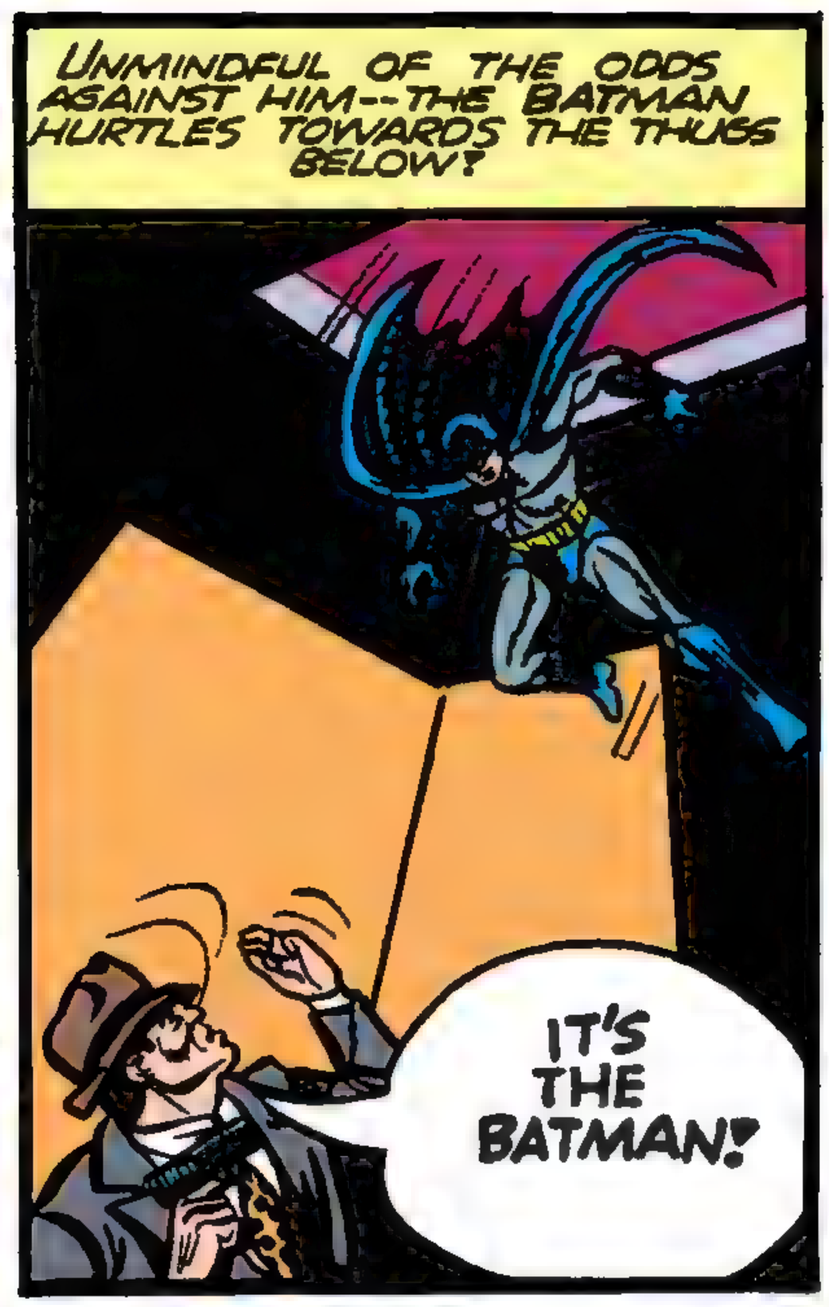
IF NONE OF YOU LADS OBJECTS--I'M YOUR NEW BOSS!
SURE-- IT'S OKAY WITH ME, MR. PENGUIN!
SURE!

THAT NIGHT, THE PENGUIN'S HENCHMEN DISCUSS PLANS IN A WATERFRONT DIVE!
DAT JOB DE PENGUIN PLANNED FER TONIGHT WILL BE A CINCH- ALL WE GOTTA DO IS HEIST A LITTLE JADE IDOL FROM DE VAULT OF DAT STAHL AUCTIONEERIN' HOUSE!
PIPE DOWN, YA DOPE! SOMEBODY MIGHT BE LISTENING!
4

REMOVAL OF PUTTY AND A WIG REVEAL THE CLEAN CUT FEATURES OF BRUCE WAYNE--
HOW'D YOU MAKE OUT?
I FOUND OUT PLENTY-- AND YOU CAN'T GO WITH ME—YOU'VE GOT HOMEWORK TO DO!


THAT NIGHT--- THE BATMAN CLIMBS TO THE ROOF OF THE STAHL AUCTIONEERING HOUSE---


INSIDE THE TOP-FLOOR OFFICE OF THE STAHL AUCTIONEERS-- A SEARING FLAME PLAYS UPON THE METAL OF A GREAT, OLD-FASHIONED VAULT!


UNMINDFUL OF THE ODDS AGAINST HIM--THE BATMAN HURTLES TOWARDS THE THUGS BELOW!
IT'S THE BATMAN!

OOF!
THANKS FOR WAVING AT ME, BOYS! IT'S A BIT HOT IN HERE!
UGH!

BATMAN BENDS LOW AS THE DEADLY FLAME FROM THE ACETYLENE TORCH SHOOTS OVER HIS HEAD!
A WARM RECEPTION, BATMAN! HAW!
AND YOU'RE NOT FOOLING, CHUM!

SNATCHING THE OIL PAINTING FROM THE WALL, THE BATMAN WHIPS ABOUT--
EVER GO IN FOR ART? YOU MAY FIND THIS A STRIKING EXAMPLE!

HA--HA-- A PICTURE NO ARTIST COULD DO JUSTICE TO. WELL, I COULD STAND AND ADMIRE YOU FOREVER, BUT---
5

--BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE!
OW!
UGH!

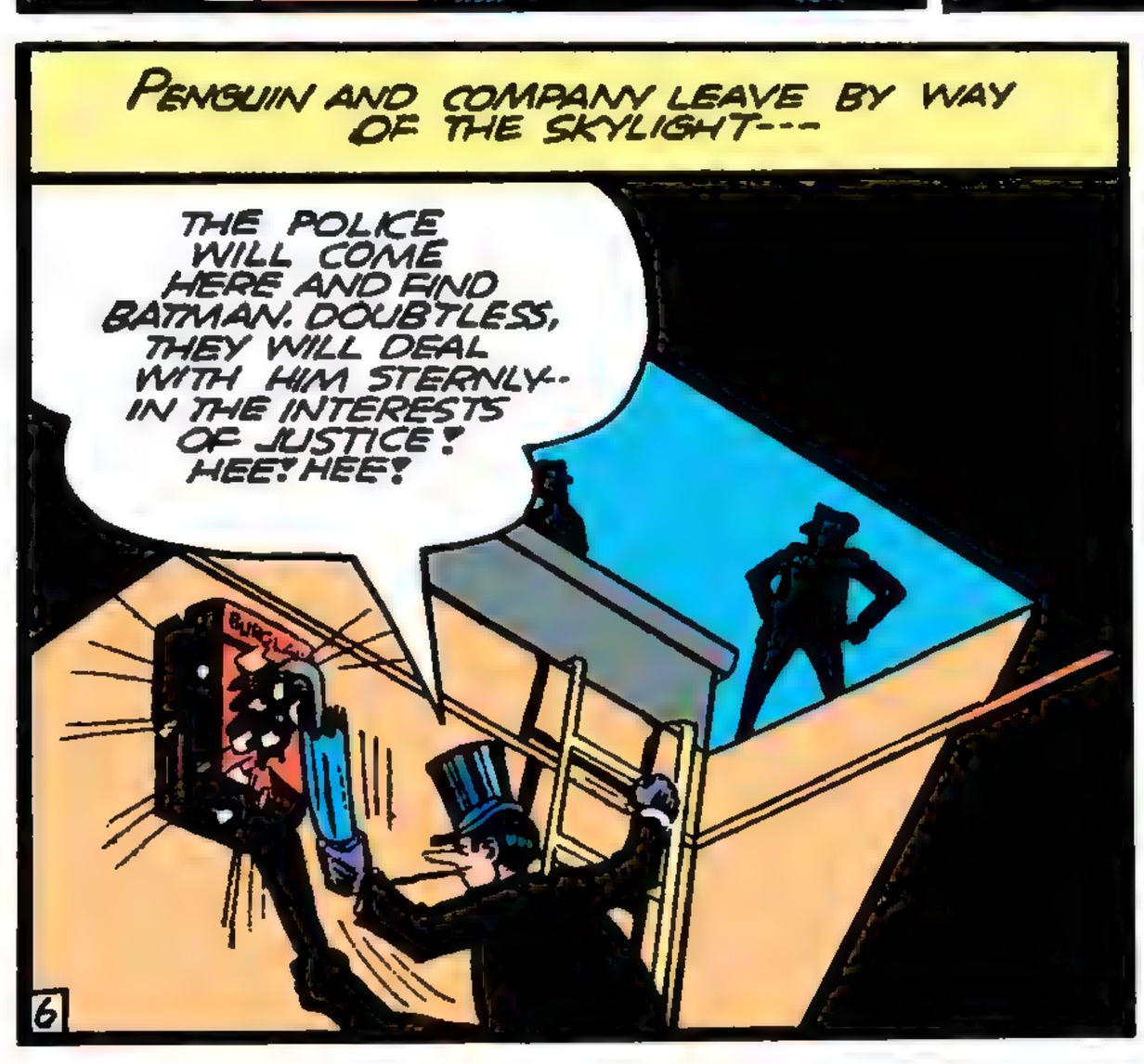
TSK! TSK! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY POOR MEN! AH, WELL, I KNEW THAT WE'D HAVE TO MEET SOME DAY!
SO IT'S YOU?

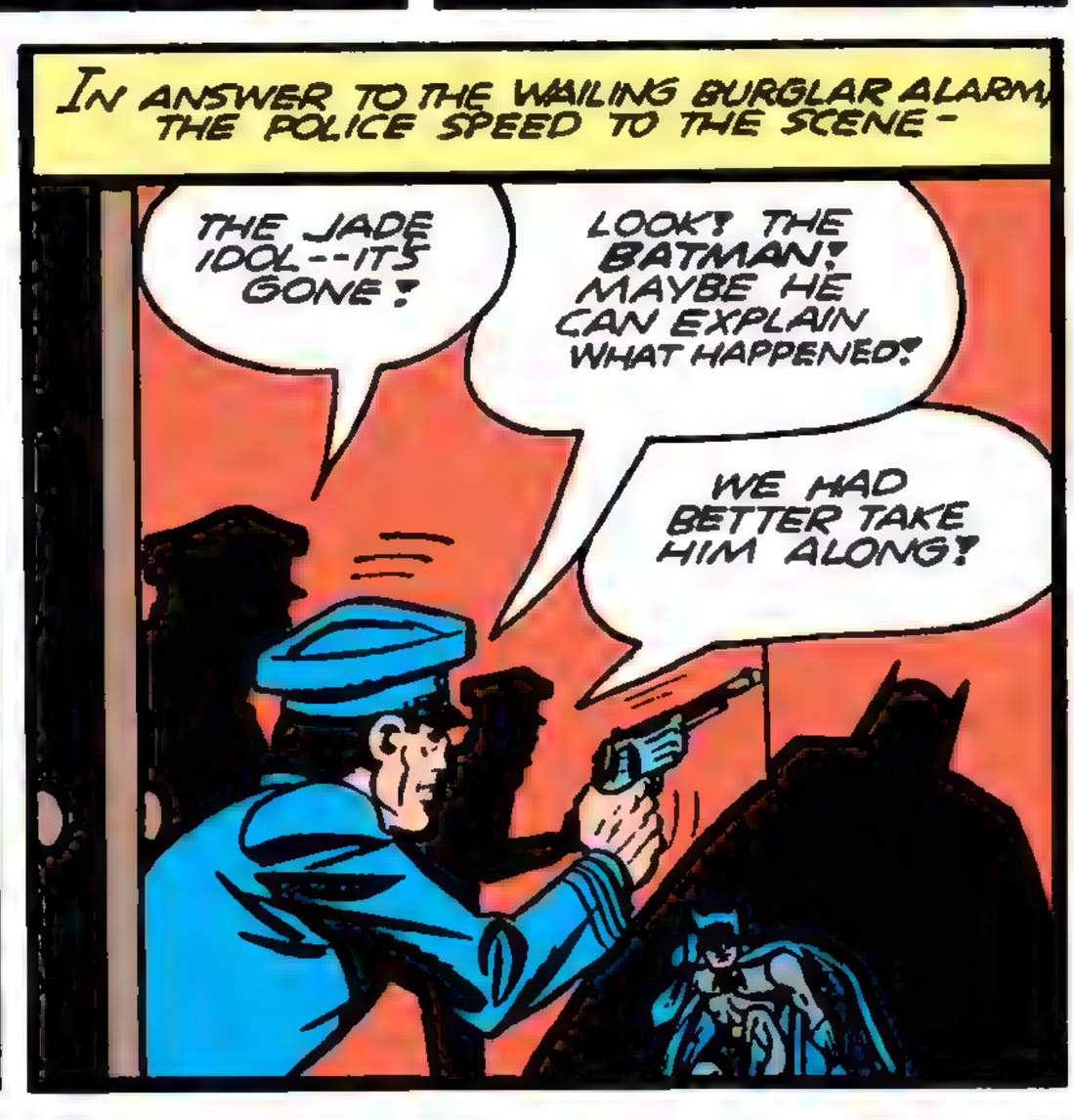
BETTER SAY YOUR PRAYERS NOW, FUNNYFACE--
TOO BAD! A MARVELOUS PHYSIQUE COUPLED WITH A KEEN BRAIN-- WE COULD GO FAR TO-GETHER!

A SPRAY OF STRANGLING GAS SPURTS FROM THE PENGUIN'S DEADLY UMBRELLA!
BUT, ALAS, I'M AFRAID YOU'D NEVER APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF A SUCCESSFUL ROBBERY!

LUCKY FOR YOU LADS, I DECIDED TO DROP IN--NOW, PERHAPS YOU WILL COMPLETE YOUR ASSIGNMENT SO THAT I MAY GO HOME AND BROWSE THROUGH SHAKESPEARE!

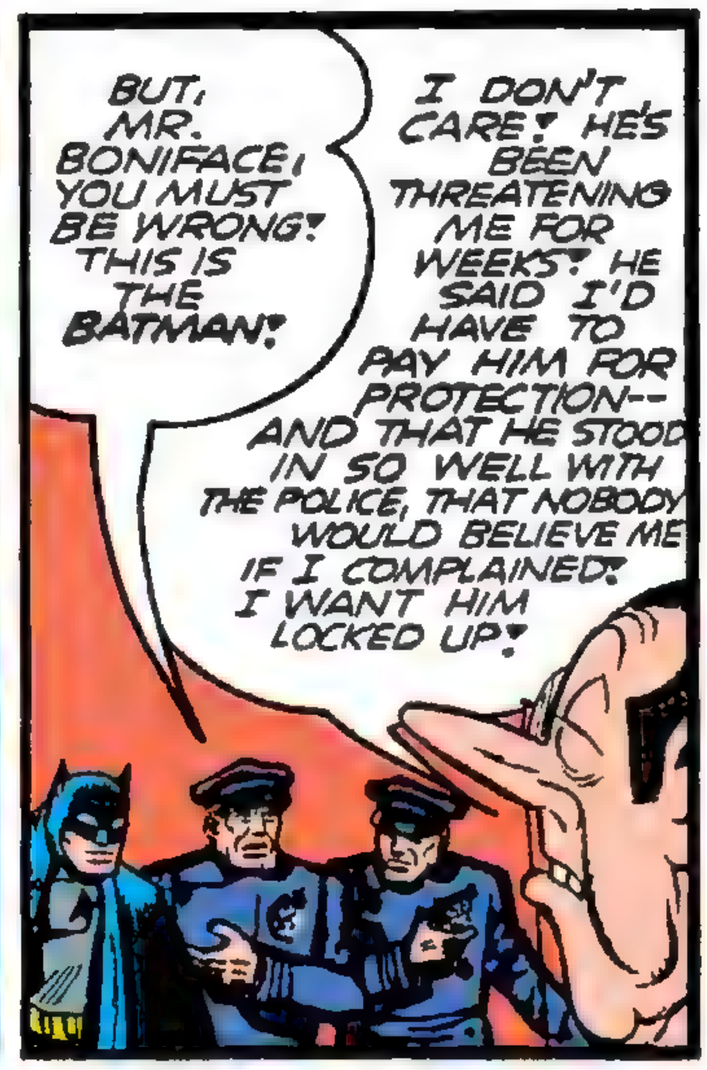
THE INTERRUPTED ROBBERY NOW COMES TO A SUCCESSFUL ENDING..
HERE'S THE IDOL, MISTER PENGUIN!
AS THE IMMORTAL KEATS SAID- "A THING OF BEAUTY AND A JOY FOREVER!"


PENGUIN AND COMPANY LEAVE BY WAY OF THE SKYLIGHT---
THE POLICE WILL COME HERE AND FIND BATMAN. DOUBTLESS, THEY WILL DEAL WITH HIM STERNLY-- IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE! HEE! HEE!
6

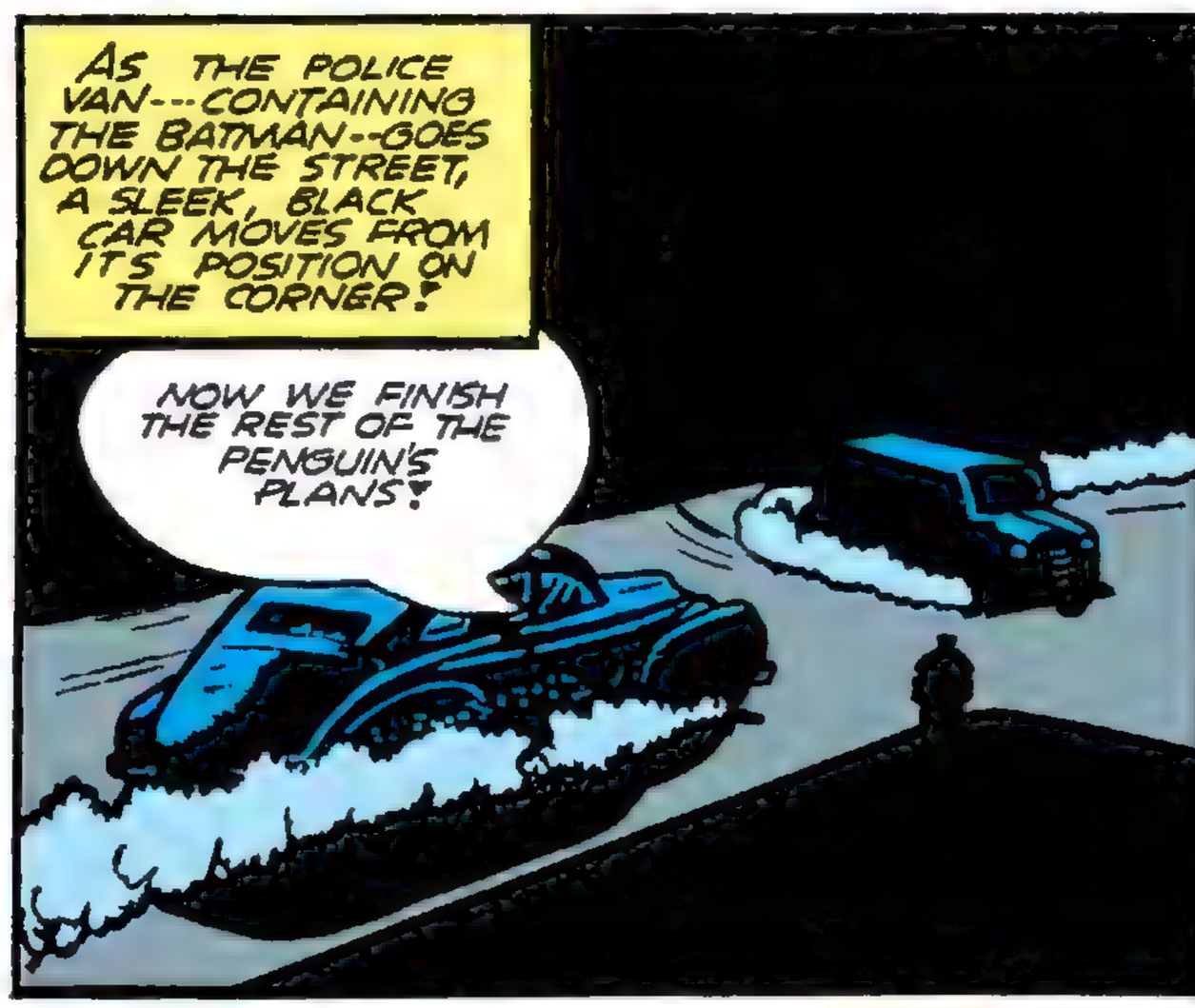

IN ANSWER TO THE WAILING BURGLAR ALARM, THE POLICE SPEED TO THE SCENE-
THE JADE IDOL--IT'S GONE!
LOOK! THE BATMAN! MAYBE HE CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED!
WE HAD BETTER TAKE HIM ALONG!

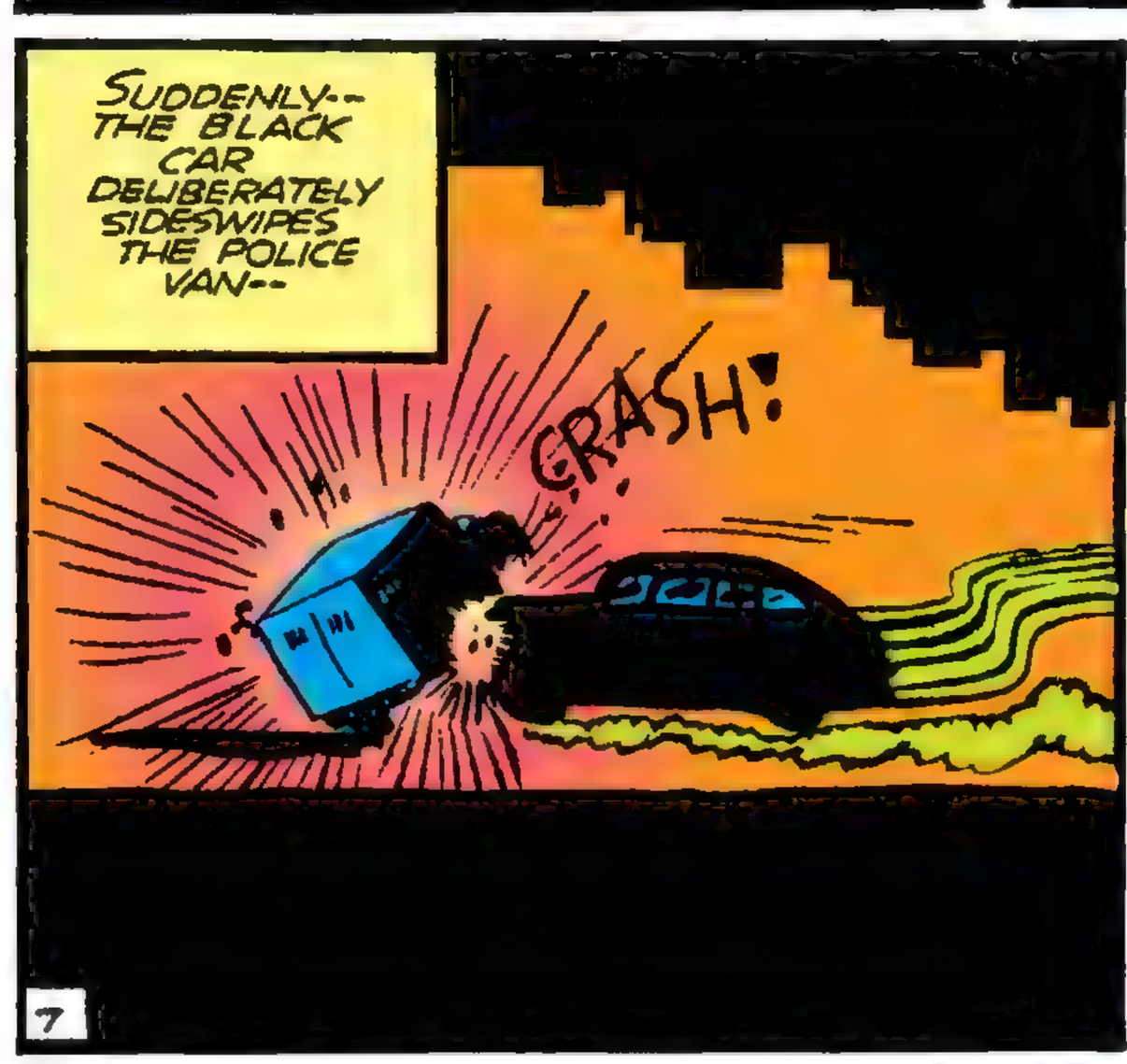
STILL DAZED, THE BATMAN IS TAKEN TO A LUXURIOUS MANSION-
WHERE AM I?-- WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
JUST FORMALITY, BATMAN! WE WANT YOU TO TELL MR. BONIFACE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS IDOL--

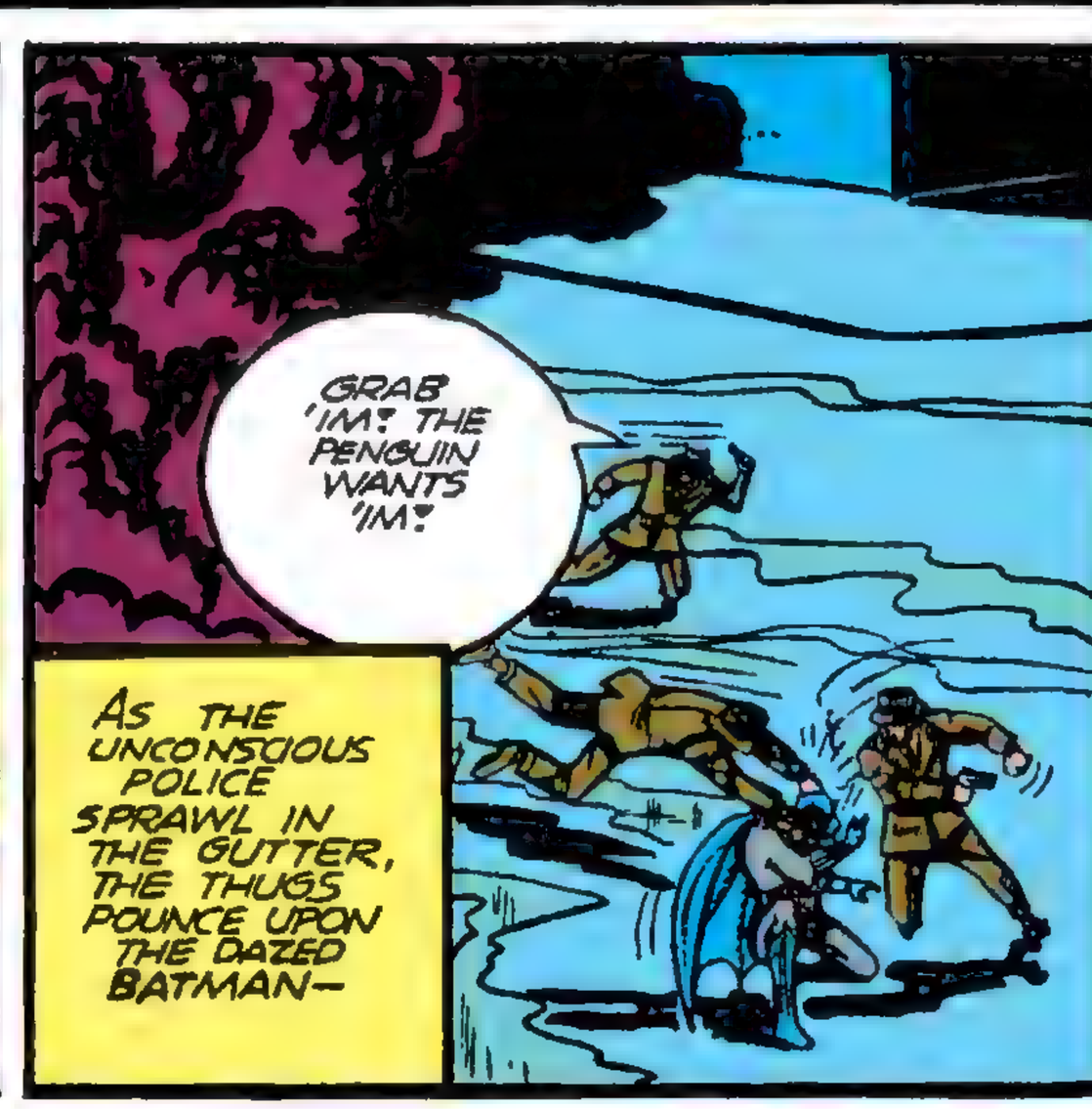
A PUDGY FIGURE TODDLES IN-- THE PENGUIN!
THAT'S HIM! I'D RECOGNIZE THAT MASK AND CLOAK OF HIS ANYWHERE--
AM I GOING CRAZY? HE'S--

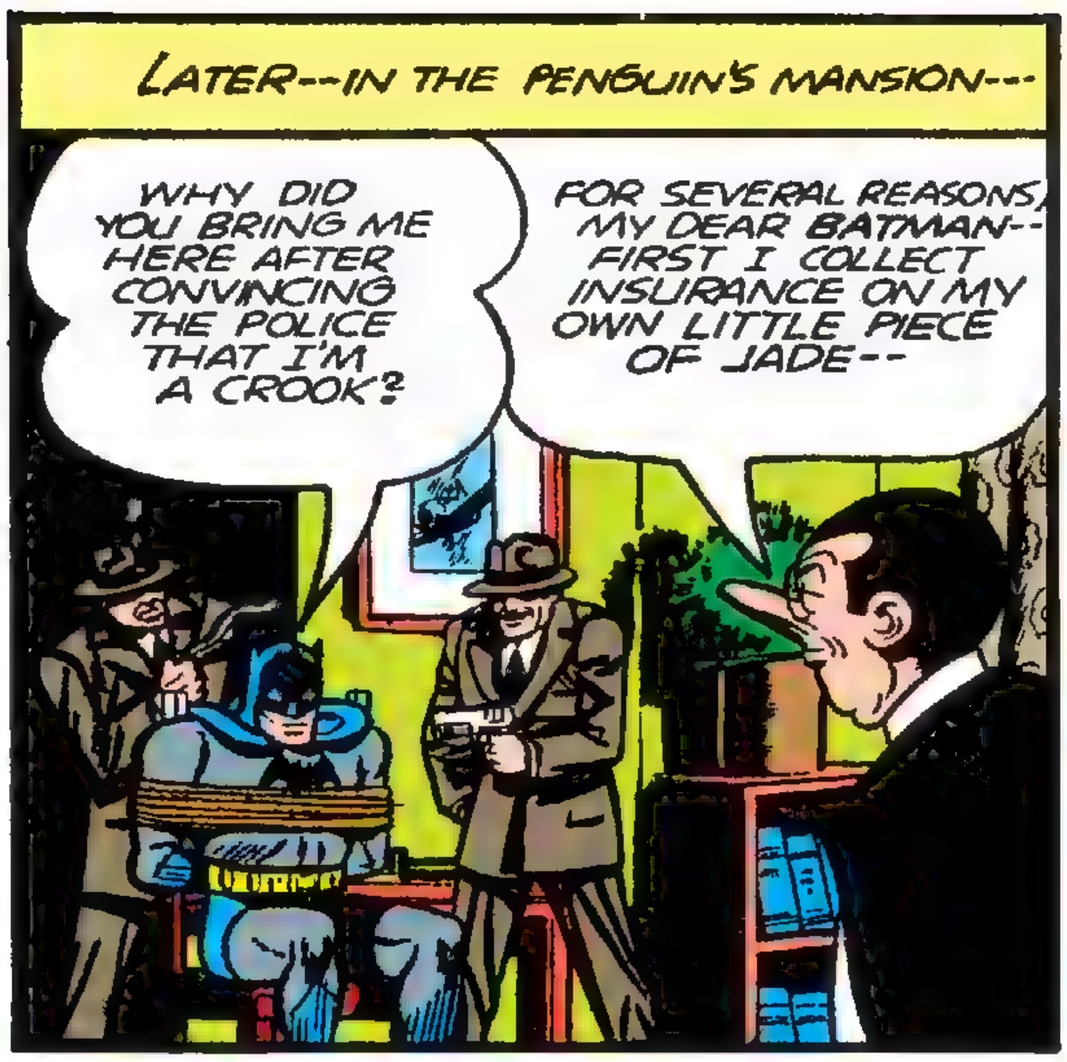

BUT, MR. BONIFACE, YOU MUST BE WRONG! THIS IS THE BATMAN!
I DON'T CARE! HE'S BEEN THREATENING ME FOR WEEKS! HE SAID I'D HAVE TO PAY HIM FOR PROTECTION-- AND THAT HE STOOD IN SO WELL WITH THE POLICE, THAT NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I COMPLAINED! I WANT HIM LOCKED UP!

DON'T WORRY, SIR--WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
THANK YOU-- I WAS SURE YOU'D SEE YOUR DUTY!
THAT GAS-- I CAN'T THINK--

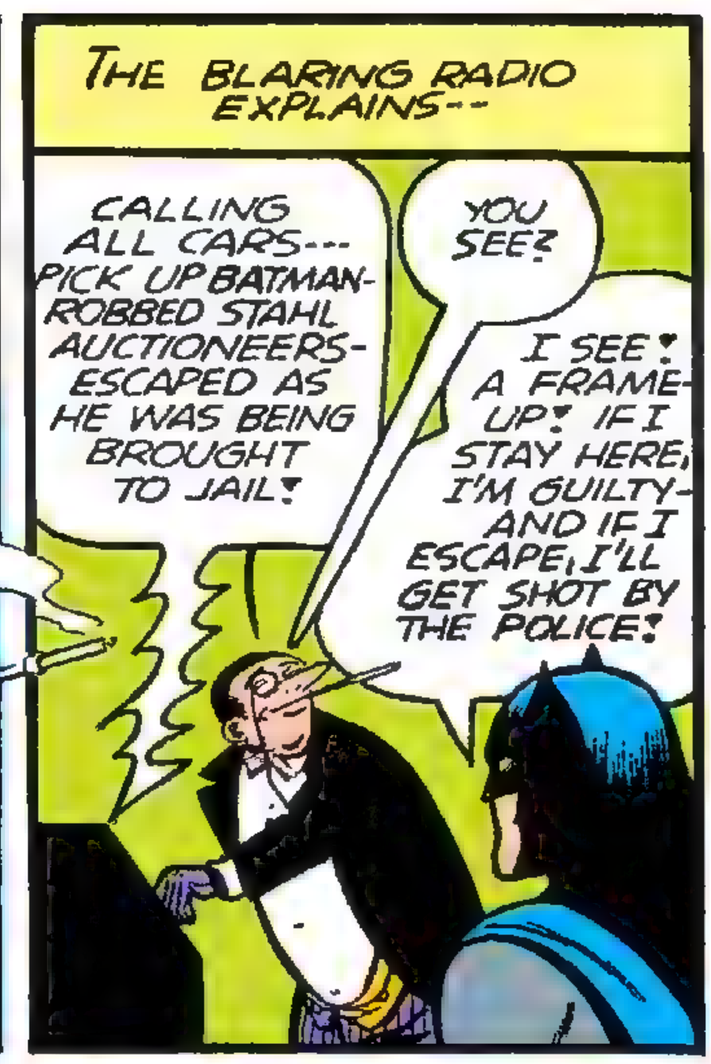

AS THE POLICE VAN---CONTAINING THE BATMAN--GOES DOWN THE STREET, A SLEEK, BLACK CAR MOVES FROM ITS POSITION ON THE CORNER!
NOW WE FINISH THE REST OF THE PENGUIN'S PLANS!

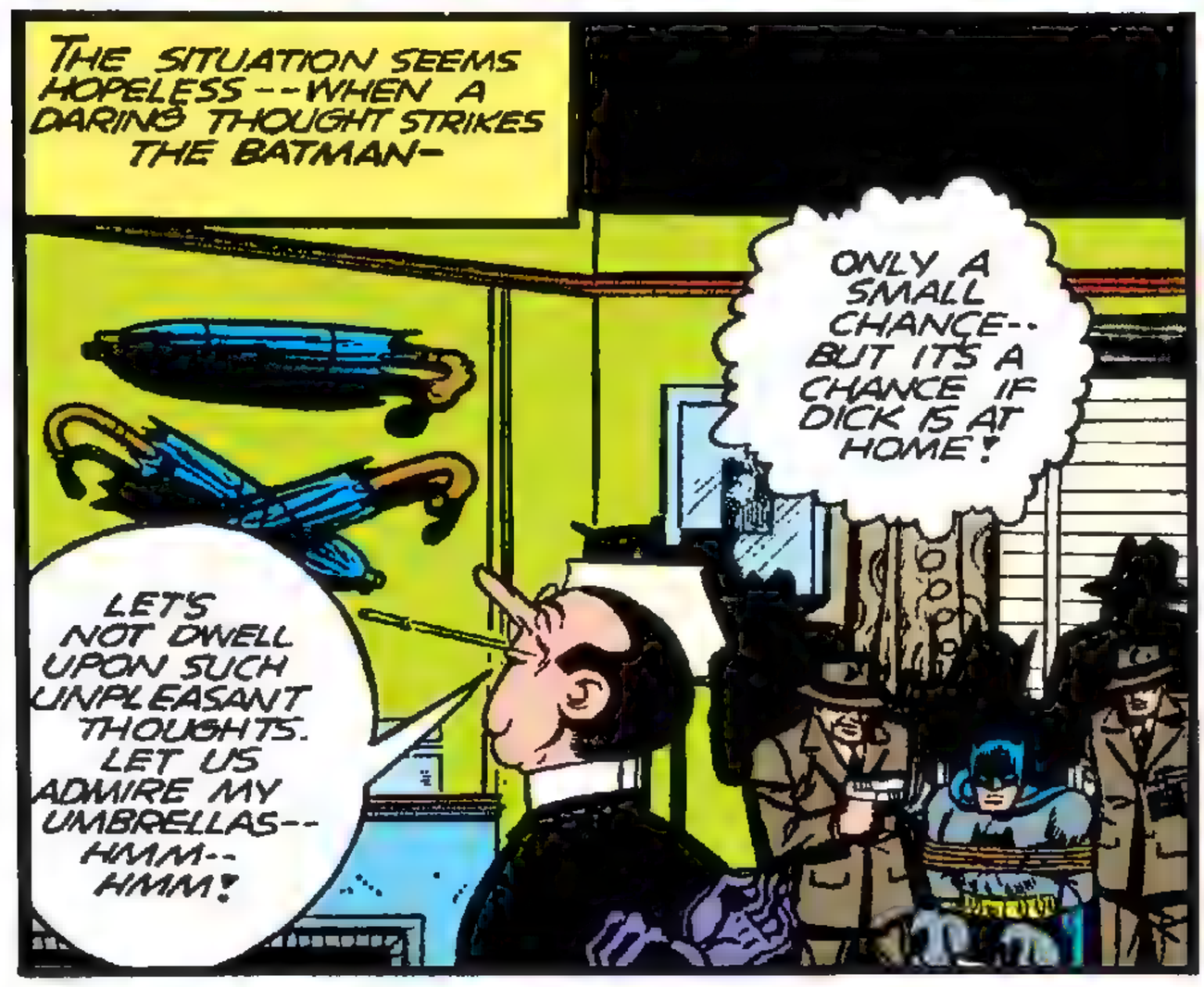

SUDDENLY-- THE BLACK CAR DELIBERATELY SIDESWIPES THE POLICE VAN--
CRASH!
7


GRAB 'IM! THE PENGUIN WANTS 'IM!
AS THE UNCONSCIOUS POLICE SPRAWL IN THE GUTTER, THE THUGS POUNCE UPON THE DAZED BATMAN--


LATER--IN THE PENGUIN'S MANSION---
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE AFTER CONVINCING THE POLICE THAT I'M A CROOK?
FOR SEVERAL REASONS, MY DEAR BATMAN--FIRST I COLLECT INSURANCE ON MY OWN LITTLE PIECE OF JADE--

SECONDLY--I REMAIN IN THE CLEAR AS AN INNOCENT COLLECTOR! I KNEW THAT WE WOULD INEVITABLY COME TO GRIPS--SO--I MADE PLANS. I'VE CALLED THE POLICE AND THERE'S AN ALARM OUT FOR YOU!

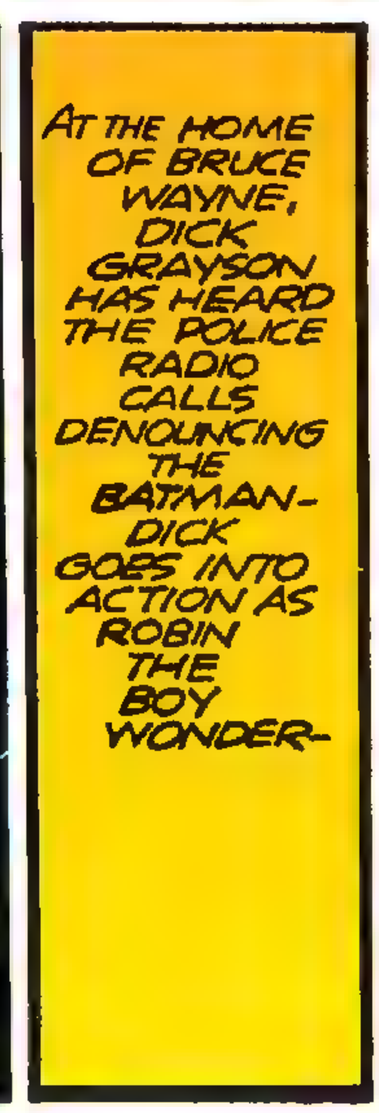

THE BLARING RADIO EXPLAINS--
CALLING ALL CARS--- PICK UP BATMAN-ROBBED STAHL AUCTIONEERS-ESCAPED AS HE WAS BEING BROUGHT TO JAIL!
YOU SEE?
I SEE! A FRAME-UP! IF I STAY HERE, I'M GUILTY-AND IF I ESCAPE, I'LL GET SHOT BY THE POLICE!


THE SITUATION SEEMS HOPELESS--WHEN A DARING THOUGHT STRIKES THE BATMAN-
ONLY A SMALL CHANCE--BUT ITS A CHANCE IF DICK IS AT HOME!
LET'S NOT DWELL UPON SUCH UNPLEASANT THOUGHTS. LET US ADMIRE MY UMBRELLAS--HMM--HMM!

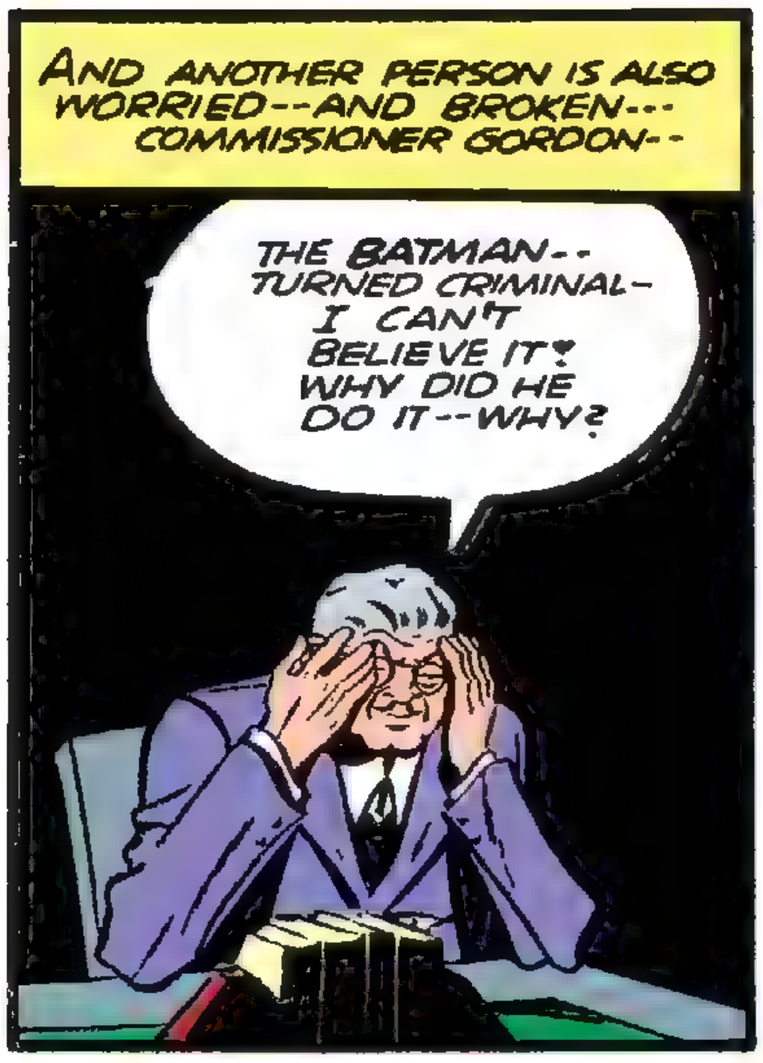
THE BATMAN'S FEET COME TOGETHER IN AN APPARENTLY INNOCENT MOVEMENT-
WATCHA DOING?
MY FOOT ITCHES-AND IF YOU WON'T UNTIE MY HANDS I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO SCRATCH WITH MY FEET!
HMMM! GOT THIS ONE IN SPAIN! HMM!

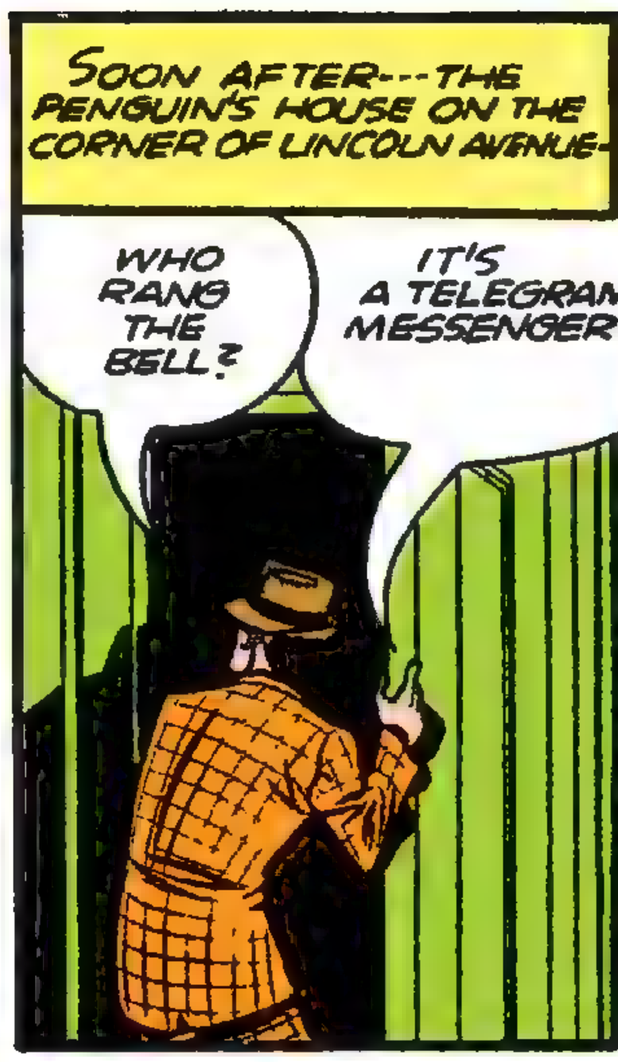
THE PRESSURE OF A FOOT AND THE SWITCH OF THE TWO-WAY TELEPHONE CONCEALED IN THE BATMAN'S FOOT CLICKS!

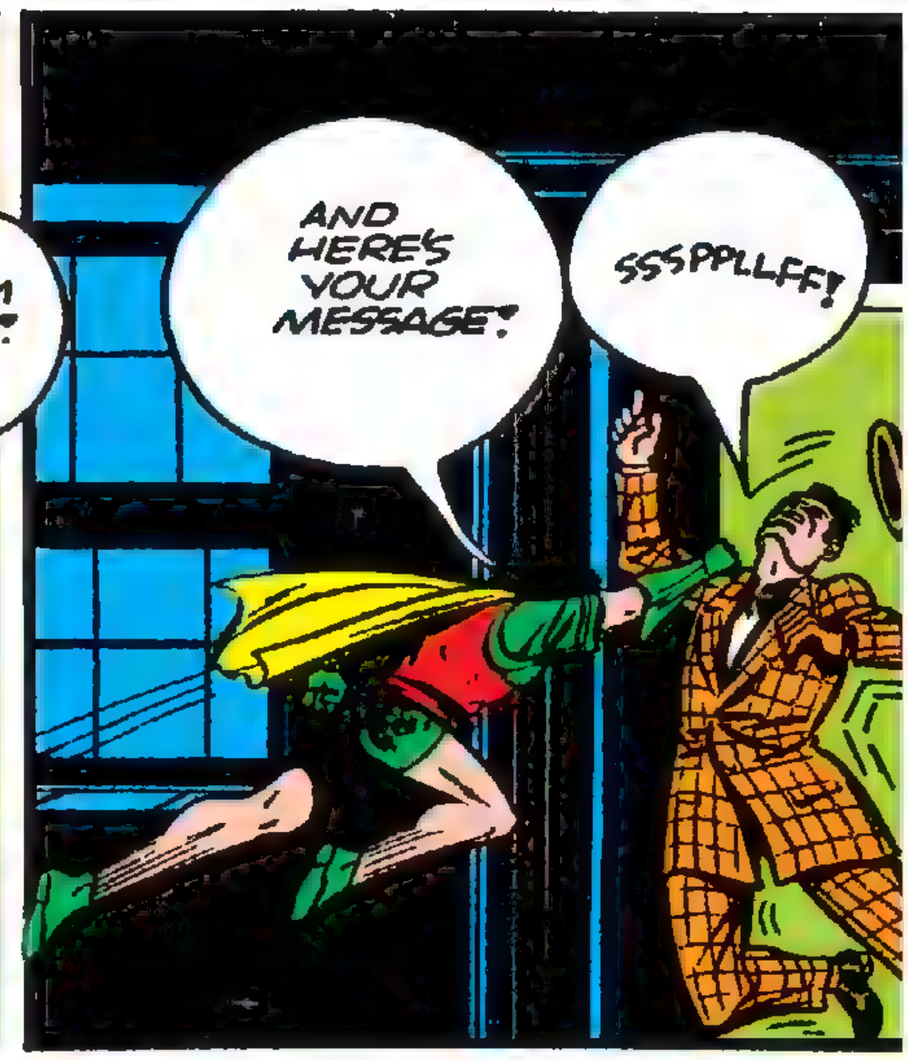
BATMAN'S FOOT BEGINS TAPPING ON THE FLOOR IN A STRANGE MANNER--
MIGHT AS WELL CATCH UP WITH MY DANCING--SITTING DOWN!

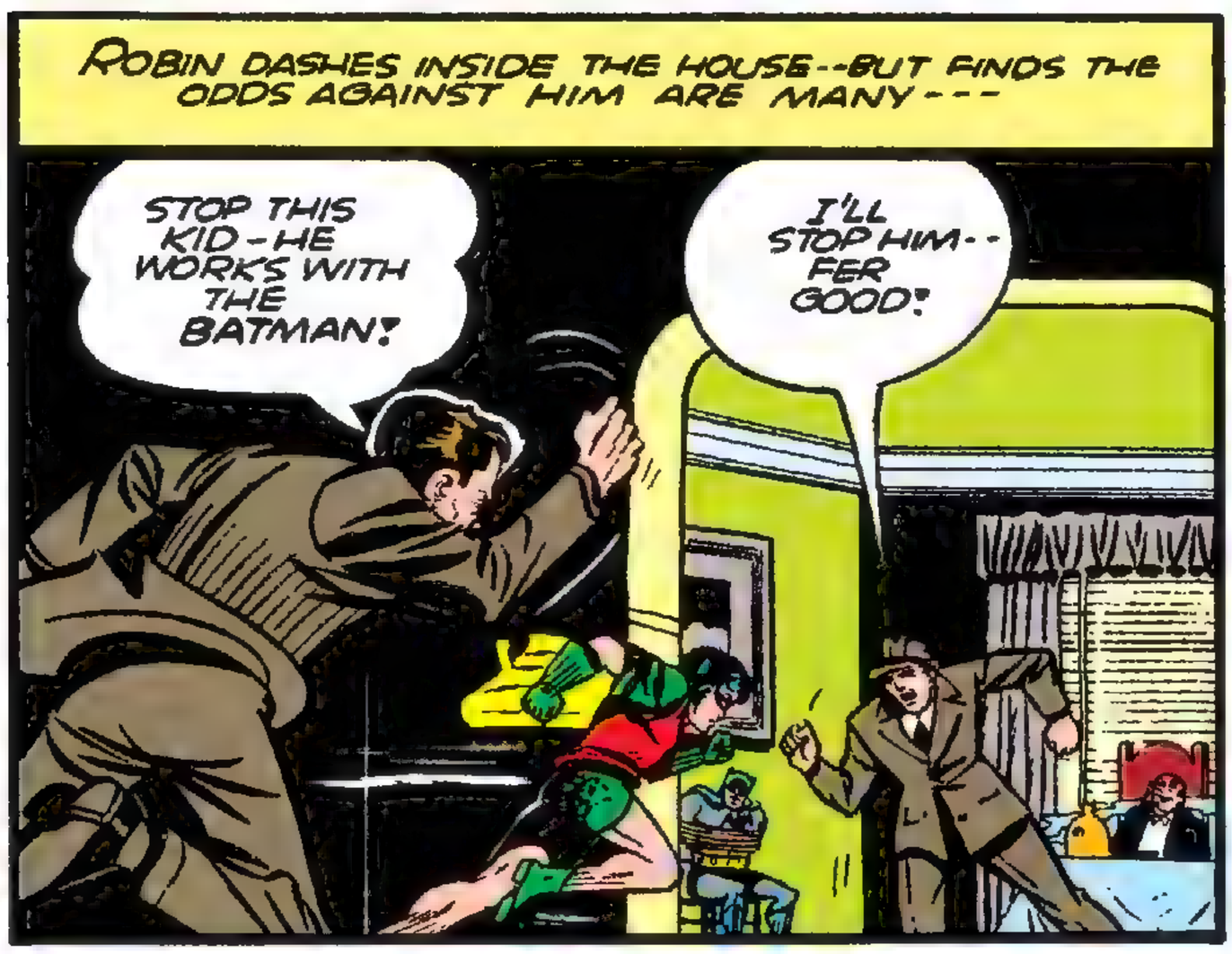

AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, DICK GRAYSON HAS HEARD THE POLICE RADIO CALLS DENOUNCING THE BATMAN-DICK GOES INTO ACTION AS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER-

THEY CAN'T CALL BATMAN A MURDERER! I'LL FIND HIM SOME-HOW, AND--SAY--MY TELEPHONE BELT--IT'S TAPPING A MESSAGE--IN MORSE CODE---
ROBIN.. I'M BEING HELD IN THE MANSION ON THE CORNER OF LINCOLN AVENUE.. HURRY----
THE RESOURCEFUL BATMAN TAPS HIS FOOT IN MORSE CODE INFORMING ROBIN OF HIS WHEREABOUTS!

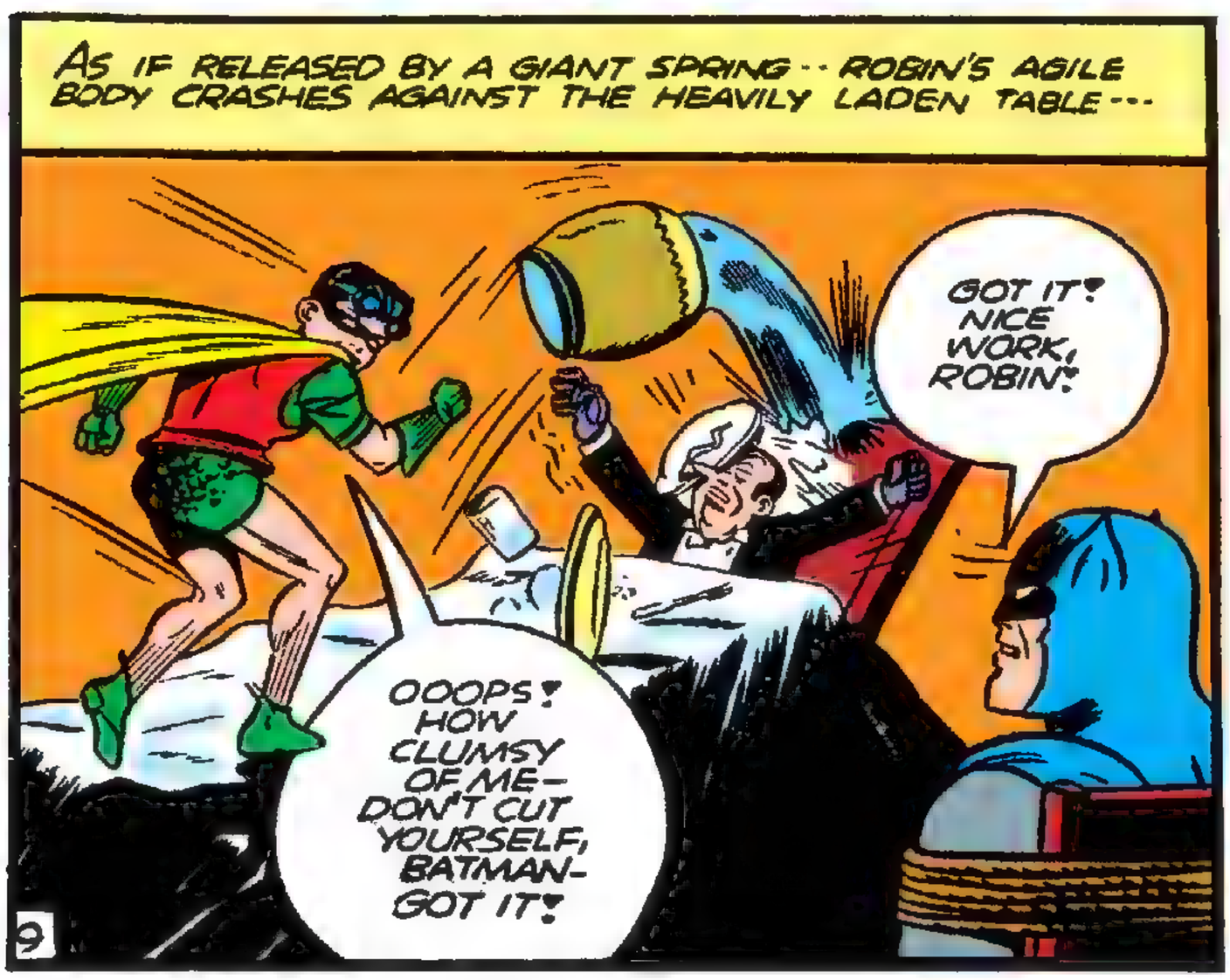

AND ANOTHER PERSON IS ALSO WORRIED--AND BROKEN--- COMMISSIONER GORDON--
THE BATMAN-- TURNED CRIMINAL- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHY DID HE DO IT--WHY?


SOON AFTER---THE PENGUIN'S HOUSE ON THE CORNER OF LINCOLN AVENUE-
WHO RANG THE BELL?
IT'S A TELEGRAM MESSENGER!

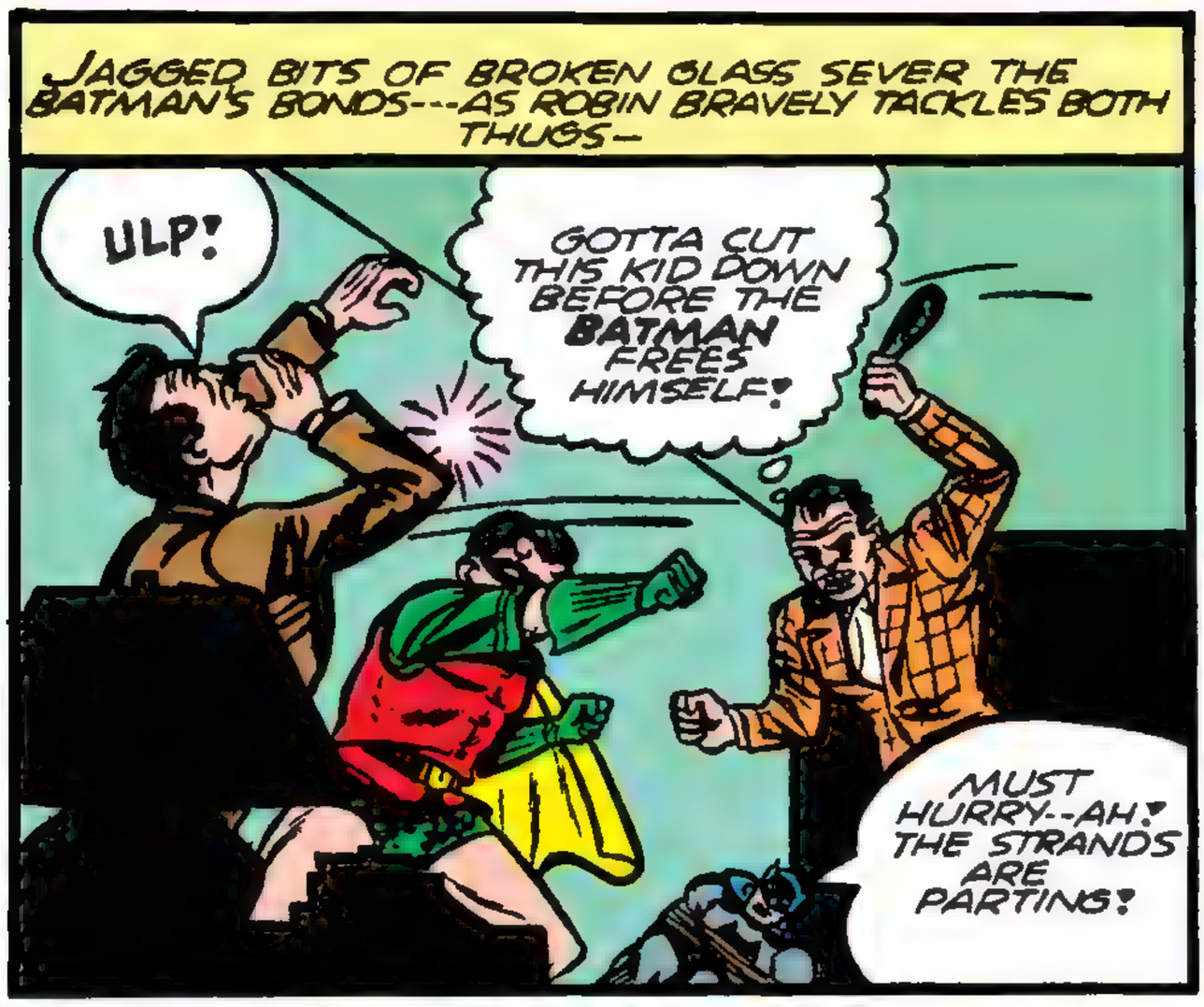

AND HERE'S YOUR MESSAGE!
SSSPPLLFF!


ROBIN DASHES INSIDE THE HOUSE--BUT FINDS THE ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE MANY---
STOP THIS KID-HE WORKS WITH THE BATMAN!
I'LL STOP HIM-- FER GOOD!

GOSH! I'M GETTING POPULAR-- ER--NICE HEADWORK, BOYS!
OUCH!
GOT YOU-- OOOUH!

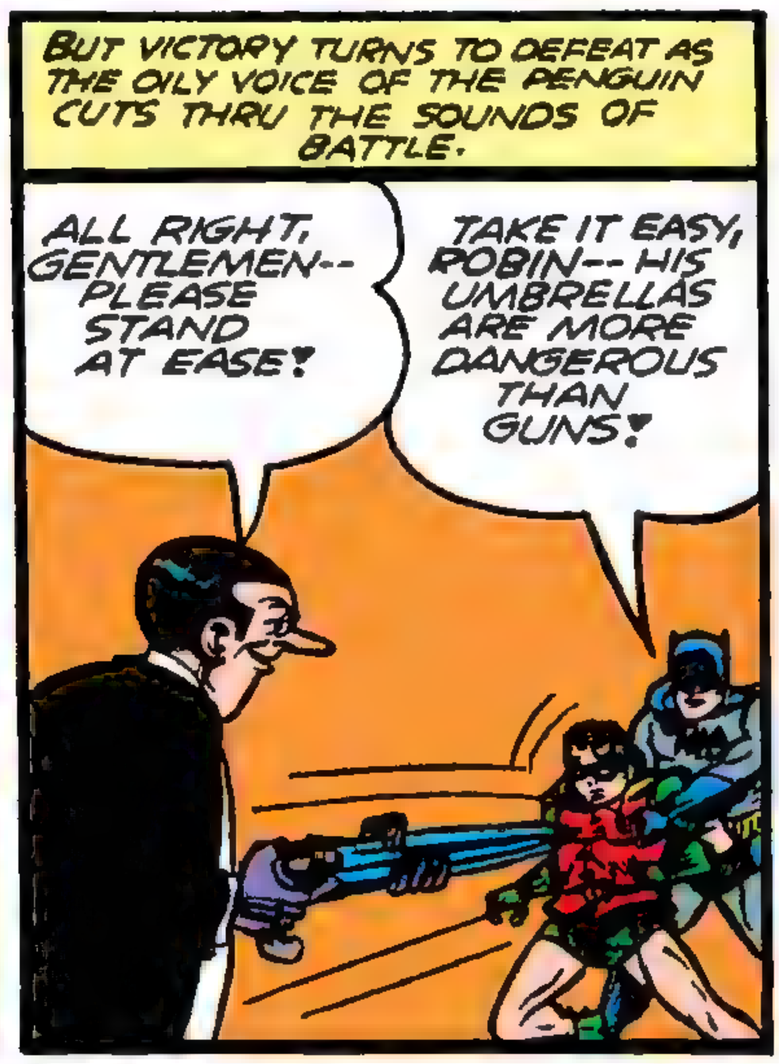

AS IF RELEASED BY A GIANT SPRING-- ROBIN'S AGILE BODY CRASHES AGAINST THE HEAVILY LADEN TABLE---
GOT IT! NICE WORK, ROBIN!
OOOPS! HOW CLUMSY OF ME- DON'T CUT YOURSELF, BATMAN- GOT IT!

AS ROBIN WHIRLS TO MEET THE CHARGING THUGS--BATMAN HURLS HIS BOUND BODY--AND THE CHAIR TO WHICH HE IS ATTACHED--TO THE FLOOR-
I'VE GOT TO CUT THESE CORDS-- AND QUICKLY!


JAGGED BITS OF BROKEN GLASS SEVER THE BATMAN'S BONDS---AS ROBIN BRAVELY TACKLES BOTH THUGS--
ULP!
GOTTA CUT THIS KID DOWN BEFORE THE BATMAN FREES HIMSELF!
MUST HURRY--AH! THE STRANDS ARE PARTING!

THE BATMAN, FREED, LEAPS AT THE STRUGGLING GROUP IN TIME--
OHHH!
HOLD 'IM WHILE I KNOCK OUT HIS TEETH!
BETTER COUNT YOUR OWN TEETH--

--BECAUSE YOU WON'T HAVE THEM FOR LONG!


BUT VICTORY TURNS TO DEFEAT AS THE OILY VOICE OF THE PENGUIN CUTS THRU THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE.
ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN--PLEASE STAND AT EASE!
TAKE IT EASY, ROBIN--HIS UMBRELLAS ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN GUNS!

THE PENGUIN'S HAND REACHES FOR HIS PHONE--
HMM---GLAD TO SEE YOU ACTING SENSIBLE, BATMAN--UH--HELLO, OPERATOR, GIVE ME THE POLICE!-- THIS IS MR. BONIFACE-I'VE GOT THE BATMAN AT MY HOME---NO, DON'T THANK ME--

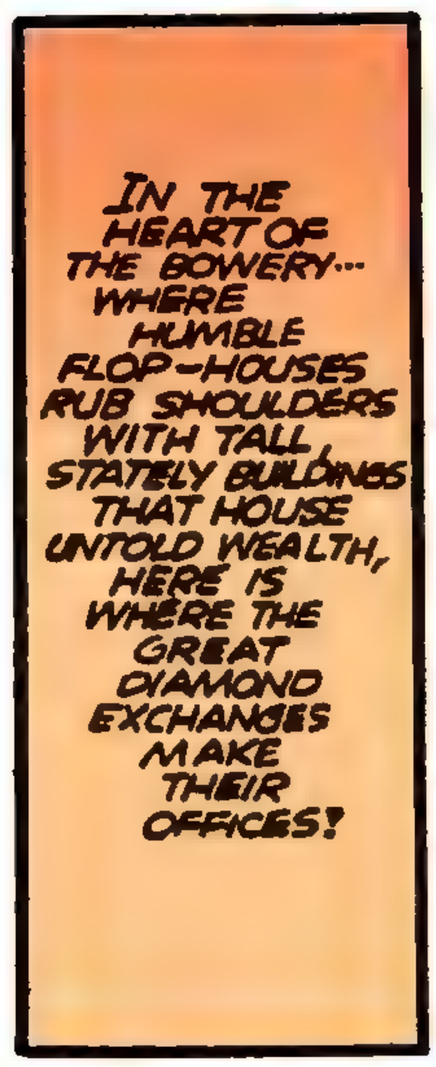
C'MON, ROBIN--THIS IS ONE TIME STRATEGIC RETREAT IS SMARTER THAN COMPLETE DEFEAT! LET'S GO!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
10

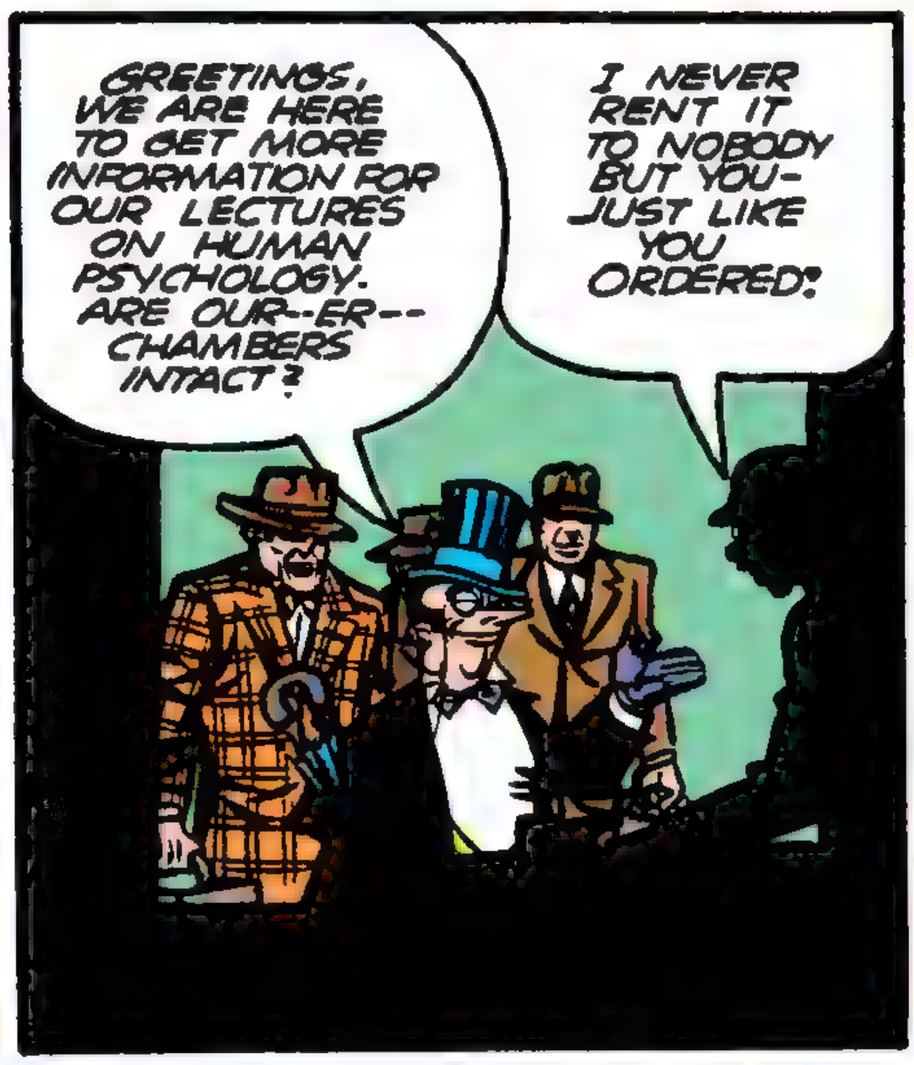
THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!
STOP THEM!

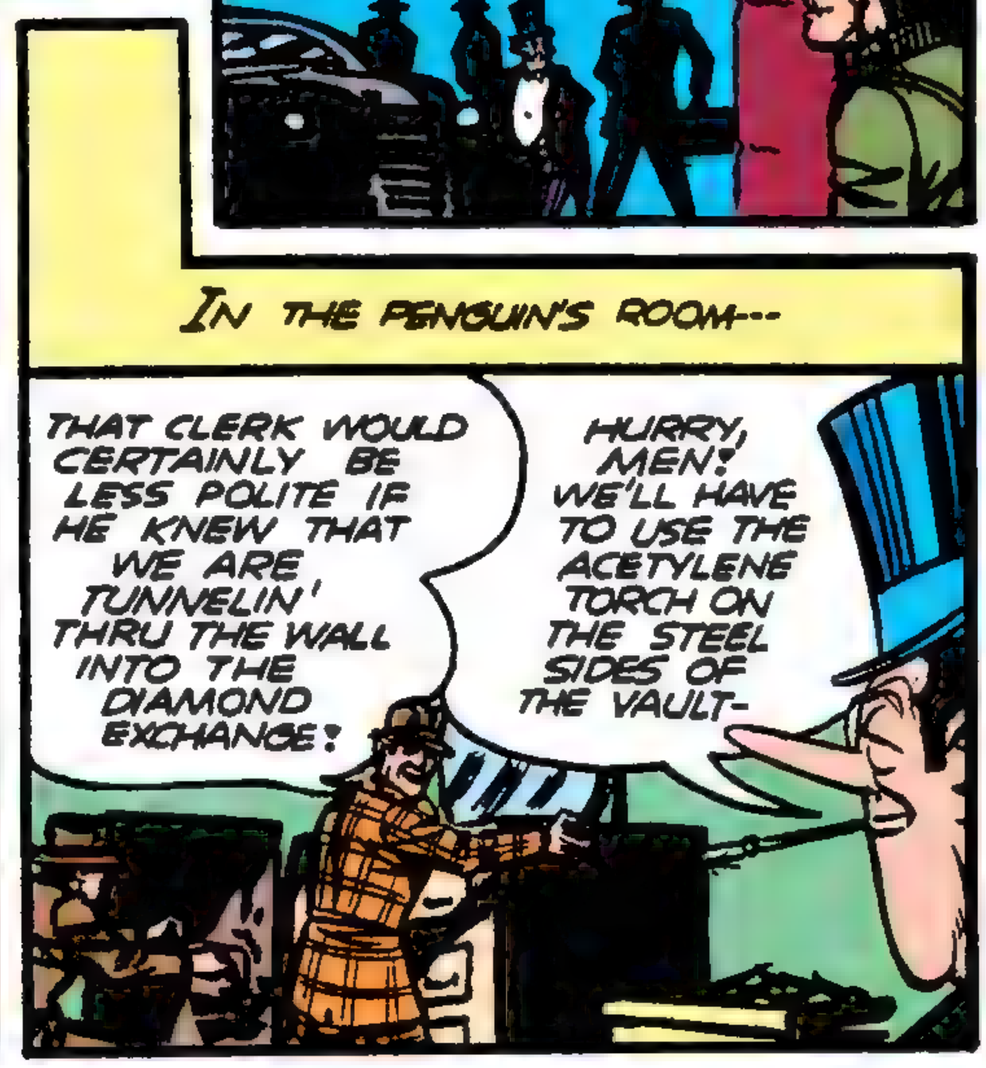
POLICE RUSHING IN, FIND THAT BATMAN HAS ESCAPED!
WHERE'S THE BATMAN? YOU SAID YOU HAD HIM HERE!
SO I DID, BUT HE--AH-- LEFT RATHER ABRUPTLY!

BATMAN AND ROBIN SPEED TO THEIR APARTMENT--
OUR BIRD-LIKE FRIEND SHOULD BE ABOUT READY FOR A SUPER-COUP. THE POLICE ARE AFTER ME--AND HE IS IN THE CLEAR! I THINK THE TRAIL IS WINDING TO AN END--ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

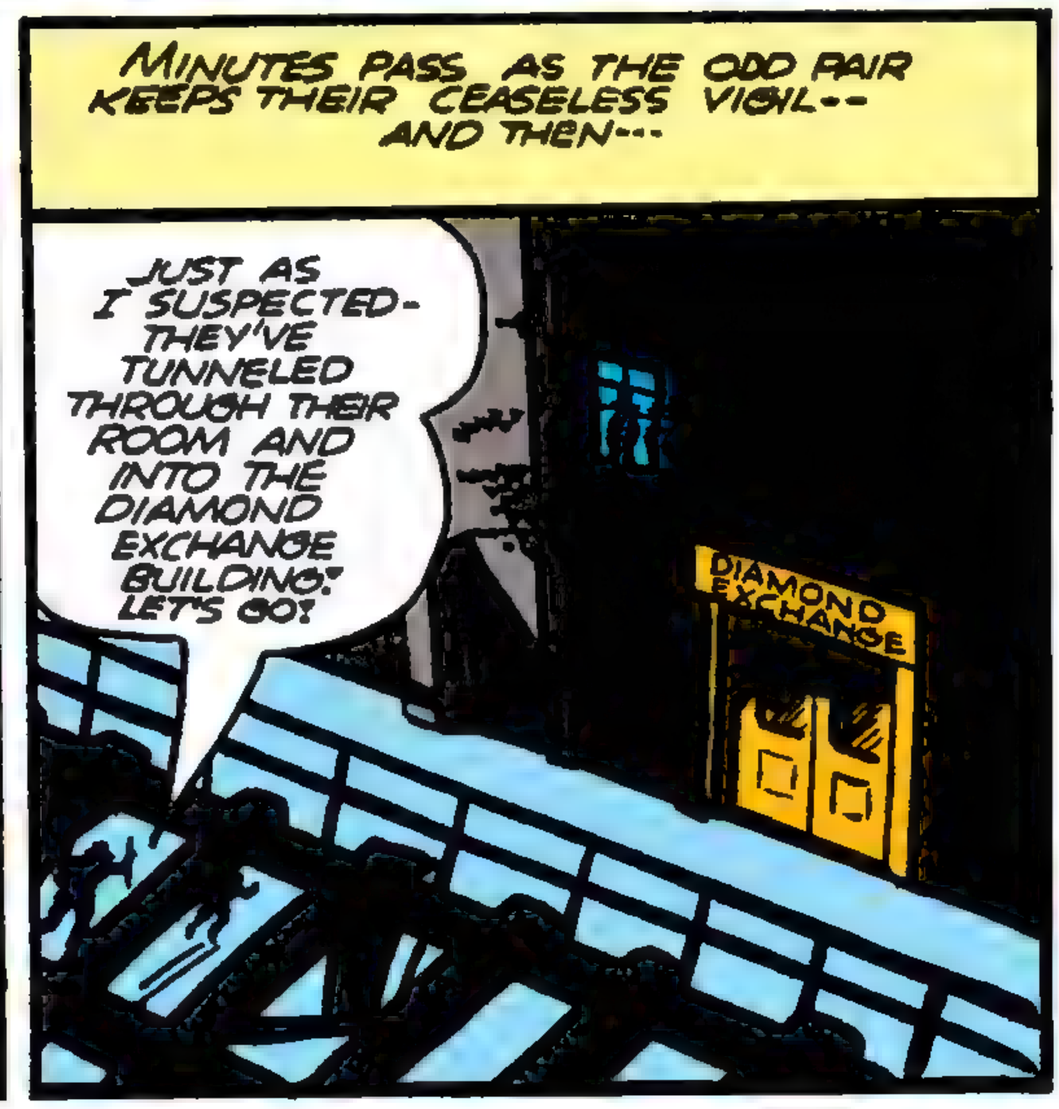
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, A BLIND MAN IS SEEN STANDING NEAR THE PENGUIN'S MANSION, HIS QUAVERING VOICE CALLING FOR ALMS. THEN, ONE DARK NIGHT--
THIS JOB'LL BE EASY- WE GOT ALL THE GROUNDWORK LAID OUT!


IN THE HEART OF THE BOWERY... WHERE HUMBLE FLOP-HOUSES RUB SHOULDERS WITH TALL, STATELY BUILDINGS THAT HOUSE UNTOLD WEALTH, HERE IS WHERE THE GREAT DIAMOND EXCHANGES MAKE THEIR OFFICES!

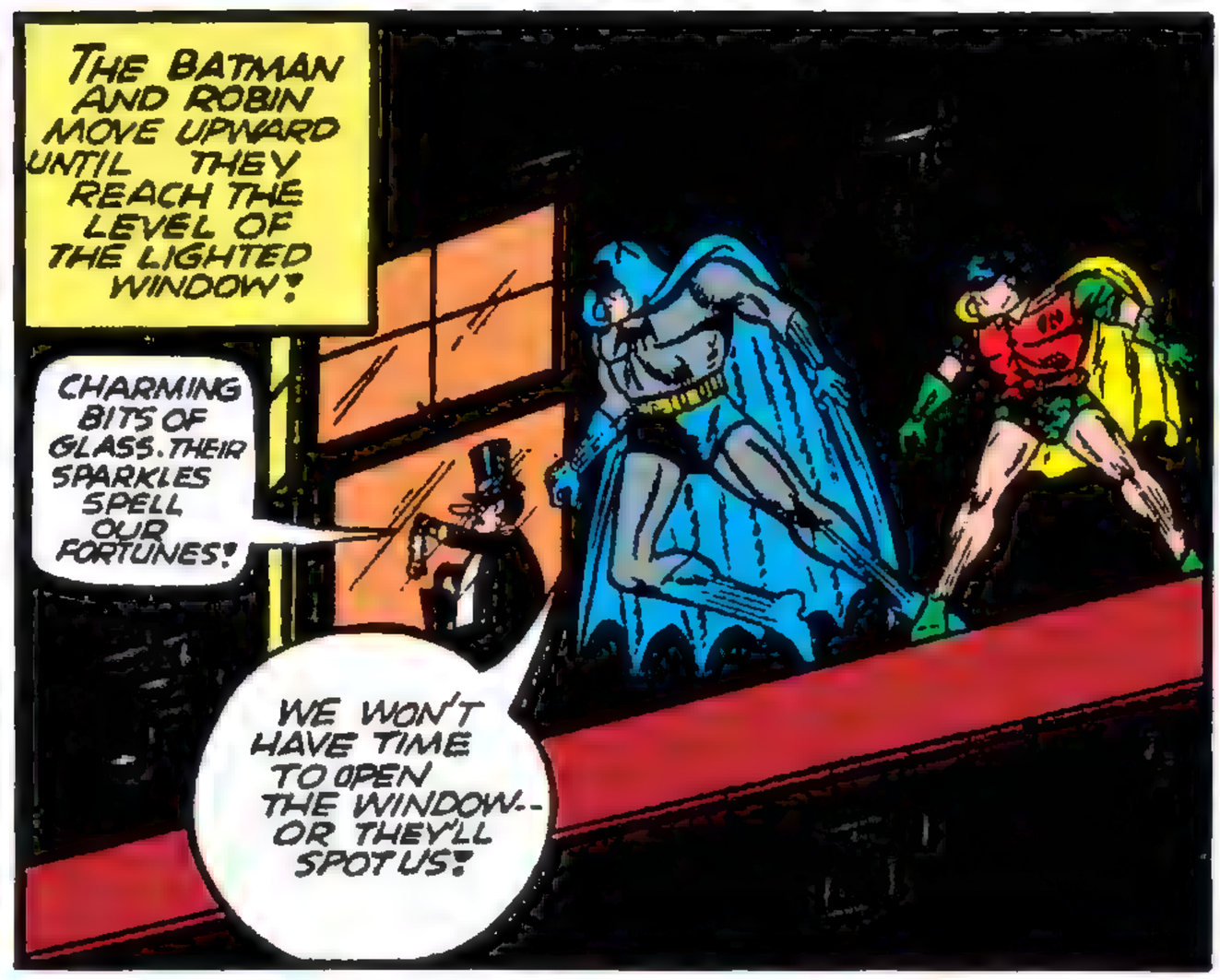

GREETINGS, WE ARE HERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION FOR OUR LECTURES ON HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY. ARE OUR--ER-- CHAMBERS INTACT?
I NEVER RENT IT TO NOBODY BUT YOU- JUST LIKE YOU ORDERED!


IN THE PENGUIN'S ROOM---
THAT CLERK WOULD CERTAINLY BE LESS POLITE IF HE KNEW THAT WE ARE TUNNELIN' THRU THE WALL INTO THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE!
HURRY, MEN! WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE ACETYLENE TORCH ON THE STEEL SIDES OF THE VAULT-

MEANWHILE IN THE STREET...
THERE THEY ARE- I RECOGNIZE THEIR SHADOWS!
FOR A BLIND MAN--YOU SEE PRETTY GOOD!


MINUTES PASS AS THE ODD PAIR KEEPS THEIR CEASELESS VIGIL-- AND THEN...
JUST AS I SUSPECTED- THEY'VE TUNNELED THROUGH THEIR ROOM AND INTO THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE BUILDING! LET'S GO!
DIAMOND EXCHANGE

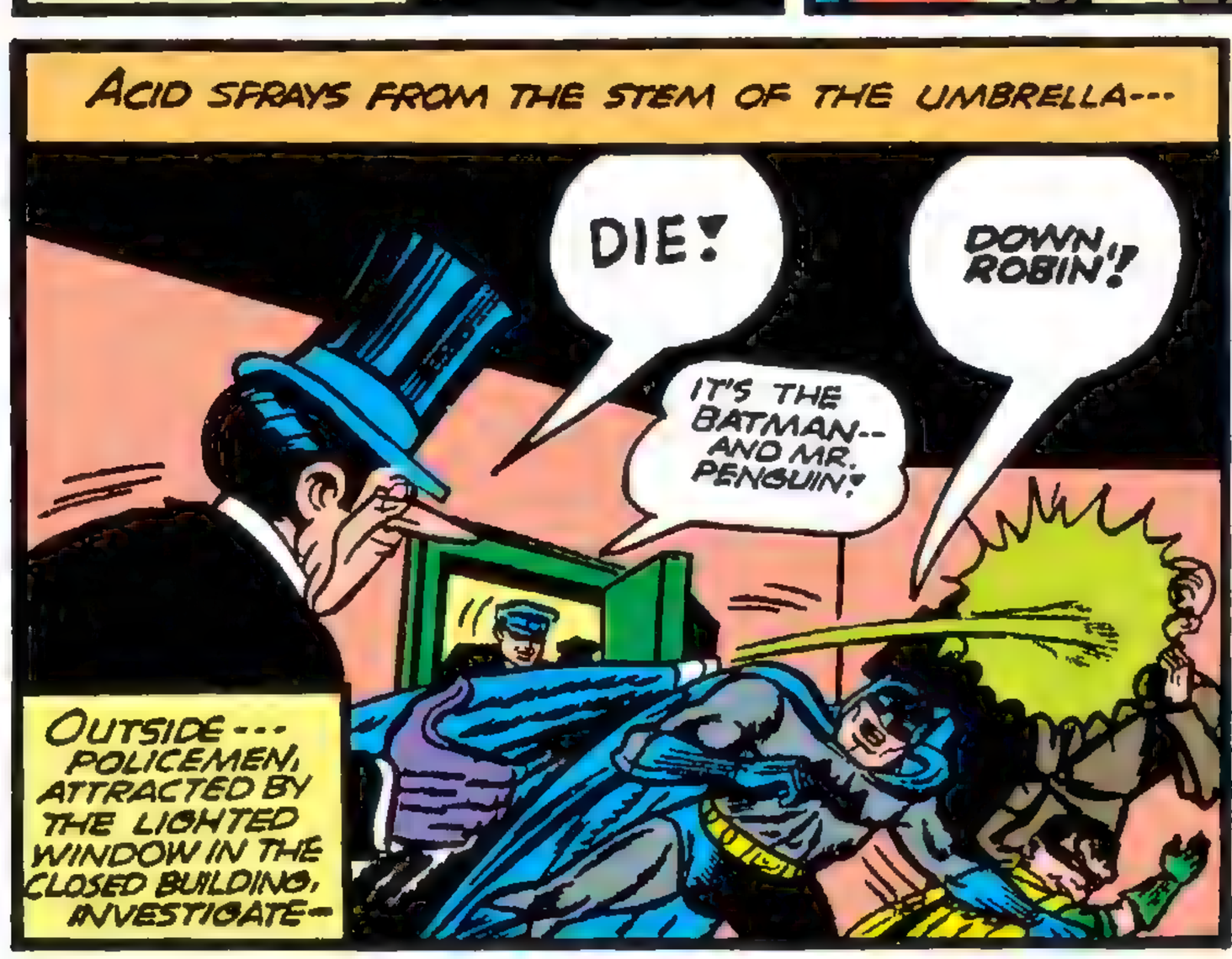
IN THE DARKENED ALLEYWAY, THE BLIND MAN AND THE URCHIN RIP OFF THEIR OUTER CLOTHES, AND ARE REVEALED AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN-
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST, ROBIN!
HERE I COME!


THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MOVE UPWARD UNTIL THEY REACH THE LEVEL OF THE LIGHTED WINDOW!
CHARMING BITS OF GLASS. THEIR SPARKLES SPELL OUR FORTUNES!
WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO OPEN THE WINDOW-- OR THEY'LL SPOT US!

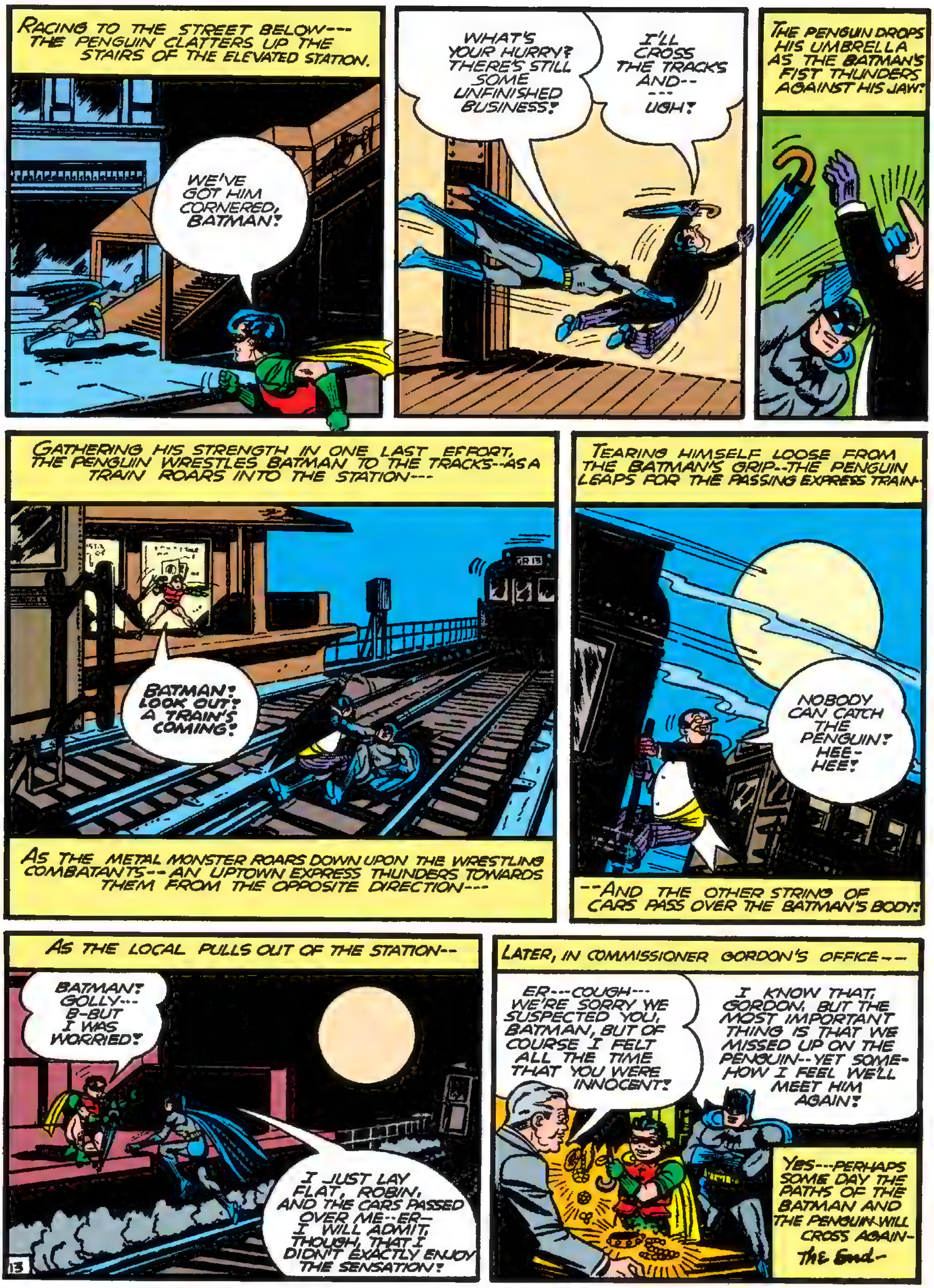
IT'S THE BATMAN!
--AND WE SPELL MISFORTUNE!

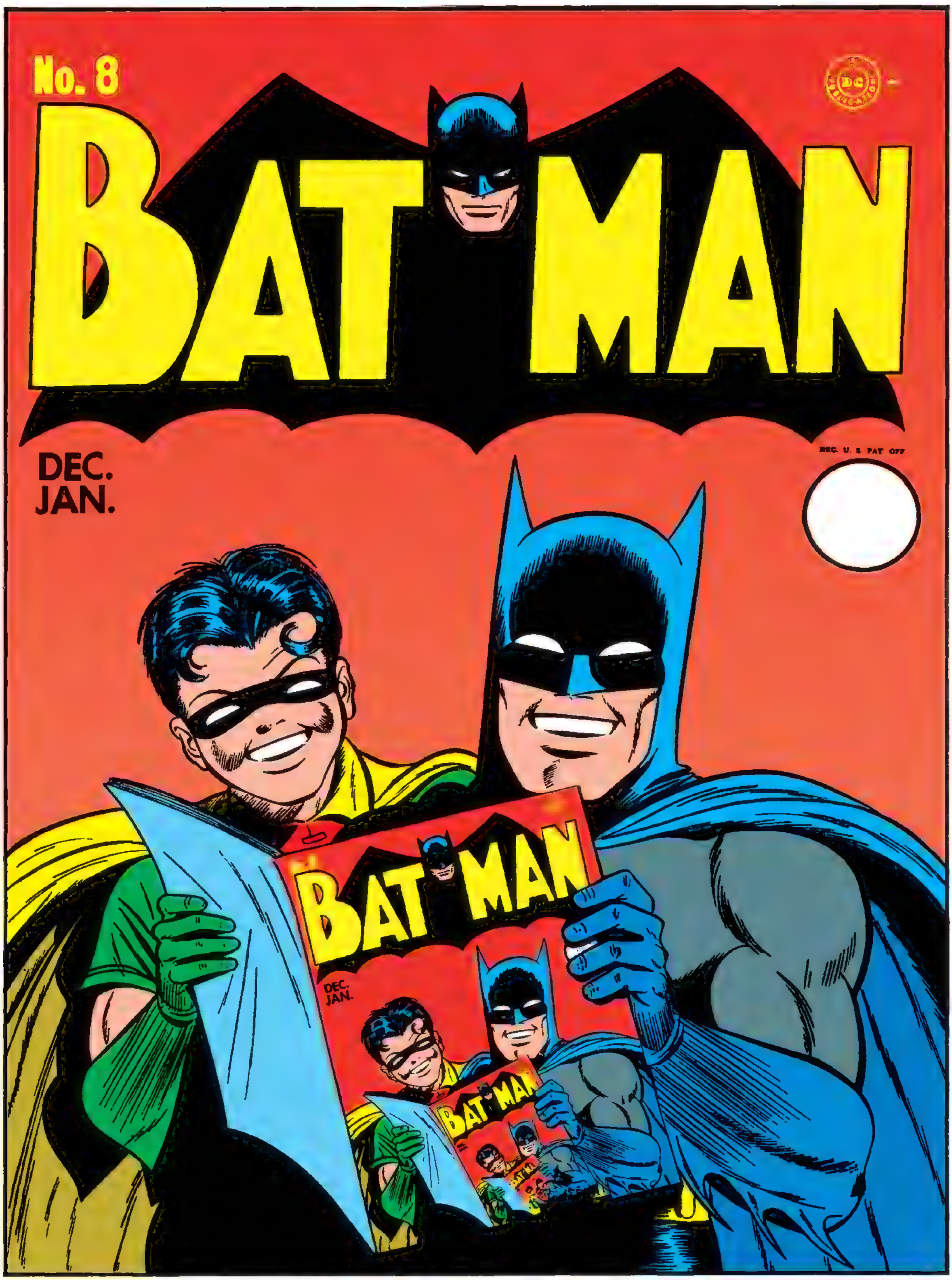
THIS IS FOR FRAMING MY PAL!
AND THIS THROWN IN FOR INTEREST!

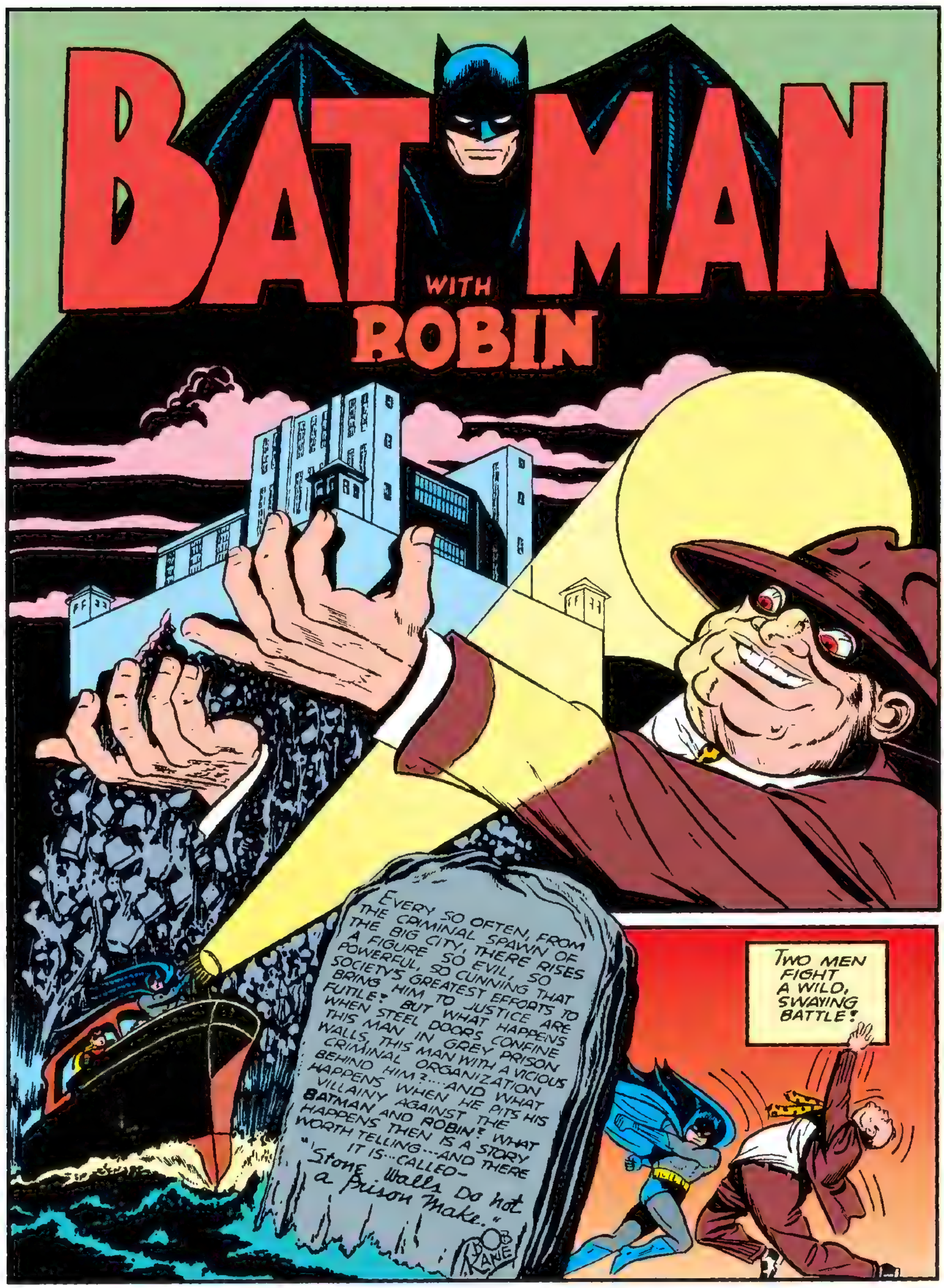
AS THE BATTLE RAGES- THE PENGUIN LEVELS HIS DEADLY UMBRELLA!
AMUSE YOURSELF, FOOLS, FOR SOON YOU--


ACID SPRAYS FROM THE STEM OF THE UMBRELLA---
DIE!
DOWN, ROBIN!
IT'S THE BATMAN-- AND MR. PENGUIN!
OUTSIDE--- POLICEMEN, ATTRACTED BY THE LIGHTED WINDOW IN THE CLOSED BUILDING, INVESTIGATE-

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENTARY CONFUSION-- THE PENGUIN MAKES A BREAK FOR FREEDOM---
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, AND I'VE STILL GOT THE JEWELS HEE! HEE!
12


RACING TO THE STREET BELOW--- THE PENGUIN CLATTERS UP THE STAIRS OF THE ELEVATED STATION.
WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED, BATMAN!
WHAT'S YOUR HURRY? THERE'S STILL SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
I'LL CROSS THE TRACKS AND-- --- UGH!
THE PENGUIN DROPS HIS UMBRELLA AS THE BATMAN'S FIST THUNDERS AGAINST HIS JAW!
GATHERING HIS STRENGTH IN ONE LAST EFFORT, THE PENGUIN WRESTLES BATMAN TO THE TRACKS--AS A TRAIN ROARS INTO THE STATION---
BATMAN! LOOK OUT! A TRAIN'S COMING!
AS THE METAL MONSTER ROARS DOWN UPON THE WRESTLING COMBATANTS--AN UPTOWN EXPRESS THUNDERS TOWARDS THEM FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION---
TEARING HIMSELF LOOSE FROM THE BATMAN'S GRIP--THE PENGUIN LEAPS FOR THE PASSING EXPRESS TRAIN--
NOBODY CAN CATCH THE PENGUIN! HEE-HEE!
--AND THE OTHER STRING OF CARS PASS OVER THE BATMAN'S BODY!
AS THE LOCAL PULLS OUT OF THE STATION--
BATMAN! GOLLY--- B-BUT I WAS WORRIED!
I JUST LAY FLAT, ROBIN, AND THE CARS PASSED OVER ME--ER-- I WILL ADMIT, THOUGH, THAT I DIDN'T EXACTLY ENJOY THE SENSATION!
LATER, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE---
ER---COUGH--- WE'RE SORRY WE SUSPECTED YOU, BATMAN, BUT OF COURSE I FELT ALL THE TIME THAT YOU WERE INNOCENT!
I KNOW THAT, GORDON, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE MISSED UP ON THE PENGUIN--YET SOMEHOW I FEEL WE'LL MEET HIM AGAIN!
YES---PERHAPS SOME DAY THE PATHS OF THE BATMAN AND THE PENGUIN WILL CROSS AGAIN-- THE End-

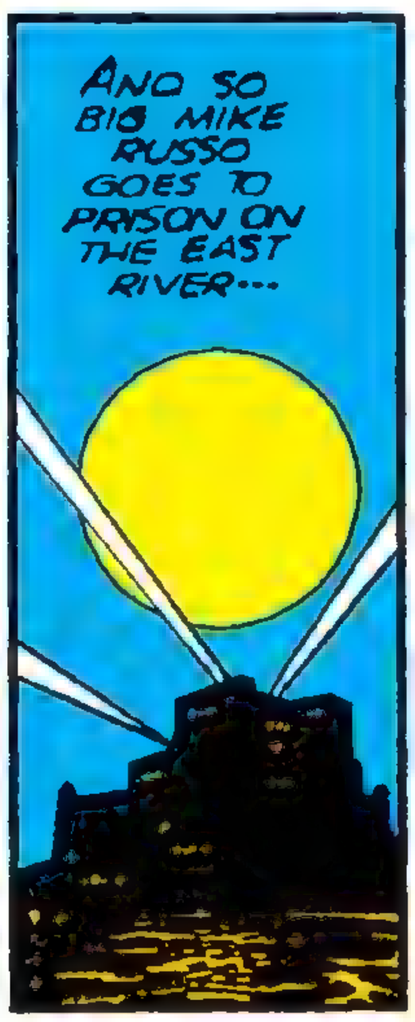

No. 8
BATMAN
DEC.
JAN.
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
BATMAN
DEC.
JAN.
BATMAN


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
EVERY SO OFTEN, FROM THE CRIMINAL SPAWN OF THE BIG CITY, THERE RISES A FIGURE SO EVIL, SO POWERFUL, SO CUNNING THAT SOCIETY'S GREATEST EFFORTS TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE ARE FUTILE! BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STEEL DOORS CONFINE THIS MAN IN GREY PRISON WALLS, THIS MAN WITH A VICIOUS CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION BEHIND HIM?...AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE PITS HIS VILLAINY AGAINST THE BATMAN AND ROBIN? WHAT HAPPENS THEN IS A STORY WORTH TELLING...AND THERE IT IS...CALLED- "Stone Walls Do not a Prison Make."
TWO MEN FIGHT A WILD, SWAYING BATTLE!

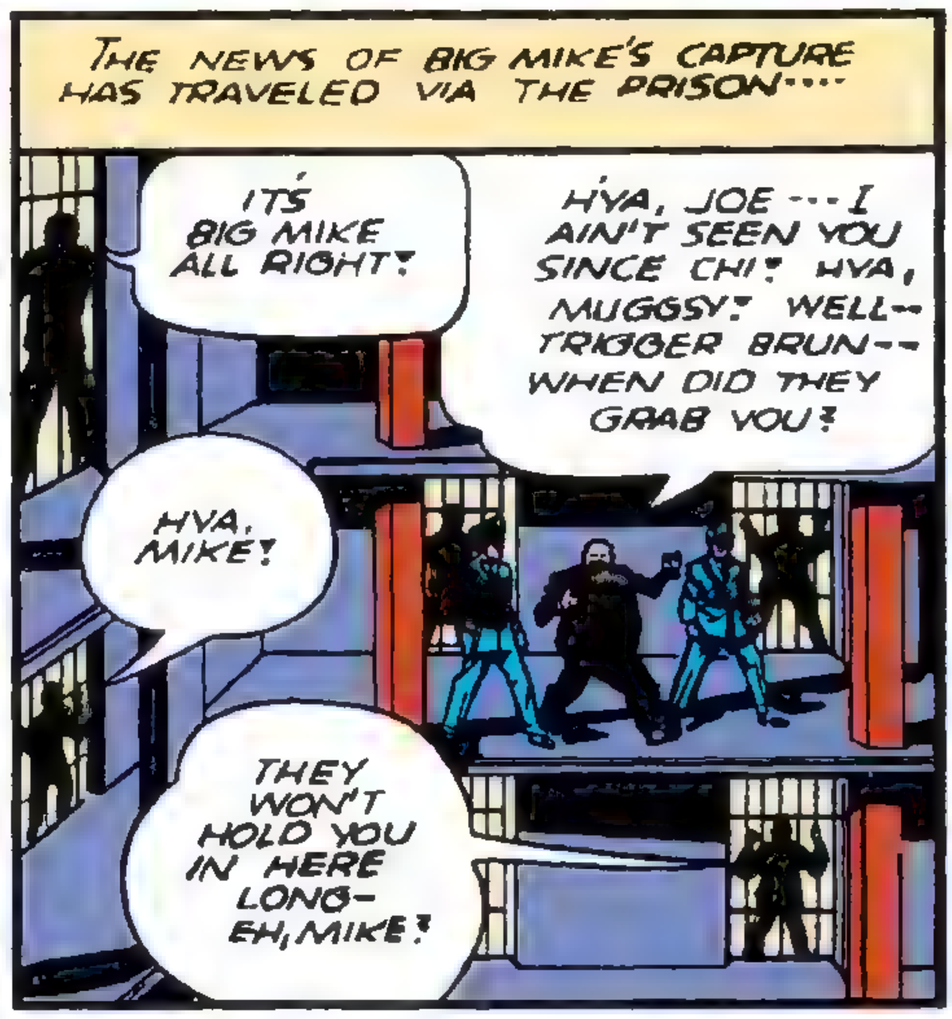
STARTLING NEWS HEADLINES THE MORNING PAPERS...
DAILY STAR
WOODSIDE, N.Y.
BATMAN NABS BIG MIKE RUSSO
WITH PROOF OF CRIME CZAR'S ACTIVITIES!

RUSSO CONFERS WITH HIS LAWYER IN A POLICE STATION CELL-
IT LOOKS BAD, MIKE--THEY'VE GOT TOO MUCH ON YOU!
YEAH! I KNOW! BUT I BEEN THINKING--AND I GOT ME A TERRIFIC IDEA! NOW YOU LISTEN..

BIG MIKE RUSSO'S TRIAL IS A SWIFT ONE...
...AND IT IS THE DUTY OF THIS COURT TO SENTENCE YOU TO TWENTY YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT IN THE STATE PRISON-
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME, JUDGE.. I BEEN NEEDIN' A VACATION ANYWAY!

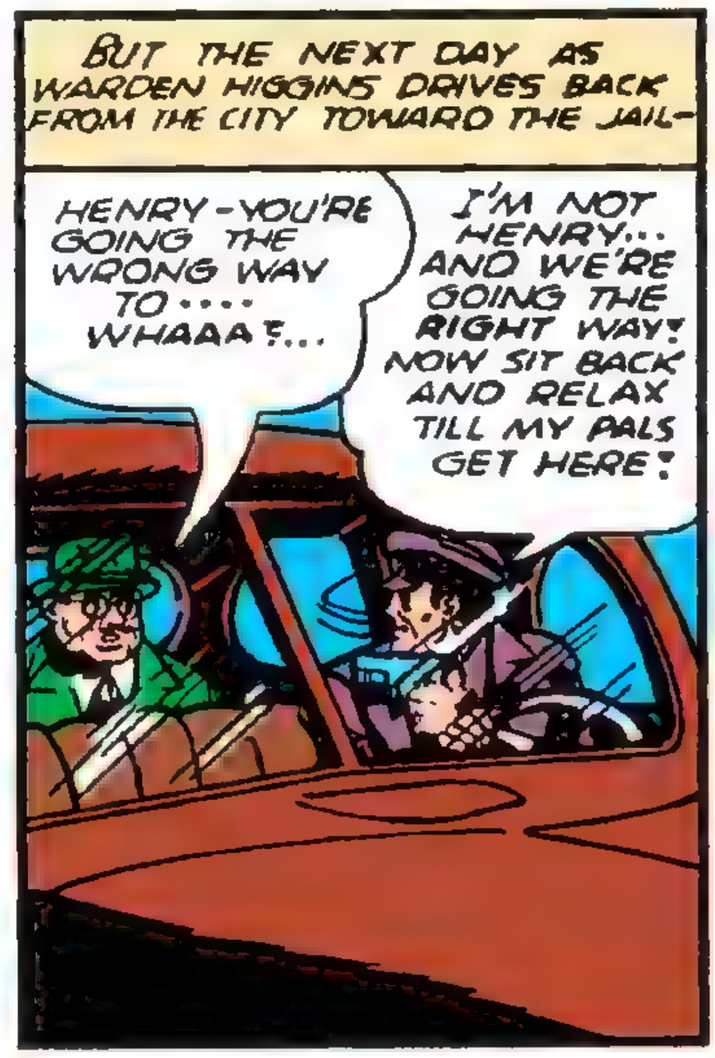

AND SO BIG MIKE RUSSO GOES TO PRISON ON THE EAST RIVER...

WARDEN HIGGINS GREETS HIS NEW CHARGE....
RUSSO, YOU WERE A BIG SHOT ONCE-BUT THAT WAS OUTSIDE THESE WALLS...NOW YOU'RE INSIDE-REMEMBER THAT, AND DON'T EXPECT ANY PRIVILEGES!
TOO BAD! I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE ME AFTERNOON TEA SOIVED TA ME-TCH-TCH! I GOT SORTA USED TO IT, TOO!


THE NEWS OF BIG MIKE'S CAPTURE HAS TRAVELED VIA THE PRISON....
IT'S BIG MIKE ALL RIGHT!
HYA, JOE...I AIN'T SEEN YOU SINCE CHI! HYA, MUGGSY! WELL--TRIGGER BRUN--WHEN DID THEY GRAB YOU?
HYA, MIKE!
THEY WON'T HOLD YOU IN HERE LONG-EH, MIKE?

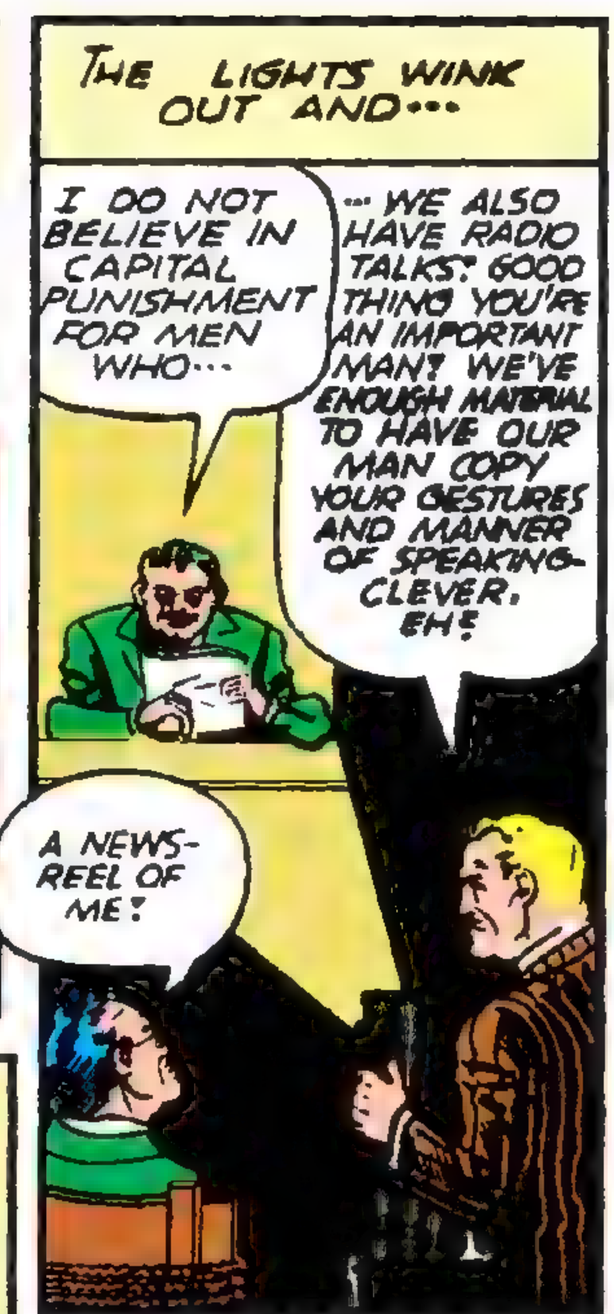
YOU...GET OFF! I'M TAKING THE LOWER! YOU TAKE THE UPPER!
SURE..SURE--ANYTHING YOU SAY, BIG MIKE! IT'S NICE TO HAVE YOU WITH ME!

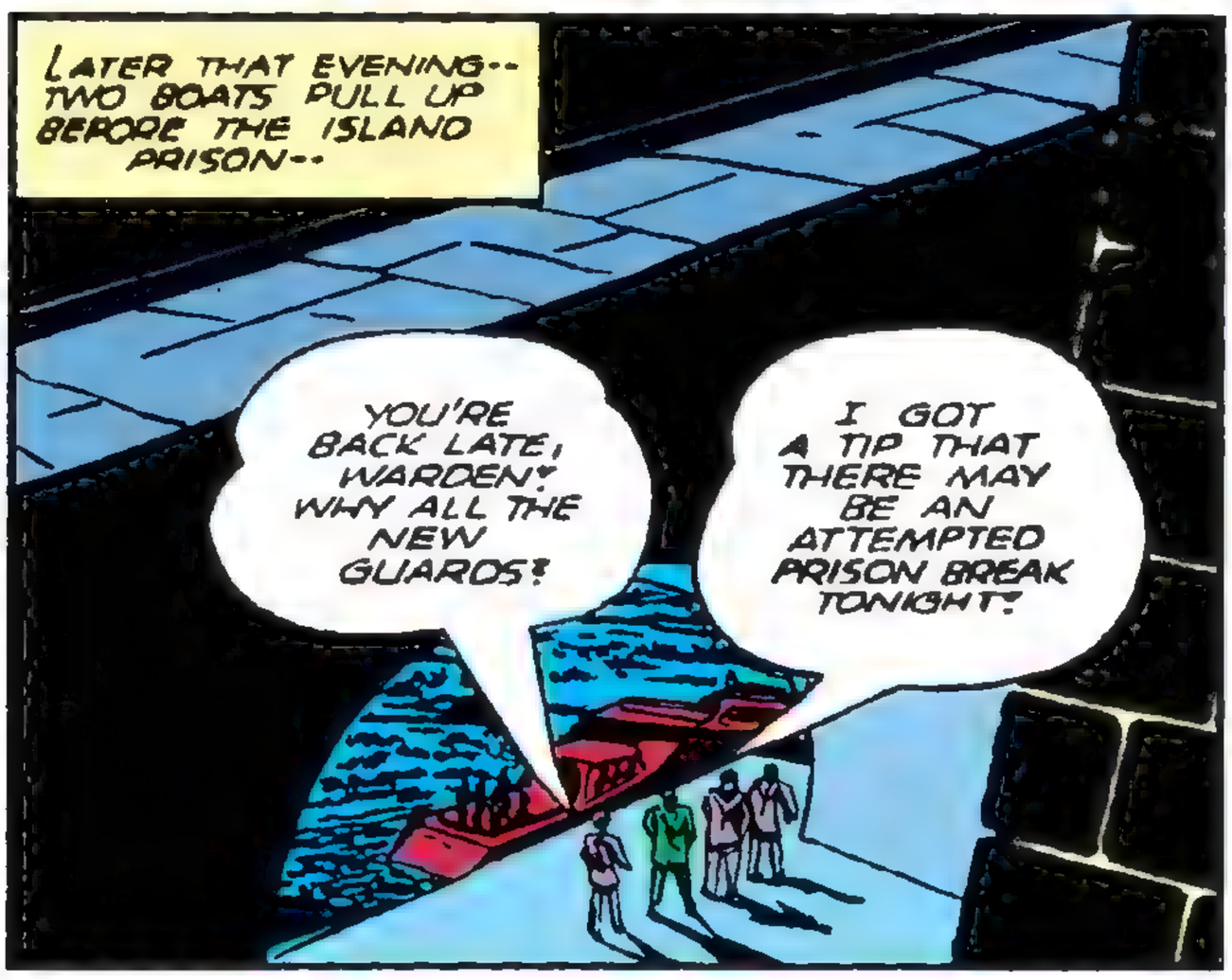
AND AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR MIKE'S IMPRISONMENT SPEAKS TO HIS YOUNG AIDE--
WELL...YOU FINALLY PUT MIKE RUSSO WHERE HE BELONGS!
YES...AND I THINK THIS MEANS THE END OF HIS ACTIVITIES!


BUT THE NEXT DAY AS WARDEN HIGGINS DRIVES BACK FROM THE CITY TOWARD THE JAIL-
HENRY-YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY TO.... WHAAA?...
I'M NOT HENRY... AND WE'RE GOING THE RIGHT WAY! NOW SIT BACK AND RELAX TILL MY PALS GET HERE!

SOMETIME LATER--IN A HIDDEN ROOM--
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!
MAYBE--THAT'S RIGHT, MAC. THAT EYEBROW GOES UP A LITTLE THERE— YEAH--NOW YOU'VE GOT IT!

MOMENTS AFTER...TWO WARDEN HIGGINS STAND IN THE ROOM!
A CLEVER MAKEUP JOB...BUT YOU'LL NEVER FOOL ANYBODY- WHAT ABOUT VOICE AND GESTURES?
WE'RE TAKING CARE OF THAT, TOO! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN!


THE LIGHTS WINK OUT AND...
I DO NOT BELIEVE IN CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR MEN WHO...
...WE ALSO HAVE RADIO TALKS! GOOD THING YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT MAN! WE'VE ENOUGH MATERIAL TO HAVE OUR MAN COPY YOUR GESTURES AND MANNER OF SPEAKING- CLEVER, EH!
A NEWS-REEL OF ME!


LATER THAT EVENING-- TWO BOATS PULL UP BEFORE THE ISLAND PRISON--
YOU'RE BACK LATE, WARDEN! WHY ALL THE NEW GUARDS?
I GOT A TIP THAT THERE MAY BE AN ATTEMPTED PRISON BREAK TONIGHT!

BUT ONCE INSIDE THE PRISON WALLS, THE NEW GUARDS MOVE FAST, AND THIS SCENE IS DUPLICATED MANY TIMES IN THE DEATH HOUSE WING--
GET 'EM UP!
HUH?

HI'YA, BOSS! EVERYTHING WORKED LIKE A CHARM— WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FEET?
AL--IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WAS, I'D SAY YOU WAS HIGGINS HIMSELF! OH! MY FEET! THESE PRISON SHOES!---NOW I CAN PUT ON SOME SOFT SHOES!

THE PRISON GUARDS ARE STRIPPED OF THEIR GUNS AND HERDED FORWARD INTO THE PRISON YARD-
YOU GUARDS--- I'M GONNA MAKE THIS PLACE MY HEADQUARTERS-- NOW, YOU PLAY BALL WITH ME AND YOU'LL BE EATIN' OUTA GOLD PLATES!
NOT ME! YOU CAN'T USE ME FOR YOUR ROTTEN WORK.

A SHOT CRASHES THROUGH THE SILENT NIGHT---
THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OTHER QUITTERS! NOW... YOU WANNA THROW IN WITH ME--? THINK IT OVER!

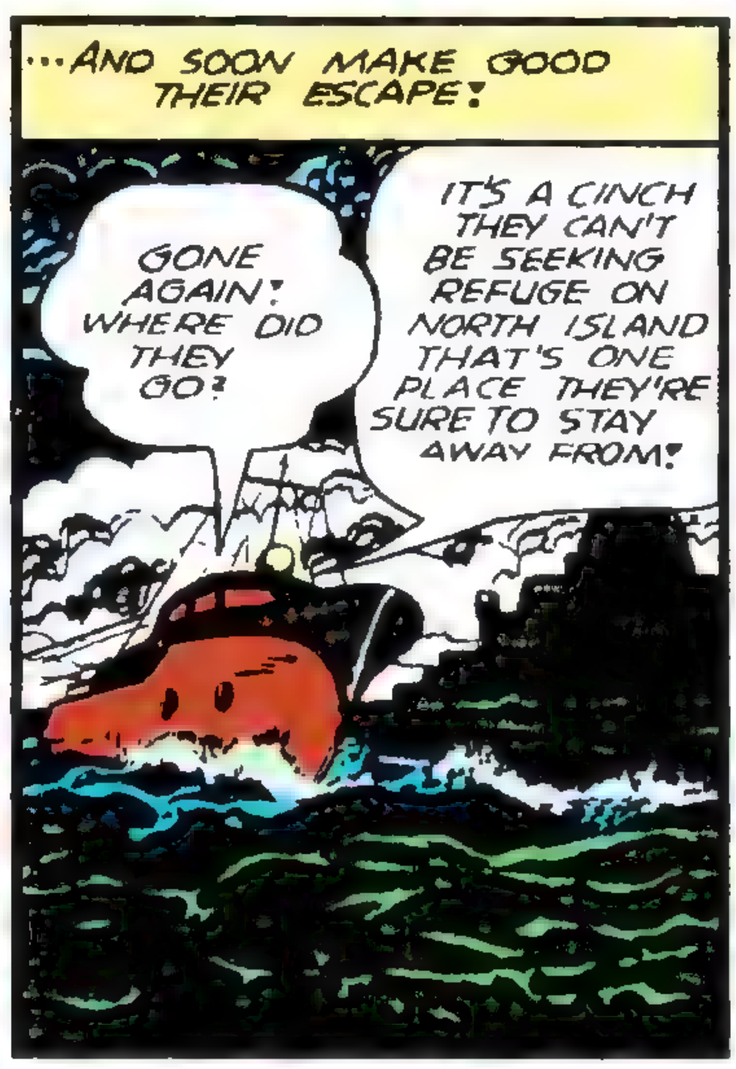
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THIS GUY, BOSS?
SAY ONE OF THE PRISONERS GOT A GUN AND IN TRYING TO ESCAPE SHOT THIS GUY--NOW LET'S GET OVER TO MURDERERS' ROW!

MURDERERS' ROW--WHERE CONDEMNED KILLERS AWAIT EXECUTION--
THE BIG SHOT HIMSELF!
BOYS! I GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YA!

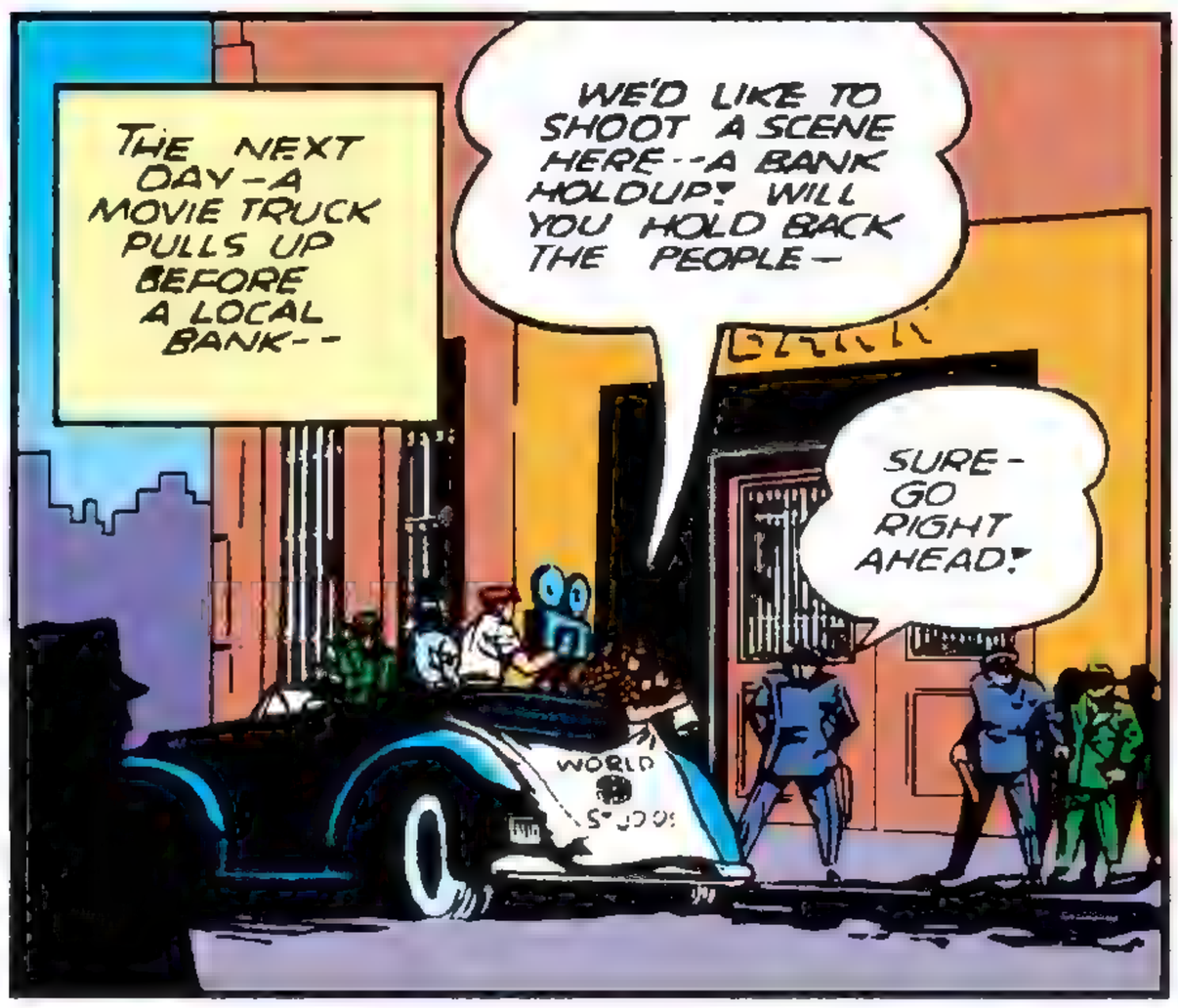
MIKE EXPLAINS HIS PLANS TO USE THE PRISON AS HIS HEADQUARTERS WHILE THE MEN OF MURDERERS ROW GO OUT AND PULL BIG JOBS---
SURE--WE'LL THROW IN WITH YA, MIKE...
GOOD! I'M ONLY LETTING YOU BOYS IN ON THIS--IF THE OTHER PRISONERS FOUND OUT-WORD MIGHT GET OUTSIDE.
JUST CONTINUE TO ACT LIKE CONDEMNED MEN AND EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

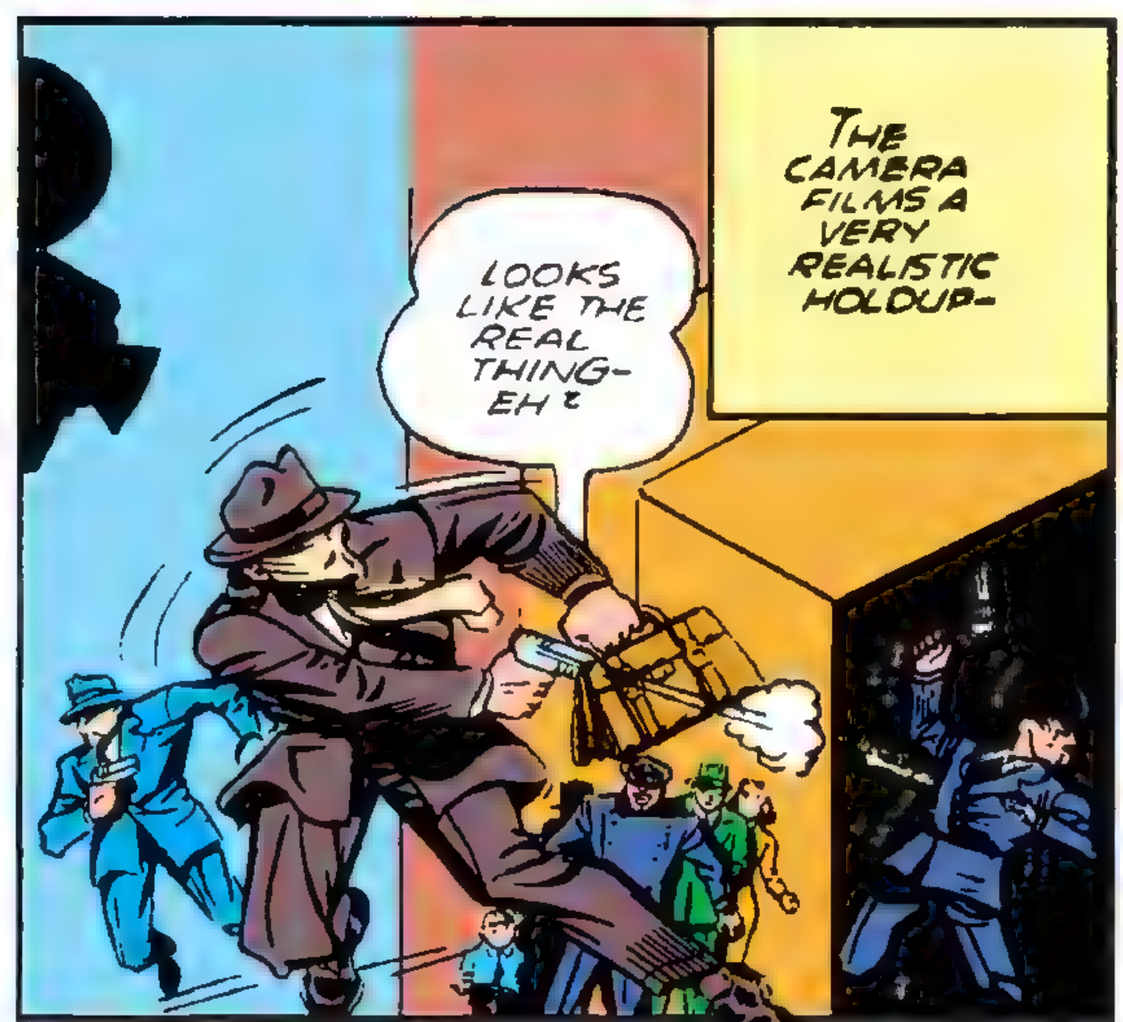
AND SO, WITHIN A WEEK, THE CITY IS SHAKEN BY A SERIES OF BOLD ROBBERIES---
BANK

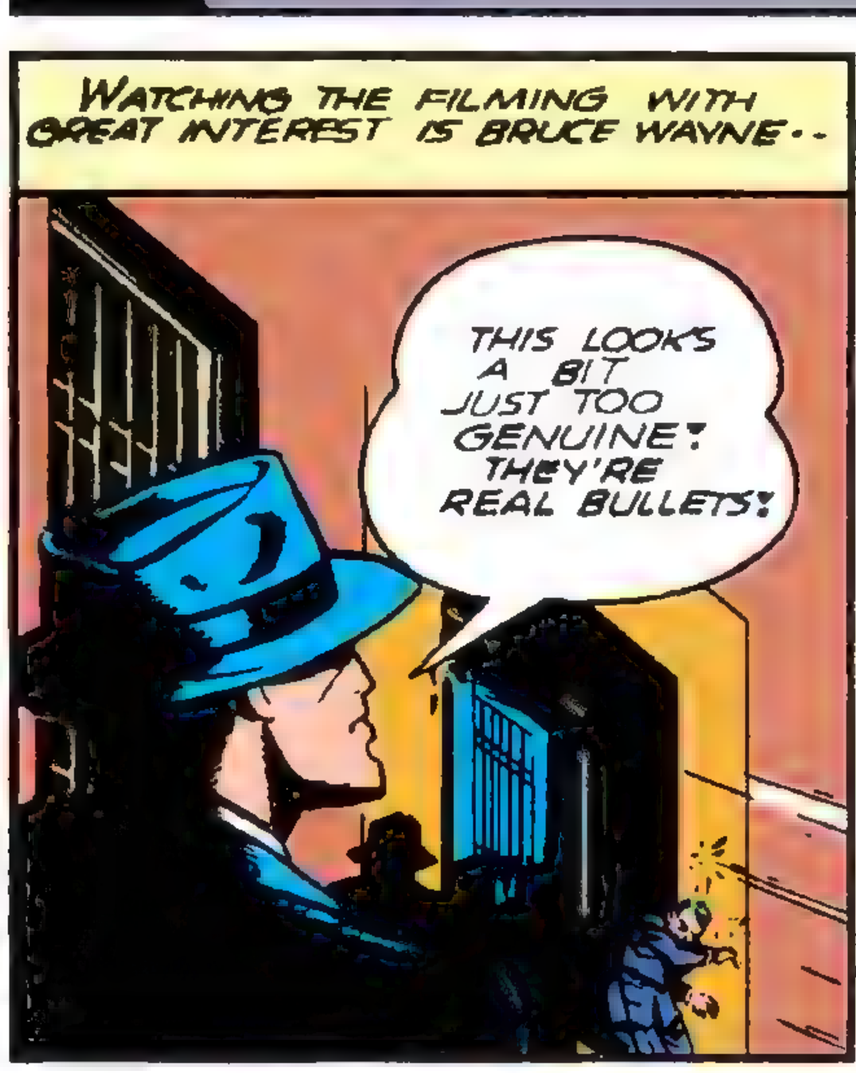
AFTER EACH ROBBERY, THE CRIMINALS ABANDON THEIR STOLEN CARS, AND PILE INTO FLEET MOTOR LAUNCHES ON THE EAST RIVER--

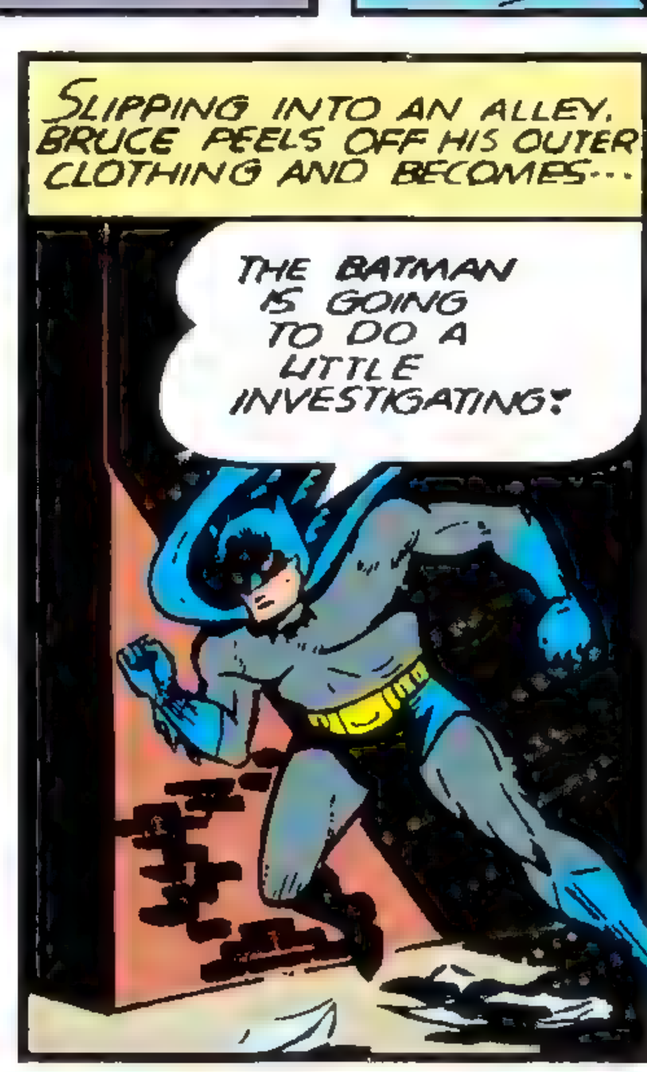

...AND SOON MAKE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE!
GONE AGAIN! WHERE DID THEY GO?
IT'S A CINCH THEY CAN'T BE SEEKING REFUGE ON NORTH ISLAND THAT'S ONE PLACE THEY'RE SURE TO STAY AWAY FROM!

HOW DID IT GO, BOYS?
WE MADE A BIG HAUL TONIGHT AND THOSE COPS ARE STILL LOOKING FOR US!

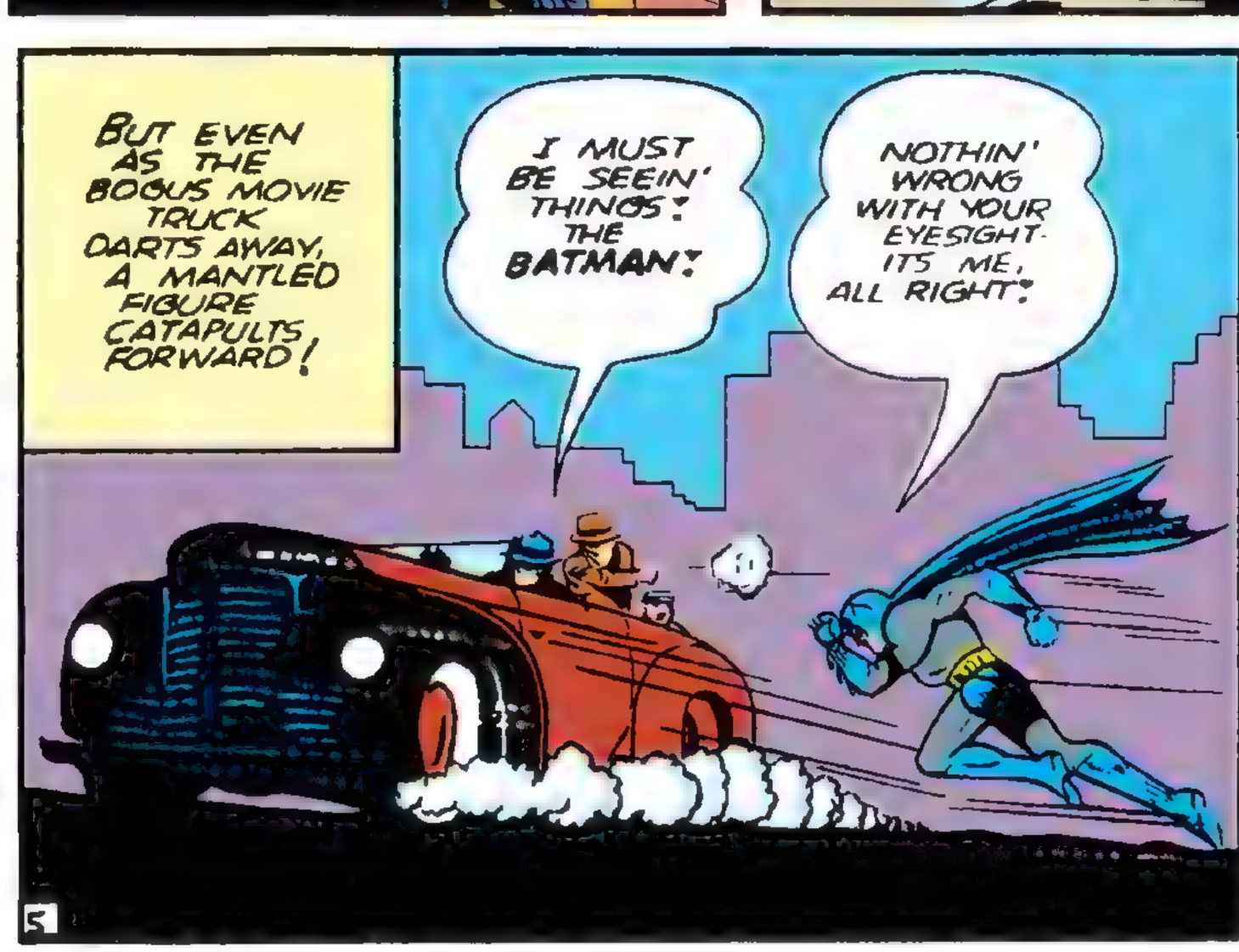

THE NEXT DAY—A MOVIE TRUCK PULLS UP BEFORE A LOCAL BANK--
WE'D LIKE TO SHOOT A SCENE HERE--A BANK HOLDUP! WILL YOU HOLD BACK THE PEOPLE—
SURE—GO RIGHT AHEAD!
WORLD


THE CAMERA FILMS A VERY REALISTIC HOLDUP—
LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING—EH?


WATCHING THE FILMING WITH GREAT INTEREST IS BRUCE WAYNE--
THIS LOOKS A BIT JUST TOO GENUINE! THEY'RE REAL BULLETS!

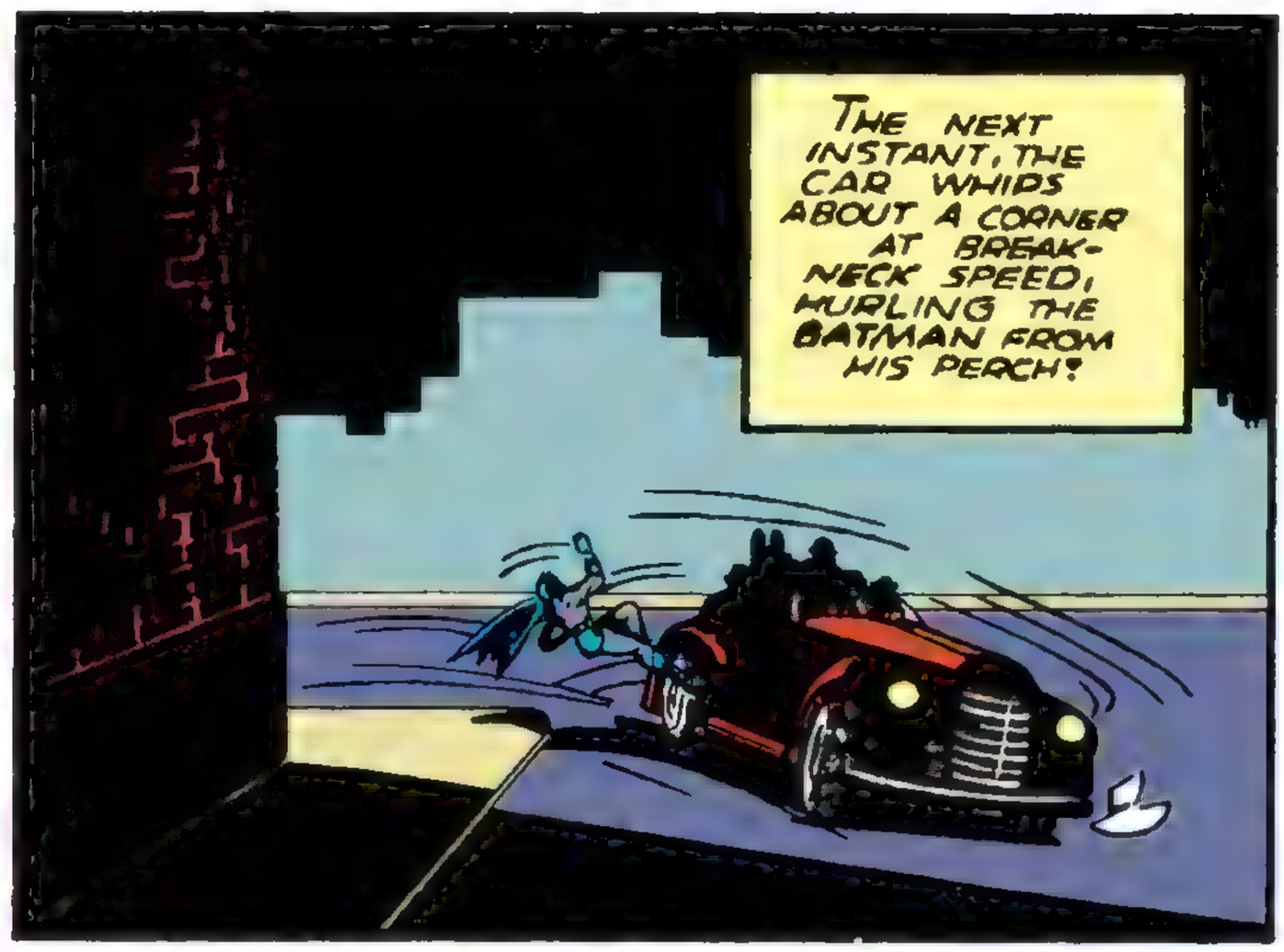

SLIPPING INTO AN ALLEY, BRUCE PEELS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHING AND BECOMES...
THE BATMAN IS GOING TO DO A LITTLE INVESTIGATING!

MEANWHILE, THE POLICE COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION AS THE BATMAN!
HEY, CHARLIE... HE'S SHOT—THIS WAS A REAL HOLDUP!


BUT EVEN AS THE BOGUS MOVIE TRUCK DARTS AWAY, A MANTLED FIGURE CATAPULTS FORWARD!
I MUST BE SEEIN' THINGS! THE BATMAN!
NOTHIN' WRONG WITH YOUR EYESIGHT—ITS ME, ALL RIGHT!

HOW ABOUT GIVING ME A MOVIE TEST!

IN THE TUSSLE, A HANDKERCHIEF FALLS AND THE BATMAN CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF THE MAN'S FACE---

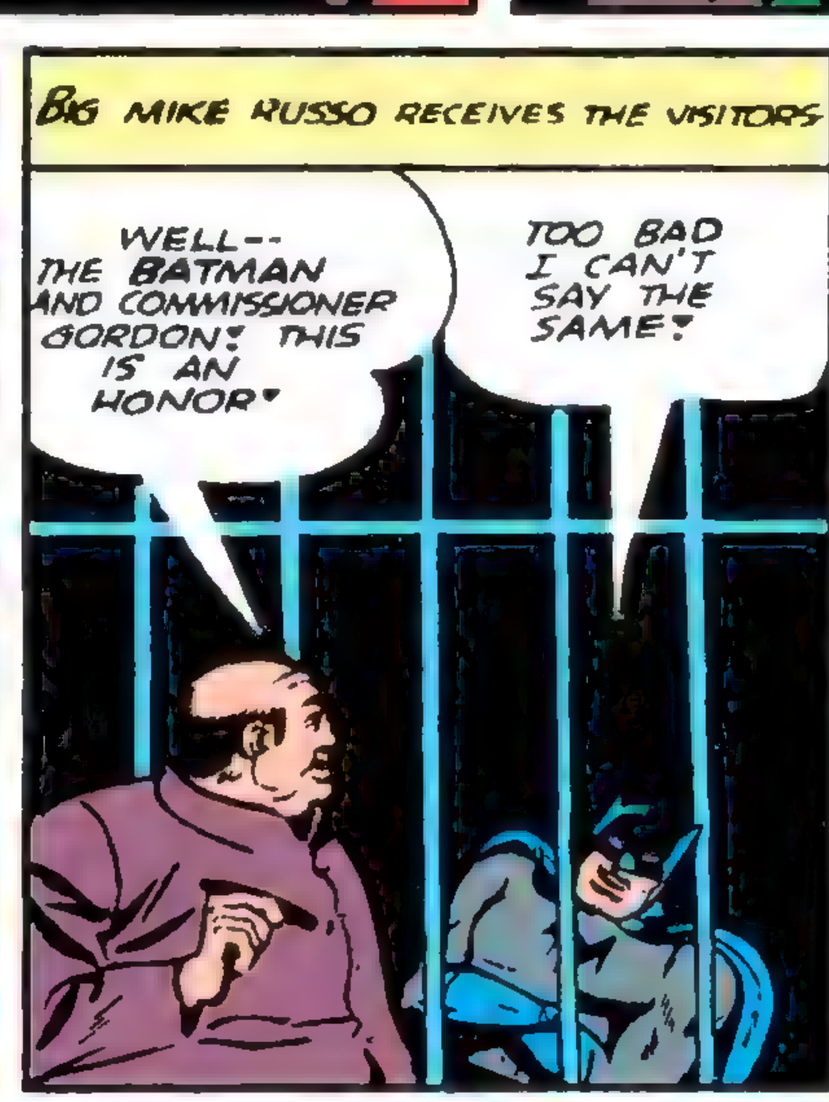

THE NEXT INSTANT, THE CAR WHIPS ABOUT A CORNER AT BREAK-NECK SPEED, HURLING THE BATMAN FROM HIS PERCH!

SOMETHING'S WRONG! THAT GUNMAN IS TRIGGER SHERMAN-- SUPPOSED TO BE ON NORTH ISLAND PRISON- WAITING FOR EXECUTION-

THE BATMAN VISITS COMMISSIONER GORDON--
--AND TRIGGER SHERMAN IS IN THE SAME PRISON THAT BIG MIKE RUSSO IS IN! AND THOSE ROBBERIES LATELY ALL BEAR THE STAMP OF WILY MIKE!
RUSSO BEHIND ALL THIS? IMPOSSIBLE! TO PROVE YOU'RE WRONG, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PRISON MYSELF--

AND SO--LATER THAT DAY---
THE PRISON SEEMS TO BE IN ORDER, WARDEN!
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I SENT THEM HERE!
BATMAN- YOU DON'T SEEM VERY POPULAR!
THE BATMAN- BOO!
BOO! BATMAN!

BATMAN- HERE'S TRIGGER SHERMAN!
HELLO, TRIGGER! HOW ARE THEY TREATING YOU?
JUST DANDY! YOU GOTTA EXCUSE ME NOW --I GOTTA PUT ON ME TUXEDO SO'S I CAN GO TO THE POLICEMEN'S BALL!

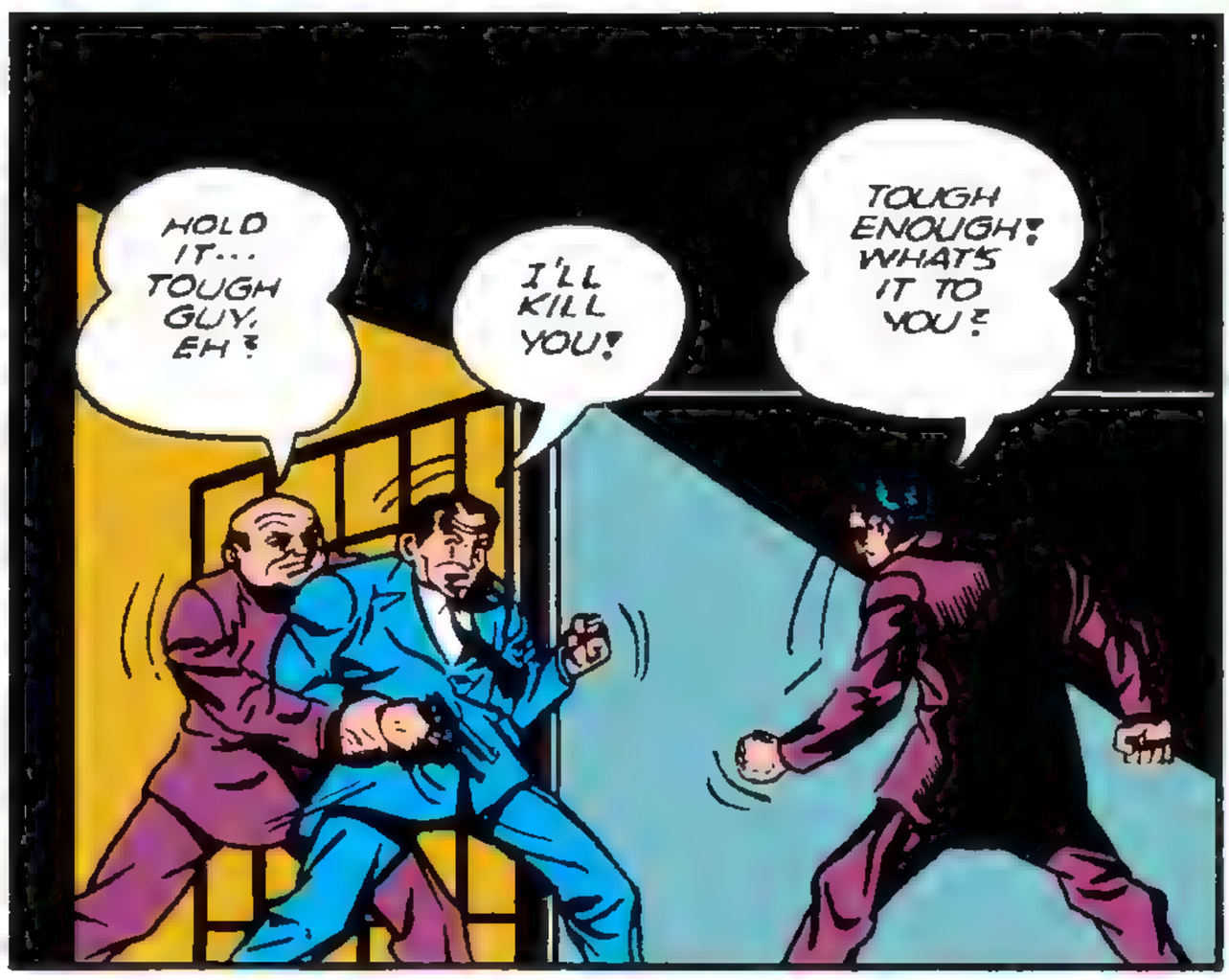

BIG MIKE RUSSO RECEIVES THE VISITORS
WELL-- THE BATMAN AND COMMISSIONER GORDON! THIS IS AN HONOR!
TOO BAD I CAN'T SAY THE SAME!

SUDDENLY THE BATMAN RIVETS HIS KEEN EYES ON RUSSO'S FEET---

LATER ... OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALLS ...
SO RUSSO IS WEARING SPECIAL SHOES INSTEAD OF THE REGULATION ONES--SOMETHING'S WRONG!
GORDON, I WANT TO ARRANGE TO HAVE ME SENT TO JAIL!
HUH!

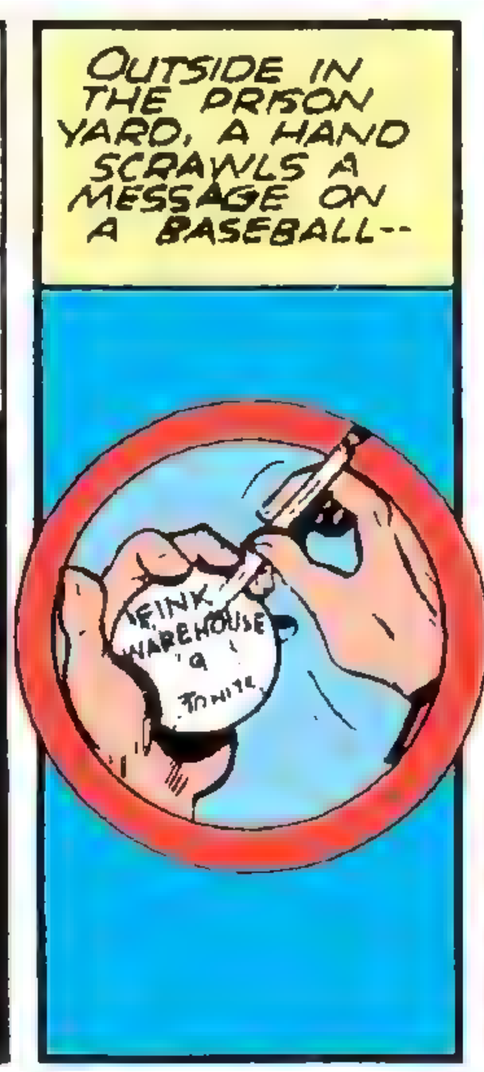
THE NEXT DAY A SNARLING, SCOWLING PRISONER IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOGUS "WARDEN"!
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GIVE THIS MUGG THE OLD SPIEL!
AHEM--PAUL "KILLER" SIKES-- AS THE PRISON WARDEN, I WISH TO WARN ....
SAVE THE SOFT SOAP, BROTHER! I AIN'T INTERESTED!

LATER AS ONE OF THE PRISON "GUARDS" PUSHES THE PRISONER TOWARD HIS CELL.
DON'T SHOVE! I CAN WALK IN BY MYSELF!

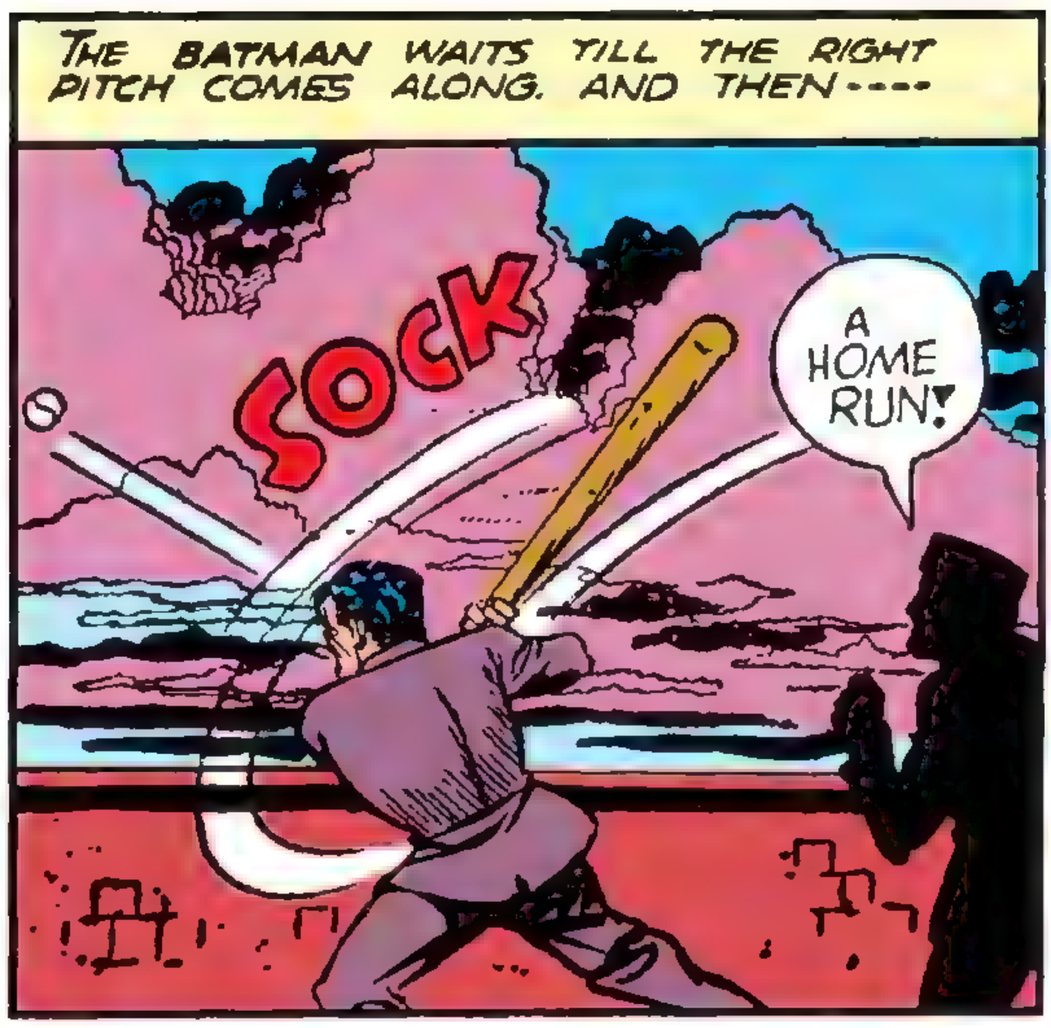

HOLD IT... TOUGH GUY, EH?
I'LL KILL YOU!
TOUGH ENOUGH! WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

I CAN USE TOUGH GUYS! YOU'RE KILLER SIKES! MAYBE I CAN LET YOU IN ON SOMETHING BIG!
YEAH?--- START TALKIN'!

SOMETIME LATER--IN HIS OWN CELL, THE PRISONER SMILES... FOR UNDER THE CLEVER MAKEUP IS THE GRINNING FACE OF BRUCE WAYNE, THE BATMAN-
I'M IN! NOW I'VE GOT TO GET WORD TO ROBIN--HE'S WAITING OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALLS-- CAN'T USE MY COMPACT WIRELESS...WAIT....I HAVE AN IDEA!
7

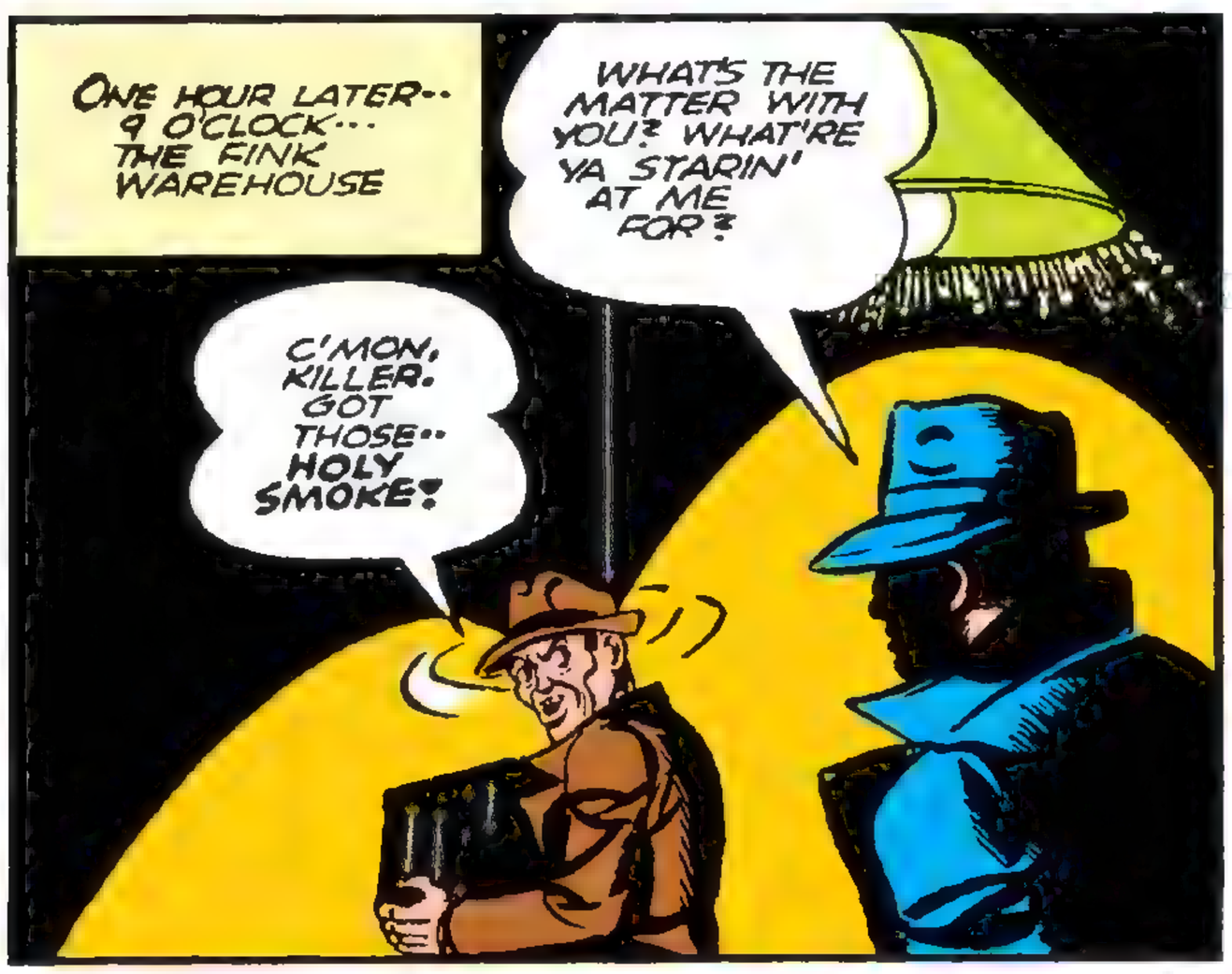

OUTSIDE IN THE PRISON YARD, A HAND SCRAWLS A MESSAGE ON A BASEBALL--
FINK WAREHOUSE 9 TONITE

OUT OF THE WAY, PUNK-- I'M UP!
HERE, PITCHER-- I LIKE A NEW BALL WHEN I PLAY!


THE BATMAN WAITS TILL THE RIGHT PITCH COMES ALONG. AND THEN----
SOCK
A HOME RUN!

---A SMALL FIGURE DARTS TOWARD THE BOUNDING BALL AND SNAGGING IT, RACES AWAY!
THE BATMAN SAID HIS MESSAGE WOULD COME OVER THE WALL SOMEWAY- THIS MUST BE IT!

THAT NIGHT---
OKAY, YOU GUYS--YOU GOT YOUR ORDERS. KILLER, THIS IS YOUR FIRST JOB WITH ME. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO!
DON'T WORRY-- YOU'LL SEE PLENTY BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER!

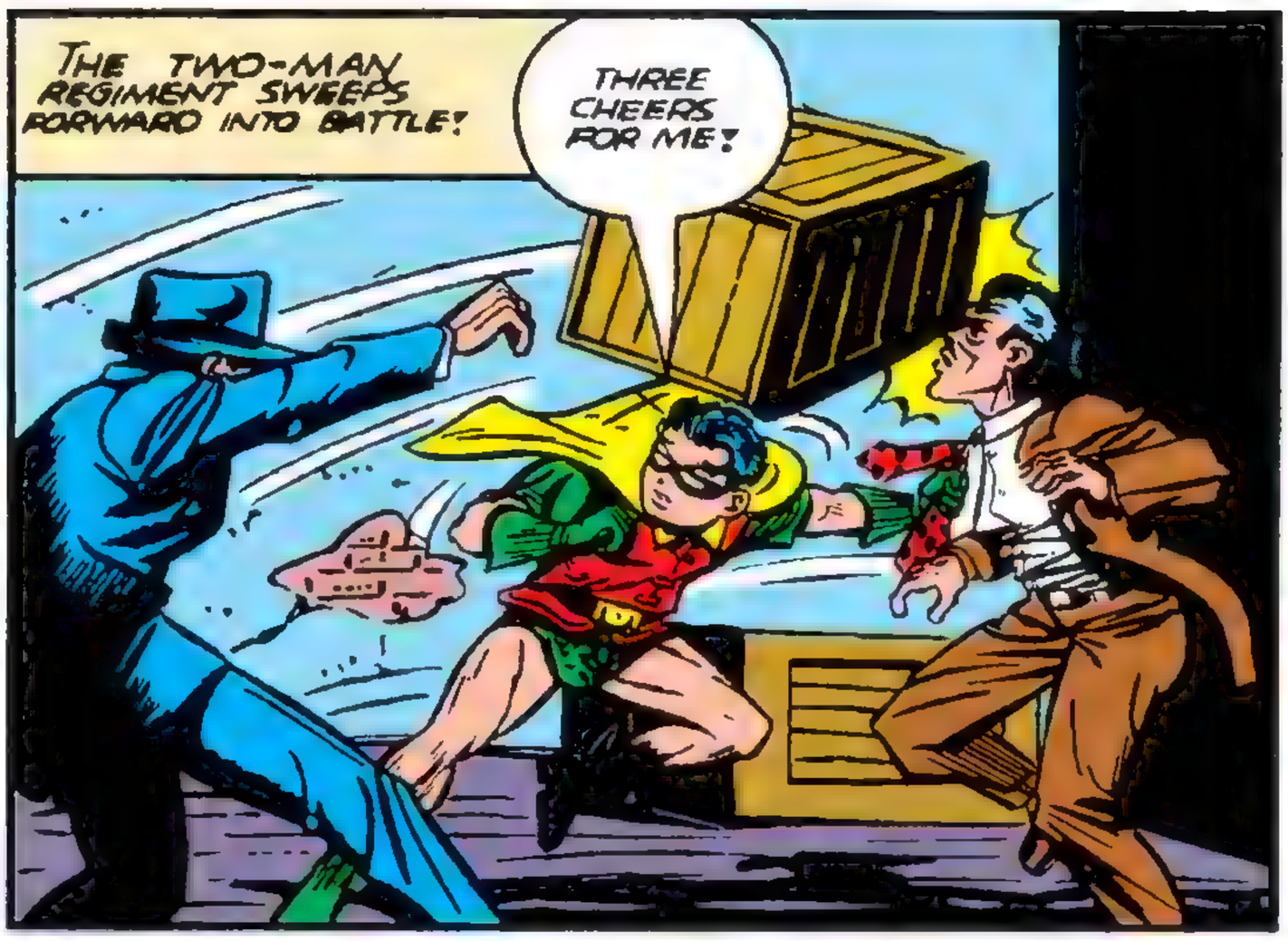

ONE HOUR LATER-- 9 O'CLOCK... THE FINK WAREHOUSE
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? WHAT'RE YA STARIN' AT ME FOR?
C'MON, KILLER. GOT THOSE-- HOLY SMOKE!

YOUR FACE- ITS MELTIN'!
THAT AIN'T HIS FACE! IT'S MAKEUP--THE TERRIFIC HEAT OF THAT LIGHT BULB HE'S STANDIN' UNDER MELTED IT!

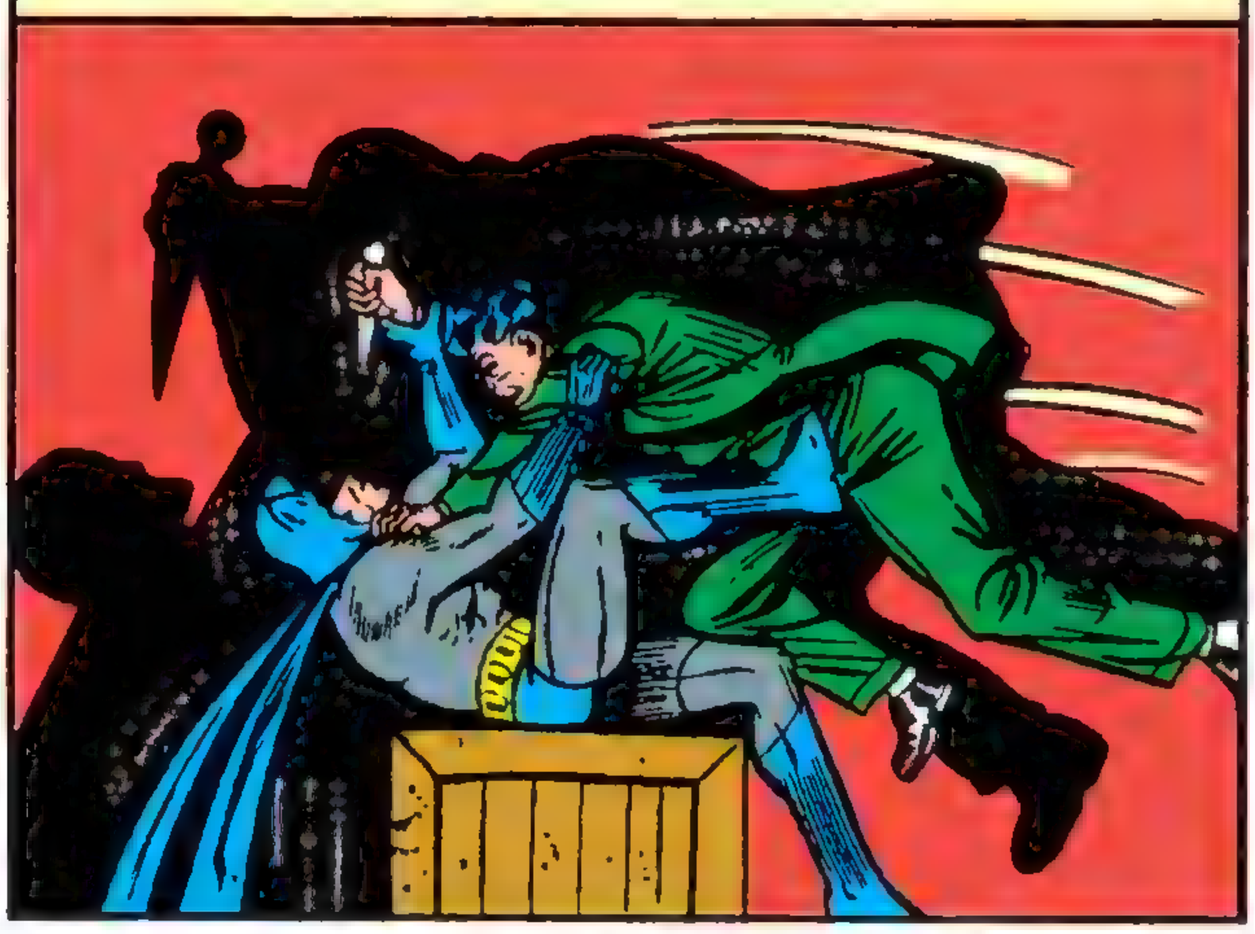
THE BATMAN'S HAND DARTS SWIFTLY TO THE LIGHT SWITCH, AND---
GET THE LIGHT ON, SOME-BODY!

...WHERE IS THAT GUY?
RIGHT HERE, CHUM!
THE BATMAN!

THEN PLUNGING INTO THE ROOM IS ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER---

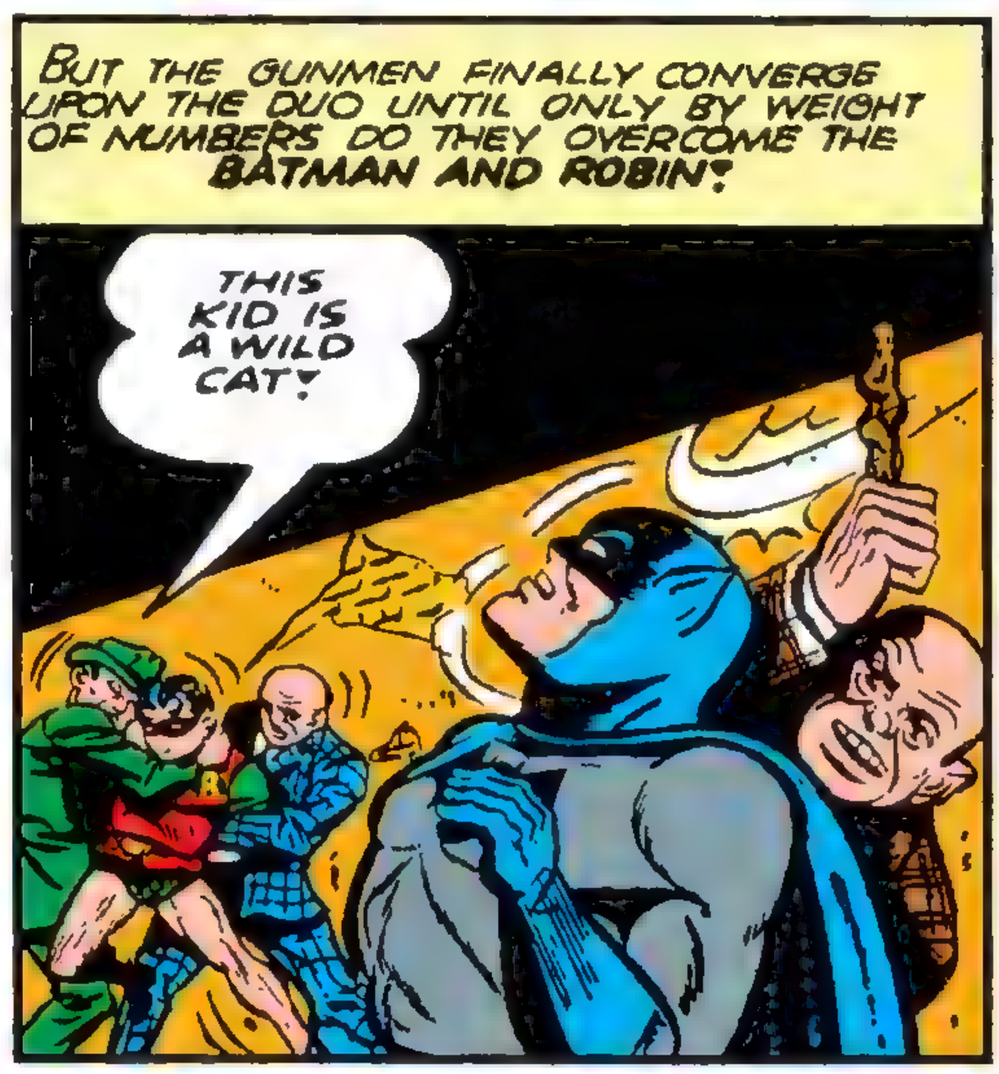

THE TWO-MAN REGIMENT SWEEPS FORWARD INTO BATTLE!
THREE CHEERS FOR ME!

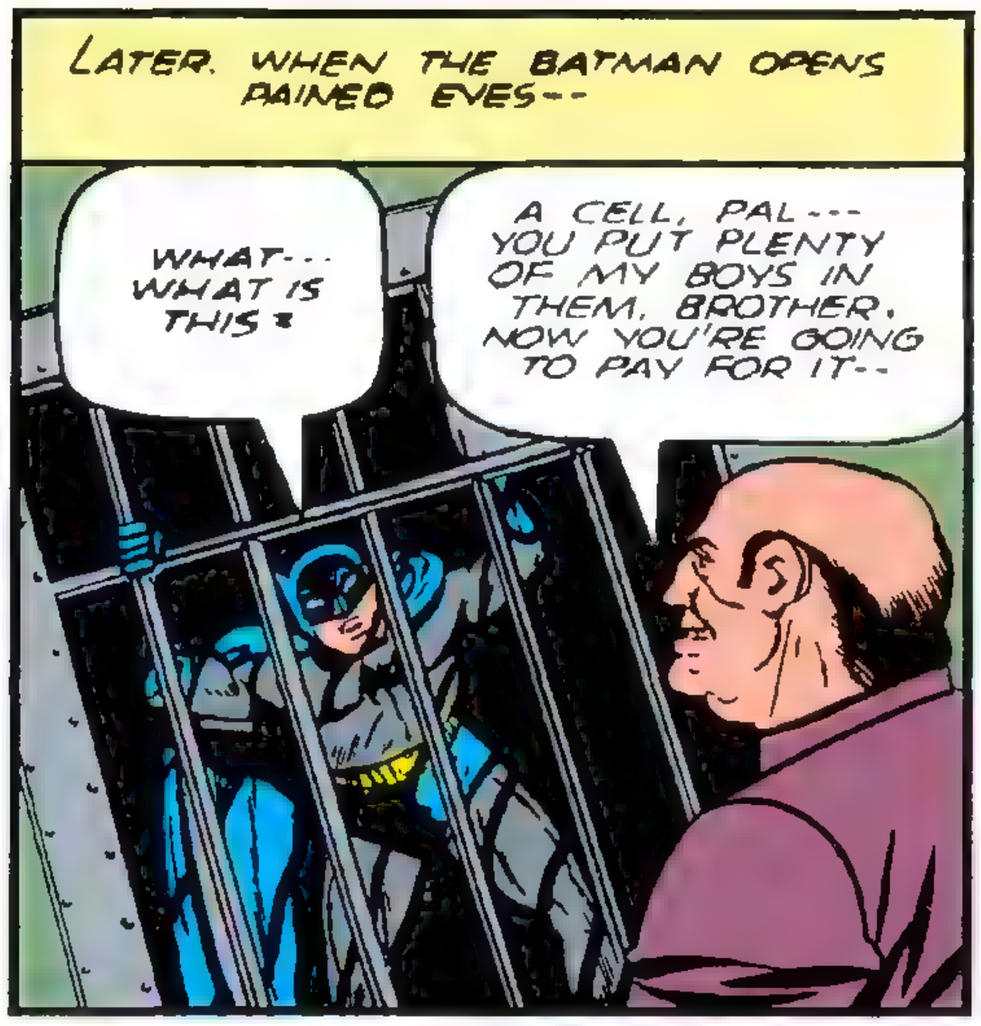
TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!


BATMAN IS BOWLED OVER BY A CHARGING FOE---

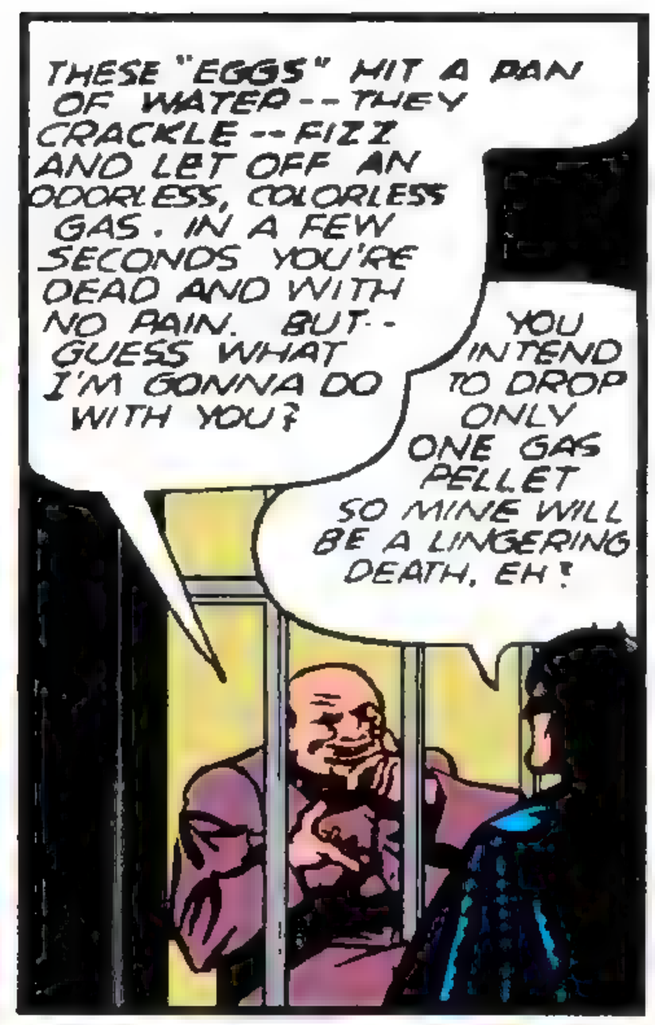
...BUT TURNS THE CHARGE TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE-
A LITTLE JU JITSU COMES IN HANDY-- AT TIMES-

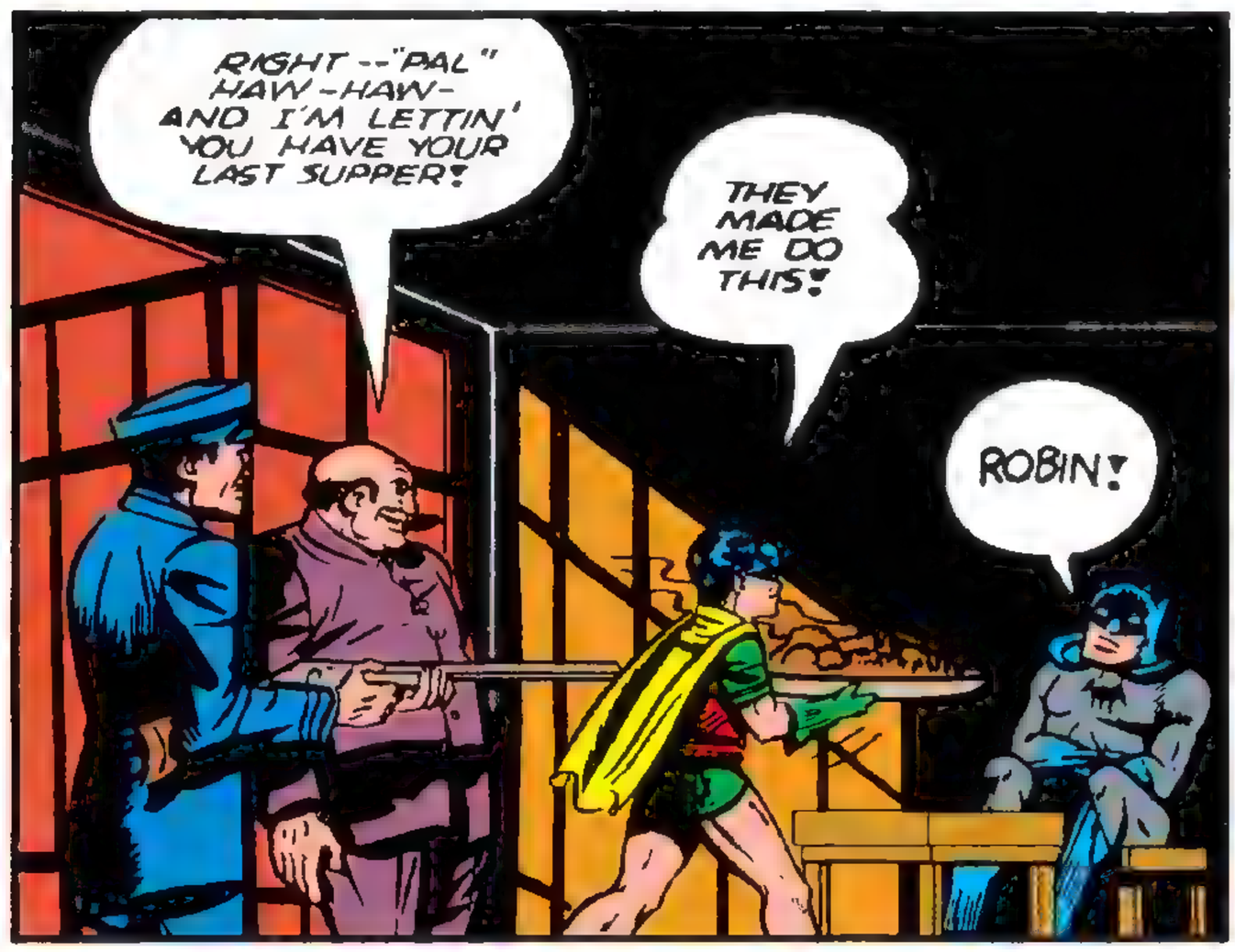
LET'S TAKE 'EM, ROBIN!
O BOY- O BOY!


BUT THE GUNMEN FINALLY CONVERGE UPON THE DUO UNTIL ONLY BY WEIGHT OF NUMBERS DO THEY OVERCOME THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
THIS KID IS A WILD CAT!


LATER. WHEN THE BATMAN OPENS PAINED EYES--
WHAT--- WHAT IS THIS?
A CELL, PAL--- YOU PUT PLENTY OF MY BOYS IN THEM, BROTHER. NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT--

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE--JUST LIKE MY MEN DIED. TOO BAD THIS STATE HAS NO ELECTRIC CHAIR---BUT I'LL BE CONTENT WITH SEEING YOU KICK OFF, IN A GAS CHAMBER! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS THERE--

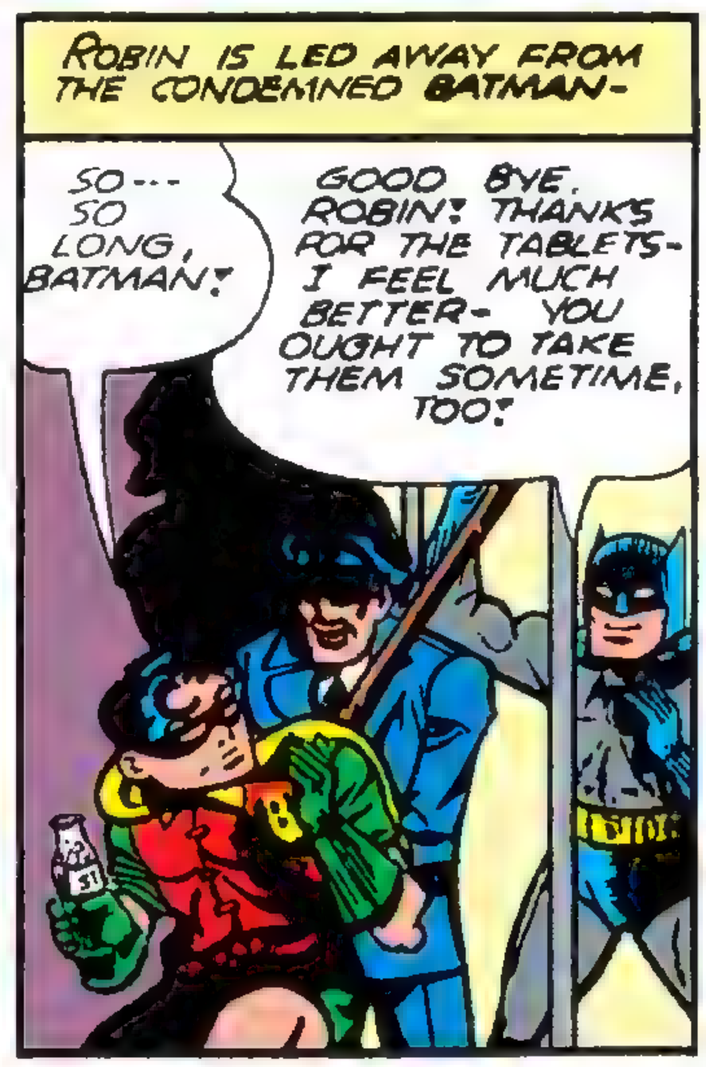

THESE "EGGS" HIT A PAN OF WATER--THEY CRACKLE--FIZZ AND LET OFF AN ODORLESS, COLORLESS GAS. IN A FEW SECONDS YOU'RE DEAD AND WITH NO PAIN. BUT-- GUESS WHAT I'M GONNA DO WITH YOU?
YOU INTEND TO DROP ONLY ONE GAS PELLET SO MINE WILL BE A LINGERING DEATH, EH?

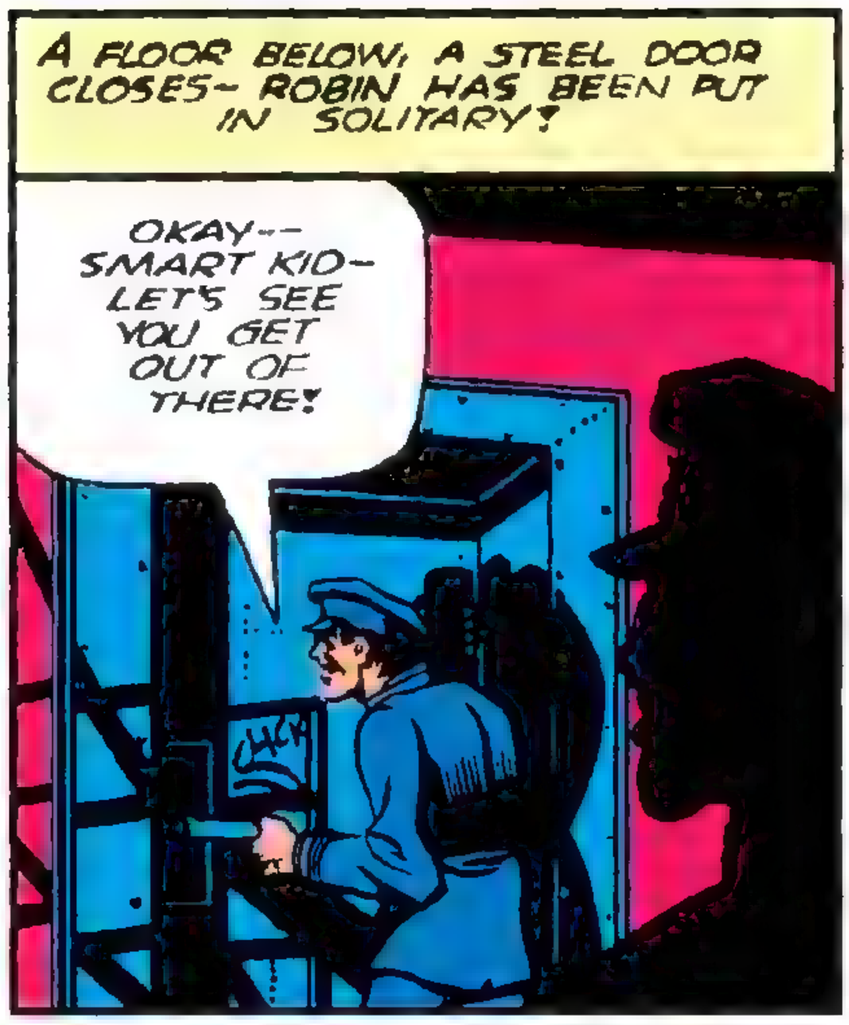

RIGHT--"PAL" HAW-HAW- AND I'M LETTIN' YOU HAVE YOUR LAST SUPPER!
THEY MADE ME DO THIS!
ROBIN!

ENJOYED IT, EH? OKAY--NOW YOUR LAST WORDS TO ROBIN AND OFF WE GO TO THE GAS CHAMBER!
MY LAST WORDS?... I WISH I HAD A BURPO SELTZER TABLET! I THINK I ATE TOO MUCH! MY STOMACH'S BOTHERING ME----
HUH!

IT IS A SORELY DISAPPOINTED ROBIN WHO IS ALLOWED TO GO FOR THE BURPO SELTZER TABLETS-
"LAST WORDS"--HUH! WE AREN'T EVER GOING TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, AND ALL HE CAN ASK FOR IS STOMACH TABLETS- I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

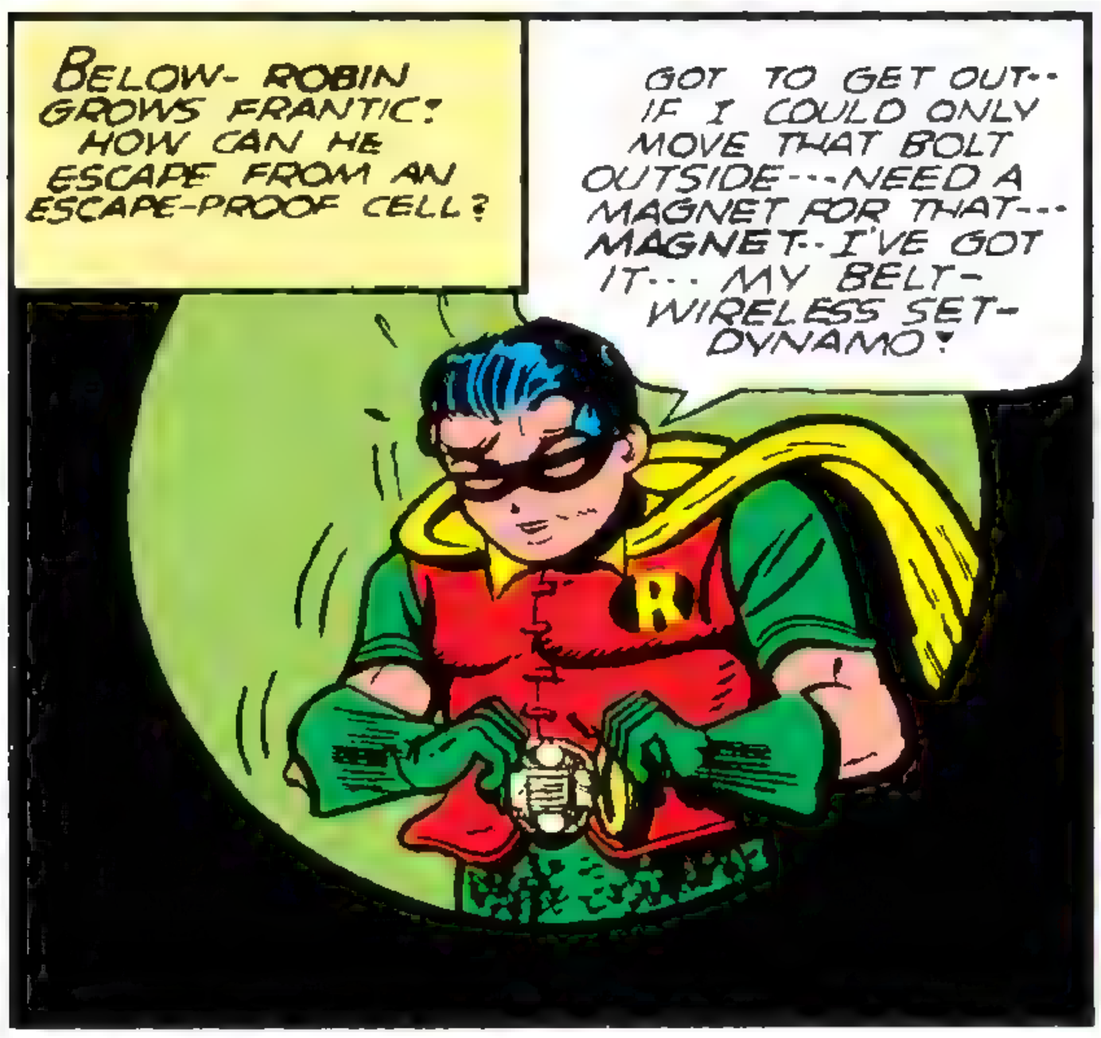
BATMAN GETS HIS TABLETS!
GOOD OLD SELTZER TABLET! NOTICE, ROBIN, HOW IT HITS THE WATER AND FIZZES-GOOD FOR THE STOMACH, THIS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM? HE ISN'T HIMSELF! UNLESS-- MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO SEND ME A MESSAGE-- BURPO SELTZER TABLETS--I WONDER IF HE MEANS--?

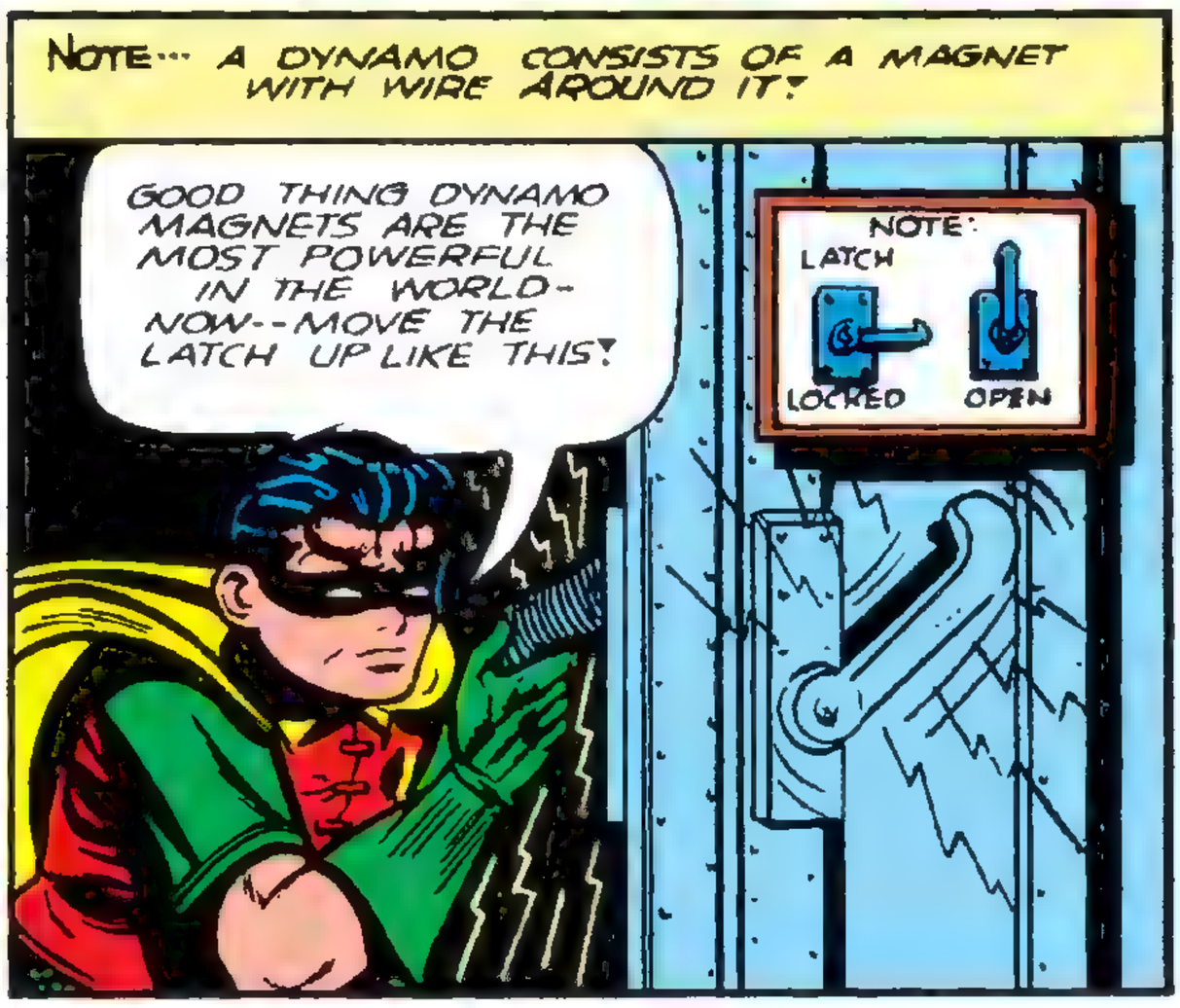

ROBIN IS LED AWAY FROM THE CONDEMNED BATMAN-
SO--- SO LONG, BATMAN!
GOOD BYE, ROBIN! THANKS FOR THE TABLETS- I FEEL MUCH BETTER- YOU OUGHT TO TAKE THEM SOMETIME, TOO!

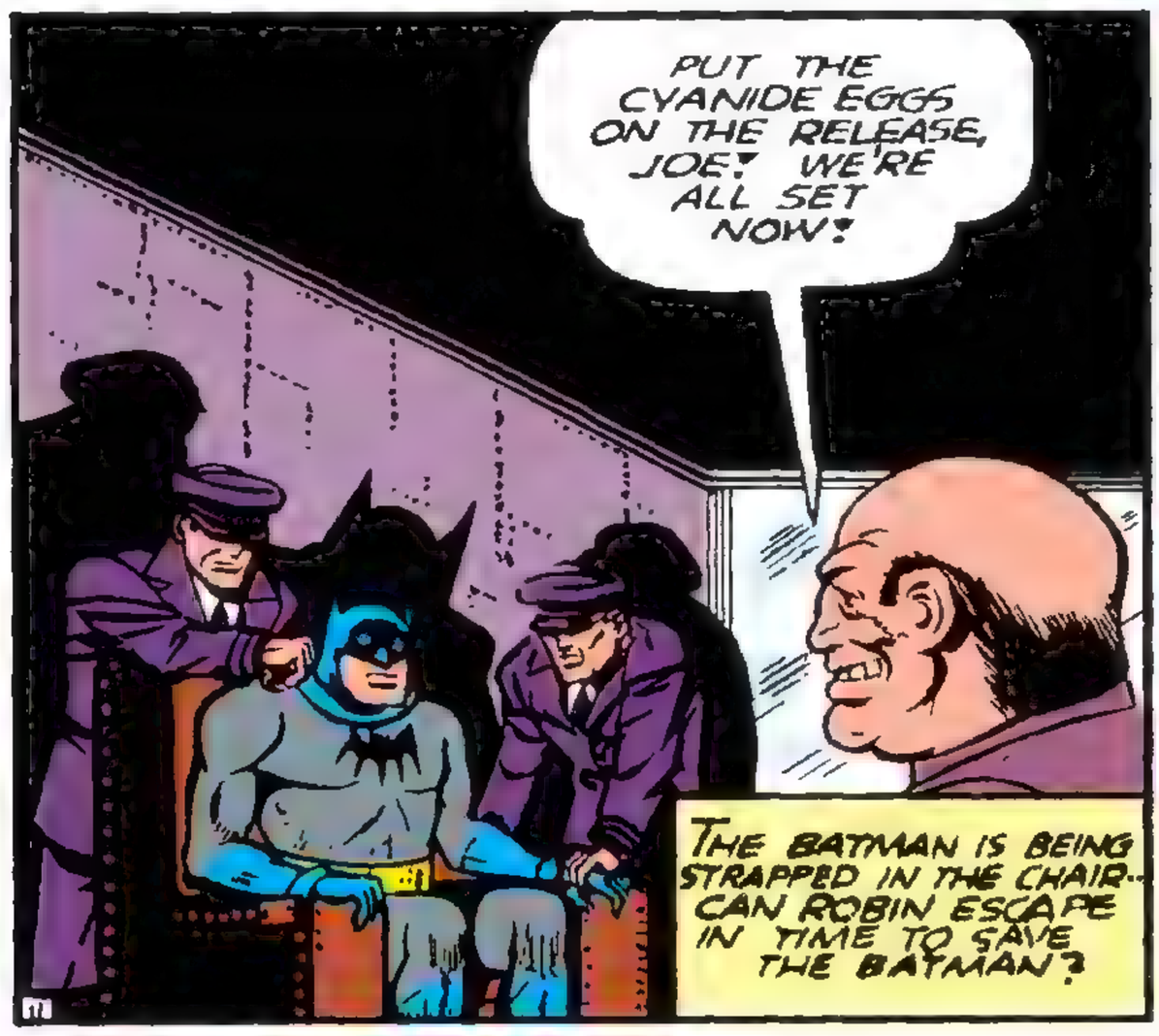

A FLOOR BELOW, A STEEL DOOR CLOSES- ROBIN HAS BEEN PUT IN SOLITARY!
OKAY-- SMART KID- LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THERE!

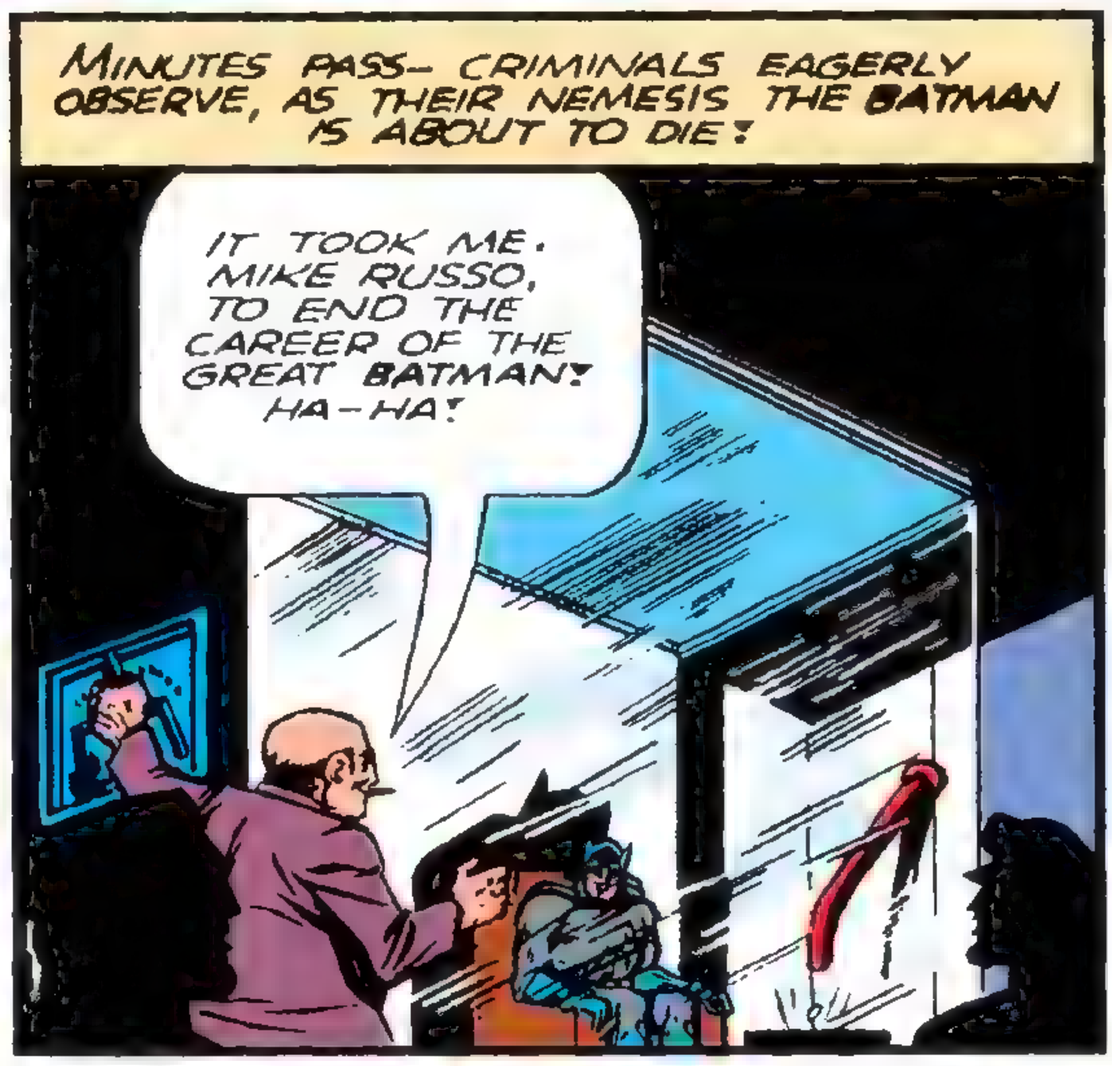
A BARE STEEL ROOM! ABOVE A TINY VENTILATOR- NO KEYHOLE ON THE DOOR
CLOP CLOP
THERE'S NO WAY OUT...NO KEYHOLE...NOTHING BUT STEEL WALLS- WAIT... WHAT'S THAT?... FOOTSTEPS!

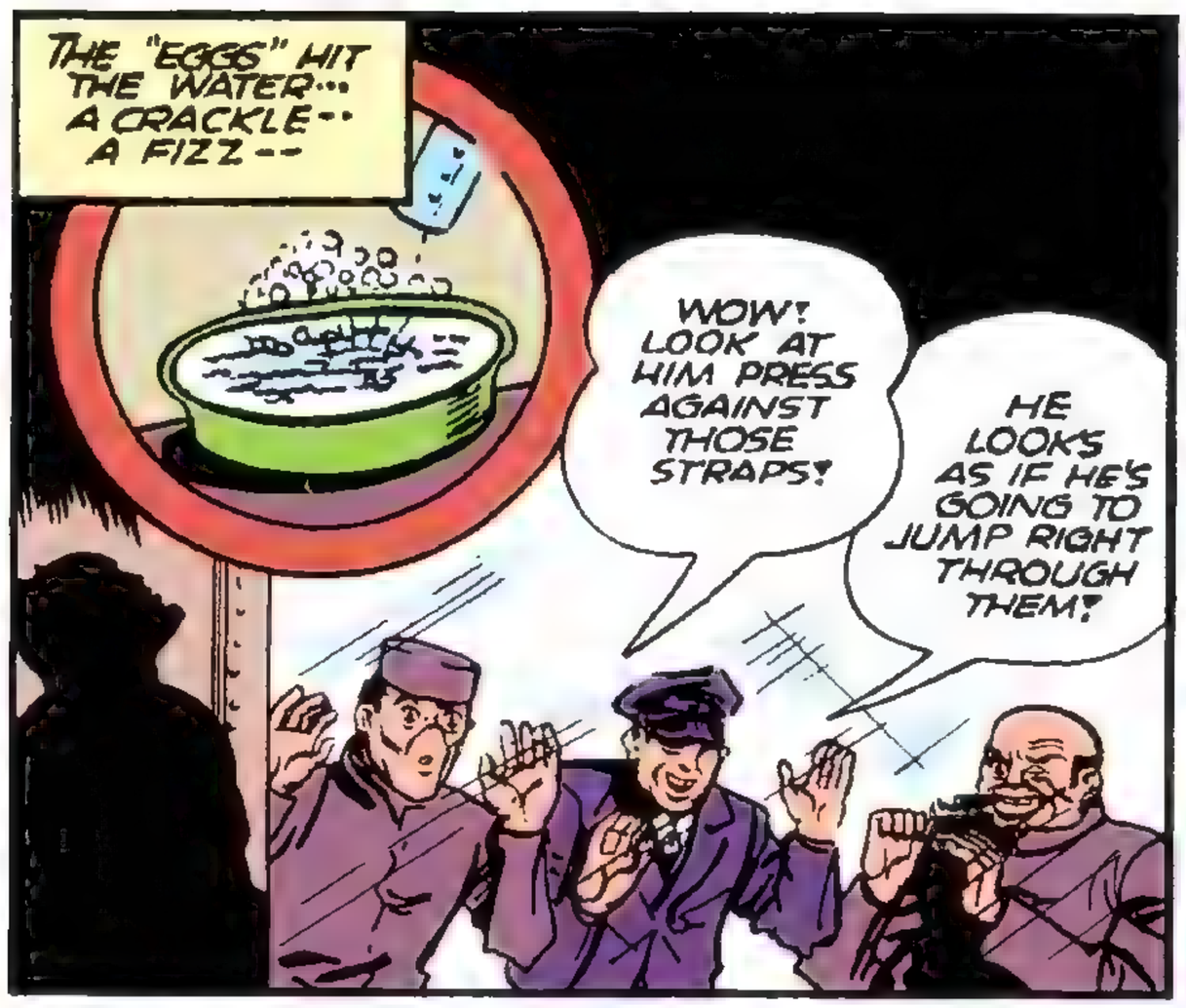
FOOTSTEPS! THE BATMAN MARCHING TOWARD HIS DOOM---THE GAS CHAMBER.
GAS CHA

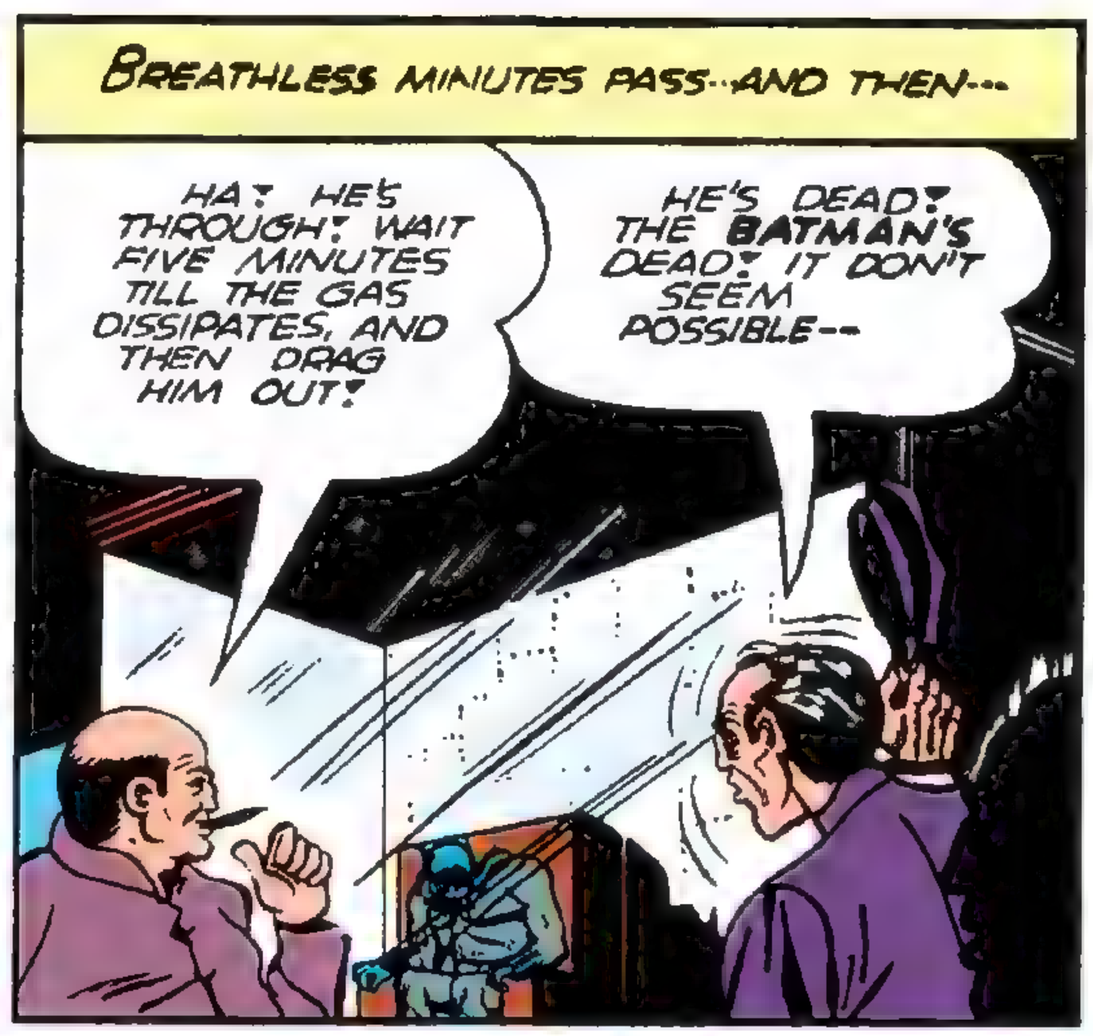

BELOW- ROBIN GROWS FRANTIC! HOW CAN HE ESCAPE FROM AN ESCAPE-PROOF CELL?
GOT TO GET OUT-- IF I COULD ONLY MOVE THAT BOLT OUTSIDE---NEED A MAGNET FOR THAT--- MAGNET--I'VE GOT IT... MY BELT- WIRELESS SET- DYNAMO!


NOTE... A DYNAMO CONSISTS OF A MAGNET WITH WIRE AROUND IT!
GOOD THING DYNAMO MAGNETS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL IN THE WORLD- NOW--MOVE THE LATCH UP LIKE THIS!
NOTE:
LATCH
LOCKED
OPEN


PUT THE CYANIDE EGGS ON THE RELEASE, JOE! WE'RE ALL SET NOW!
THE BATMAN IS BEING STRAPPED IN THE CHAIR.. CAN ROBIN ESCAPE IN TIME TO SAVE THE BATMAN?


MINUTES PASS- CRIMINALS EAGERLY OBSERVE, AS THEIR NEMESIS THE BATMAN IS ABOUT TO DIE!
IT TOOK ME. MIKE RUSSO, TO END THE CAREER OF THE GREAT BATMAN! HA-HA!


THE "EGGS" HIT THE WATER... A CRACKLE-- A FIZZ--
WOW! LOOK AT HIM PRESS AGAINST THOSE STRAPS!
HE LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING TO JUMP RIGHT THROUGH THEM!

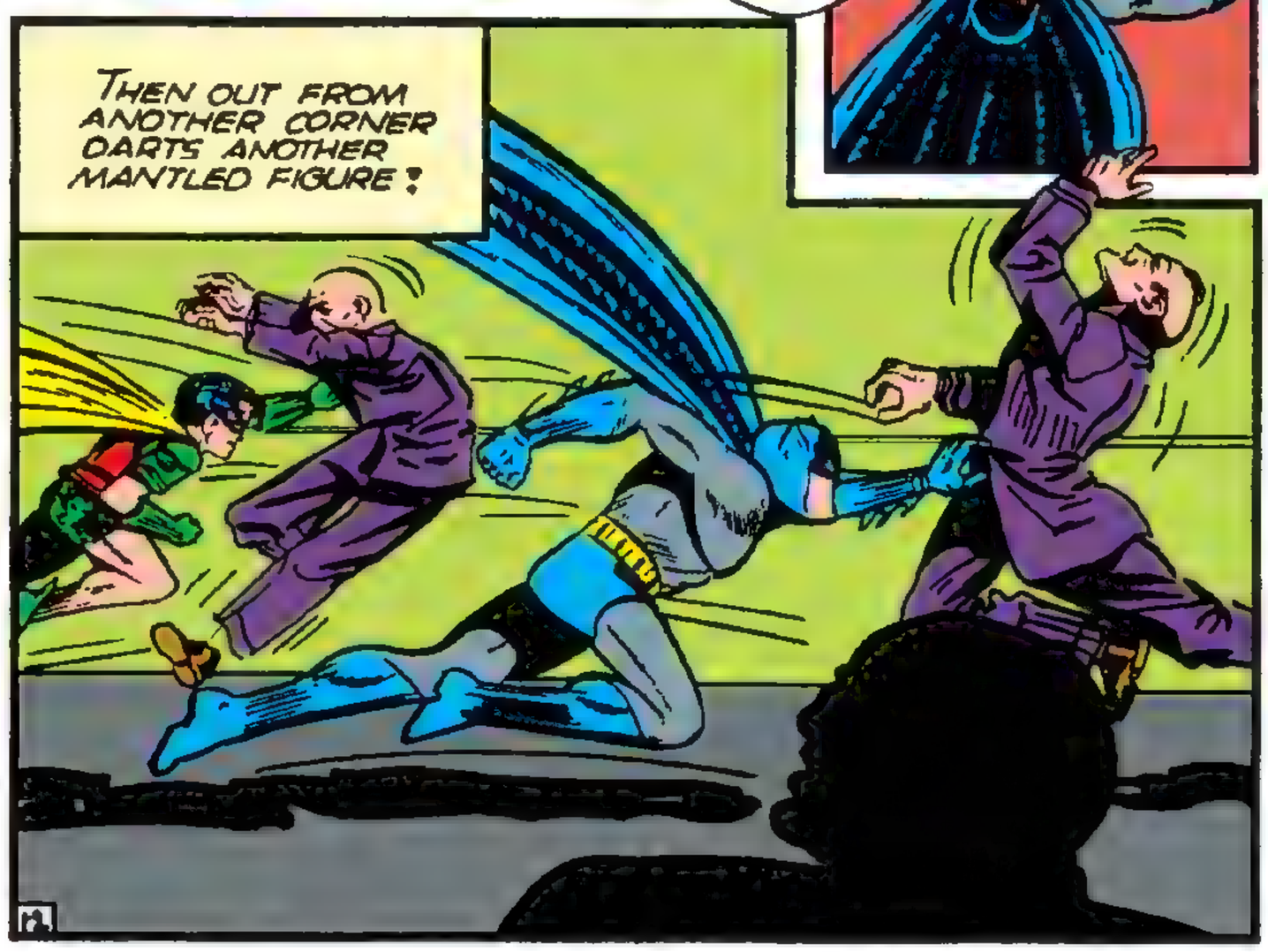

BREATHLESS MINUTES PASS--AND THEN--
HA! HE'S THROUGH! WAIT FIVE MINUTES TILL THE GAS DISSIPATES, AND THEN DRAG HIM OUT!
HE'S DEAD! THE BATMAN'S DEAD! IT DON'T SEEM POSSIBLE--

AFTER FIVE MINUTES--THE BATMAN'S LIMP BODY IS DRAGGED ALONG THE FLOOR--
THIS IS A PLEASURE I BEEN WAITIN' FOR FOR A LONG TIME!

THEN WITHOUT WARNING--THE BODY COMES TO LIFE!
MAY I HAVE MY FEET BACK, PLEASE!

THANK YOU!

THE BATMAN! ALIVE...
BUT-- IT CAN'T BE... I MEAN... HOW!


THEN OUT FROM ANOTHER CORNER DARTS ANOTHER MANTLED FIGURE!

RUSSO'S BOGUS PRISON "GUARDS" HURRY UP THE STAIRS--AND GO DOWN AGAIN EQUALLY AS FAST!
MY, MY-- SUCH EXPLOSIVE LANGUAGE!
HURRY- GET THAT GUY!
C'MON- BLAST THAT GUY TO BITS!

---THE WARDEN, I BELIEVE--- OR CAN I BE WRONG?--AND IT SEEMS I AM!

THE BATMAN SEEKS OUT RUSSO--MUCH TO THAT MAN'S DISMAY!
I'LL PLUG--- OWWW!
TCH-TCH! YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU HAD CORNS- YOU SEEM TO BE IN PAIN!

I BELIEVE I'LL PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY!

AS INMATES AND PHONEY GUARDS CHARGE FORWARD AGAIN, A VOICE CRACKS THRU THE AIR!
DROP THOSE GUNS OR YOU'RE ALL DEAD MEN!

ONE MOVE AND I DROP THESE CYANIDE EGGS INTO THE WATER. WE'LL DIE - ALL OF US!
WE'LL DROP OUR GUNS-- WON'T WE, BOYS?
OKAY, KID!

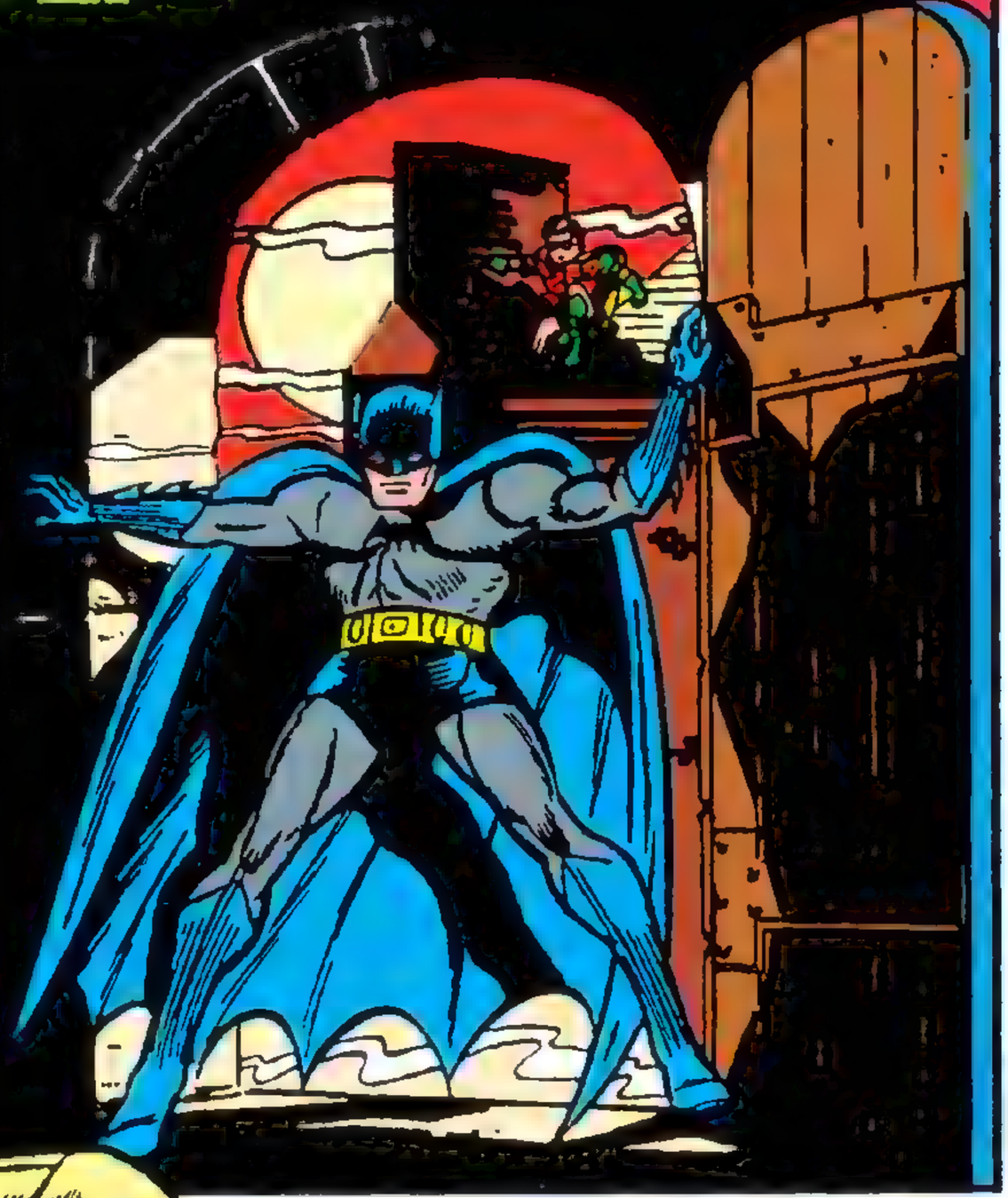
AND SO--LATER, AFTER THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED AND THRUST INTO CELLS---
ONE THING- WHY DIDN'T YOU DIE IN THE GAS CHAMBER? I SAW THE CYANIDE "EGGS" DROP-
NOT CYANIDE--BURPO SELTZER! I PALMED THIS TUBE AND AFTER I ESCAPED FROM SOLITARY I SUBSTITUTED THEM FOR THE EGGS". THEY FIZZED-
-AND SINCE THE GAS IS COLORLESS AND ODORLESS, YOU COULDN'T TELL IF IT WAS REAL OR NOT- I GUESS ROBIN SCARED YOU BOYS WITH BURPO TABLETS BEFORE, TOO! NOW WE'LL HUNT UP THE REAL WARDEN AND MARK "FINIS" TO THIS CASE-

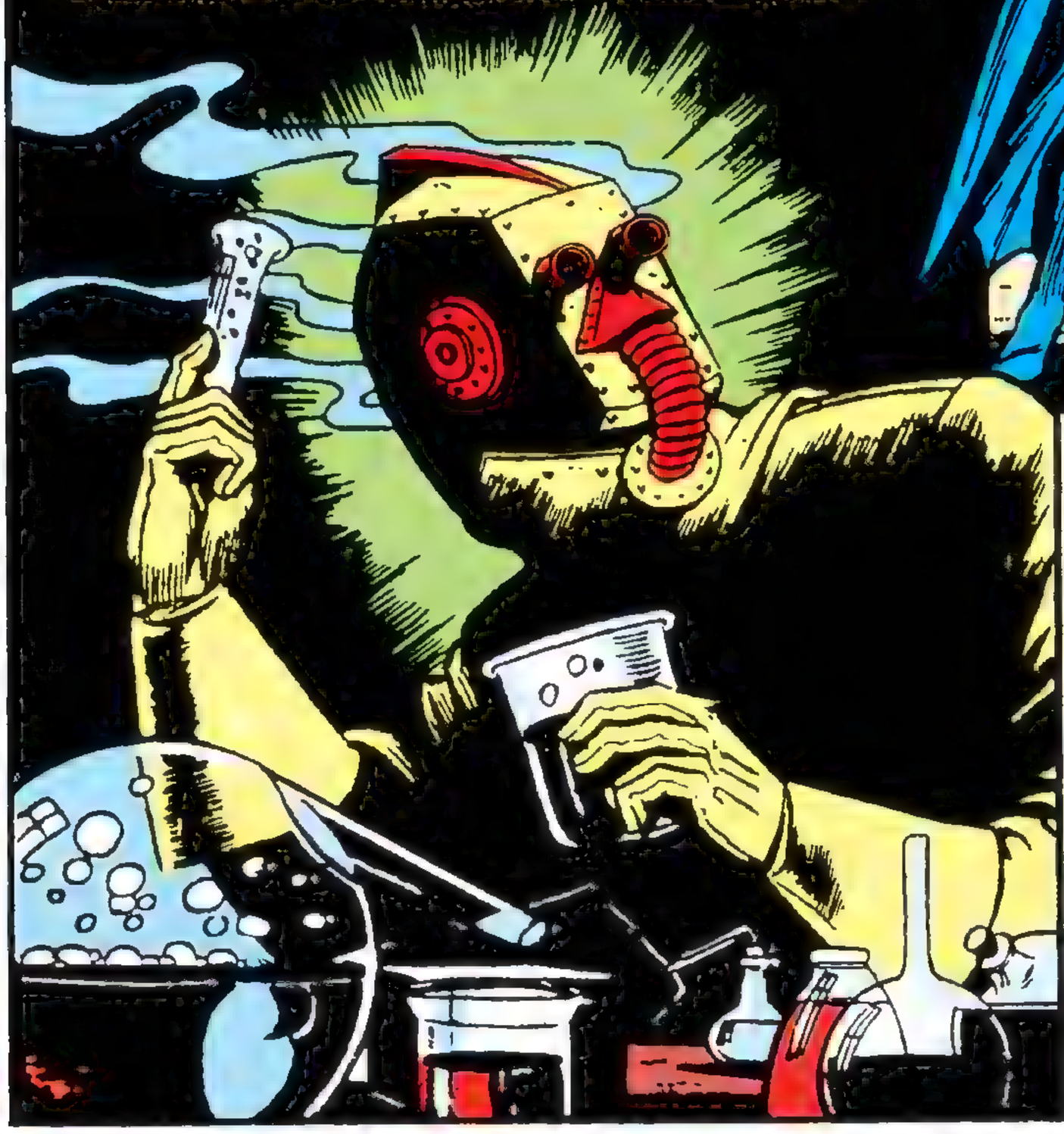
BATMAN WITH ROBIN

BATMAN AND ROBIN, SWORN ENEMIES OF CRIME, MATCH WITS WITH A SINISTER AND CLEVER MASTER OF THE WEAPONS OF SCIENCE! WHO IS THIS INCREDIBLE, EERIE FIGURE GLOWING WITH UNHOLY, FLUORESCENT LIGHT? LET US CALL HIM BY THAT DREAD NAME WHICH IS TO BECOME SO TERRIBLY FAMILIAR TO ALL ---- **Professor Radium!**

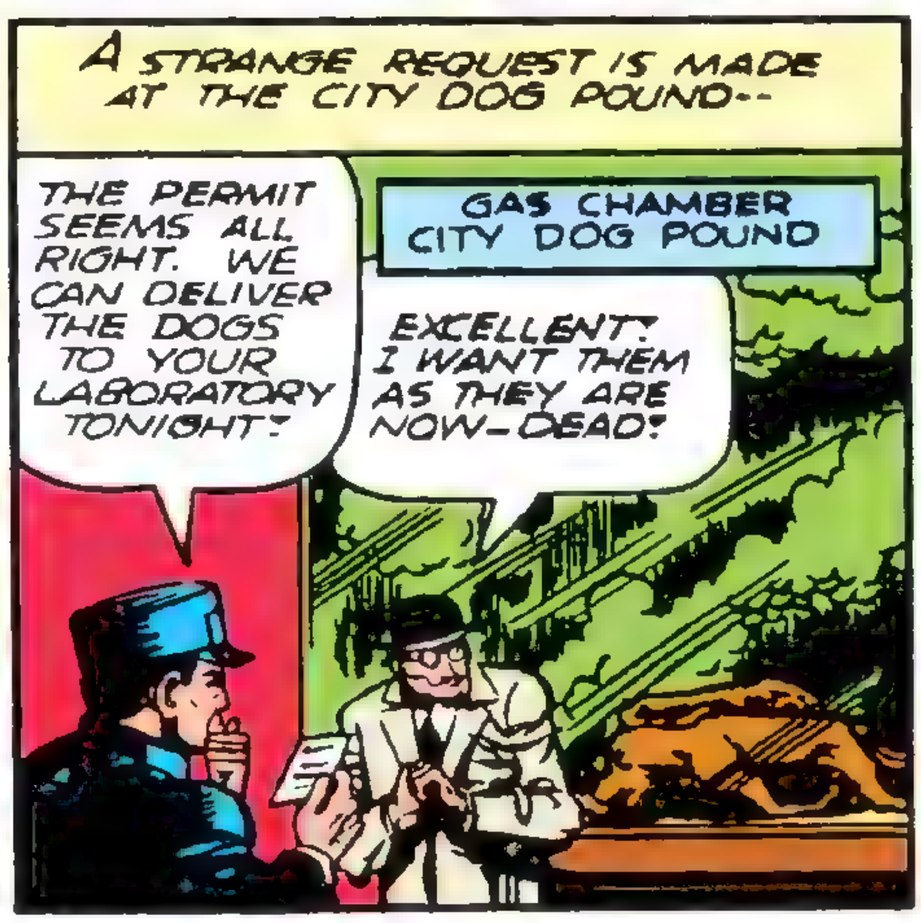
CAN THE DYNAMIC DUO COPE WITH THE STRANGE WEAPONS OF THE WORLD OF SCIENCE? CAN THEY DEFEAT A MAN WHO MUST KILL SO THAT HE MAY LIVE? HERE IS THE ANSWER IN THE MOST AMAZING OF ALL ADVENTURES CALLED--

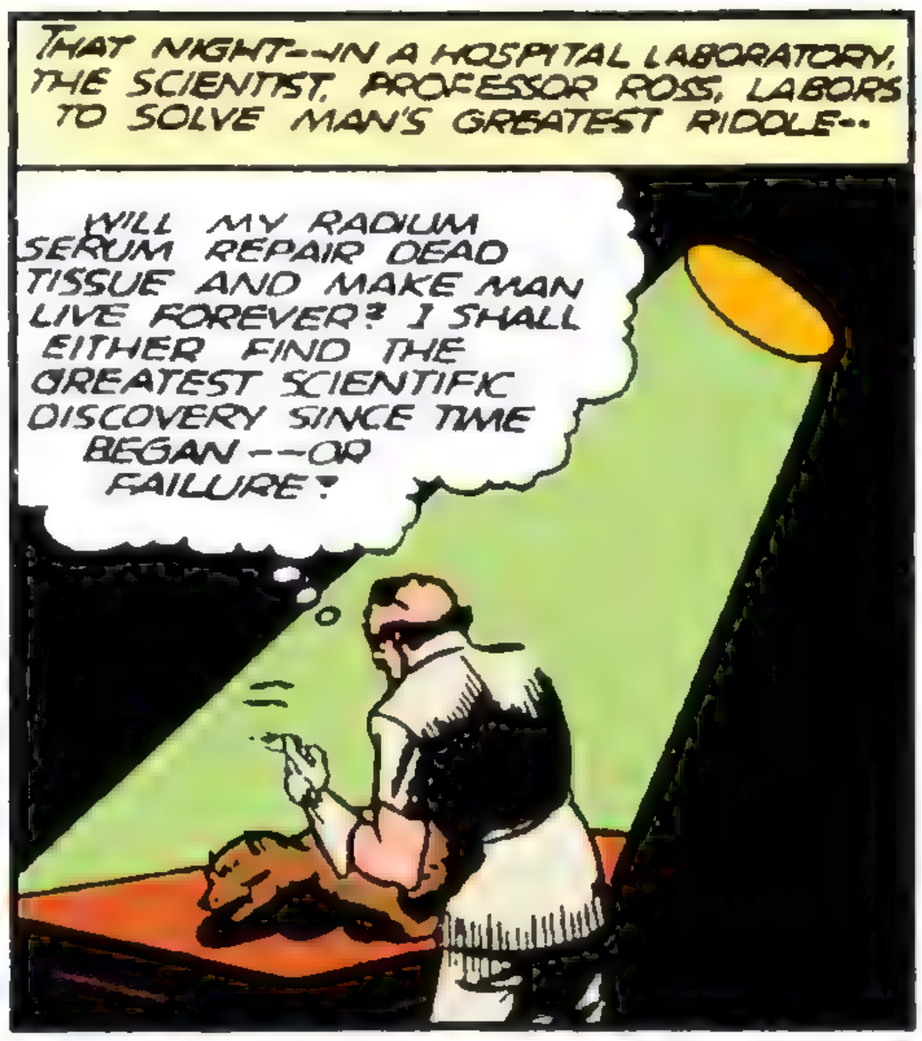
"The Strange Case of Professor Radium!"

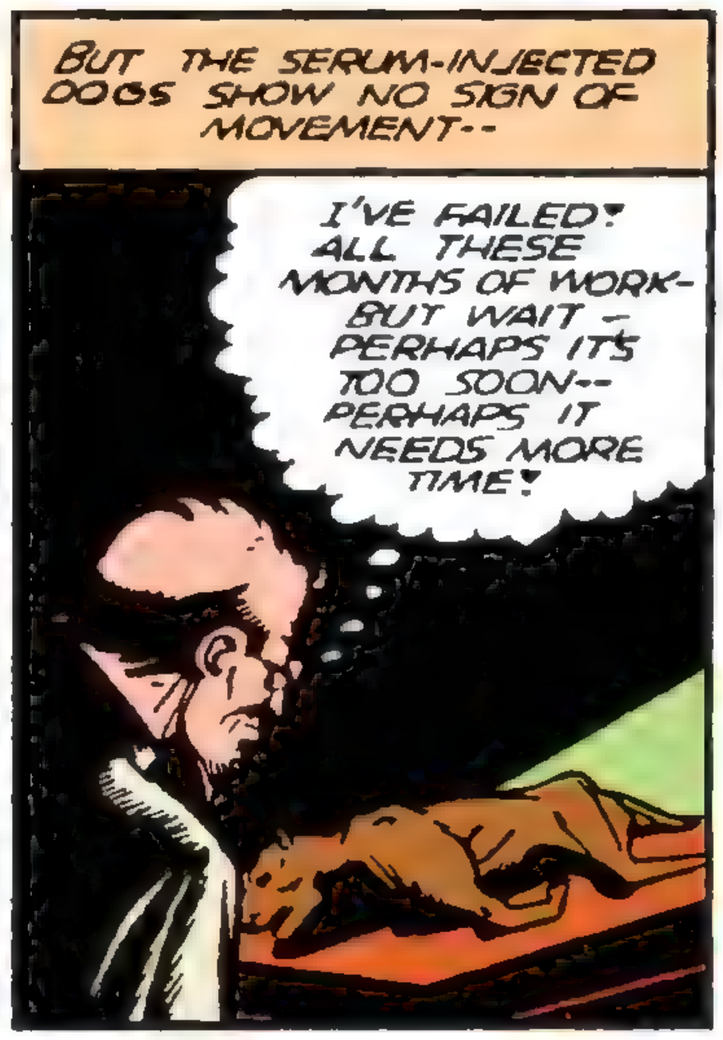


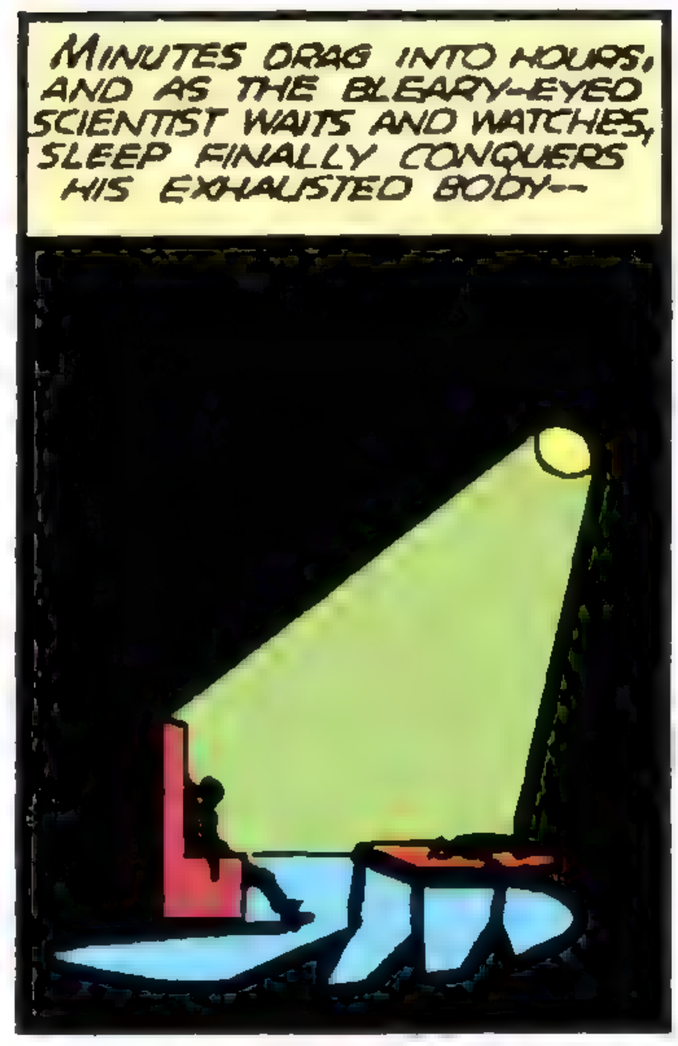


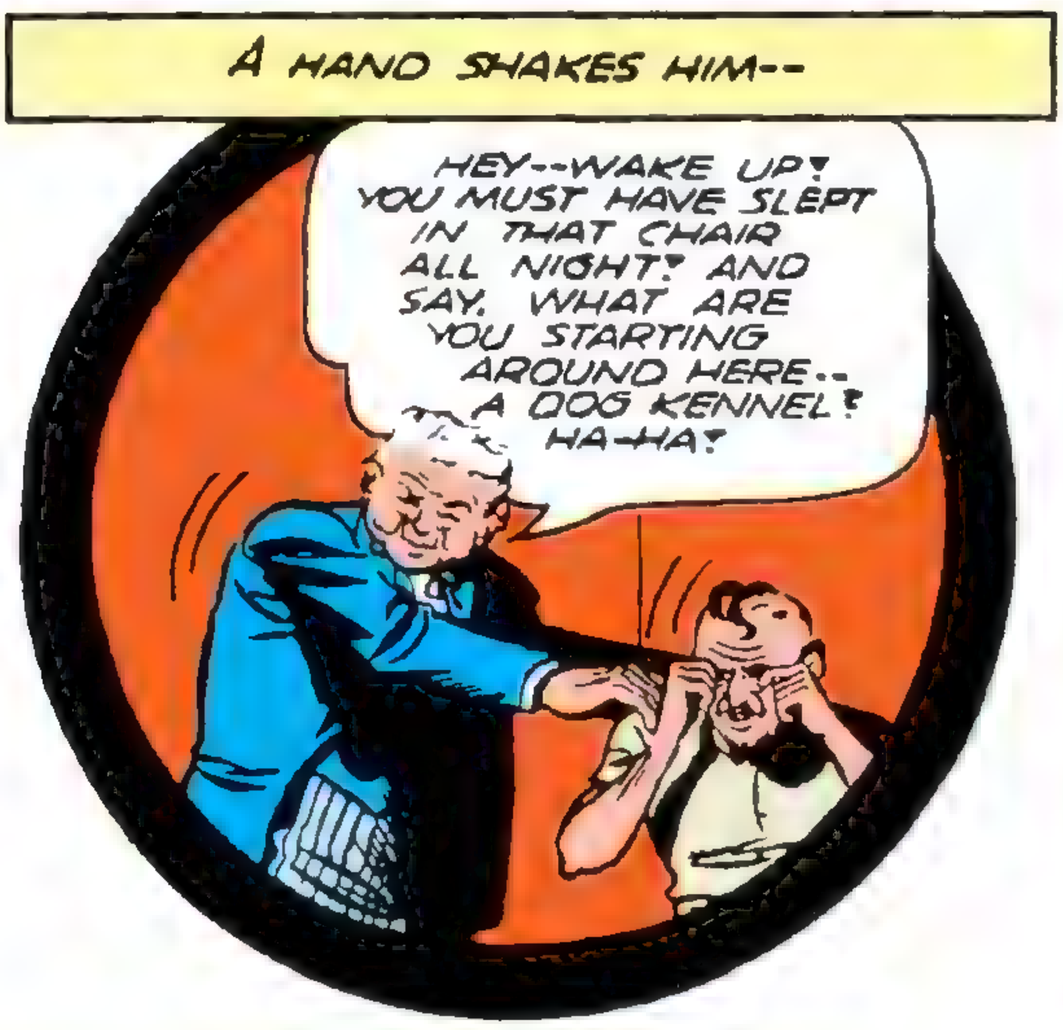
A STRANGE REQUEST IS MADE AT THE CITY DOG POUND--

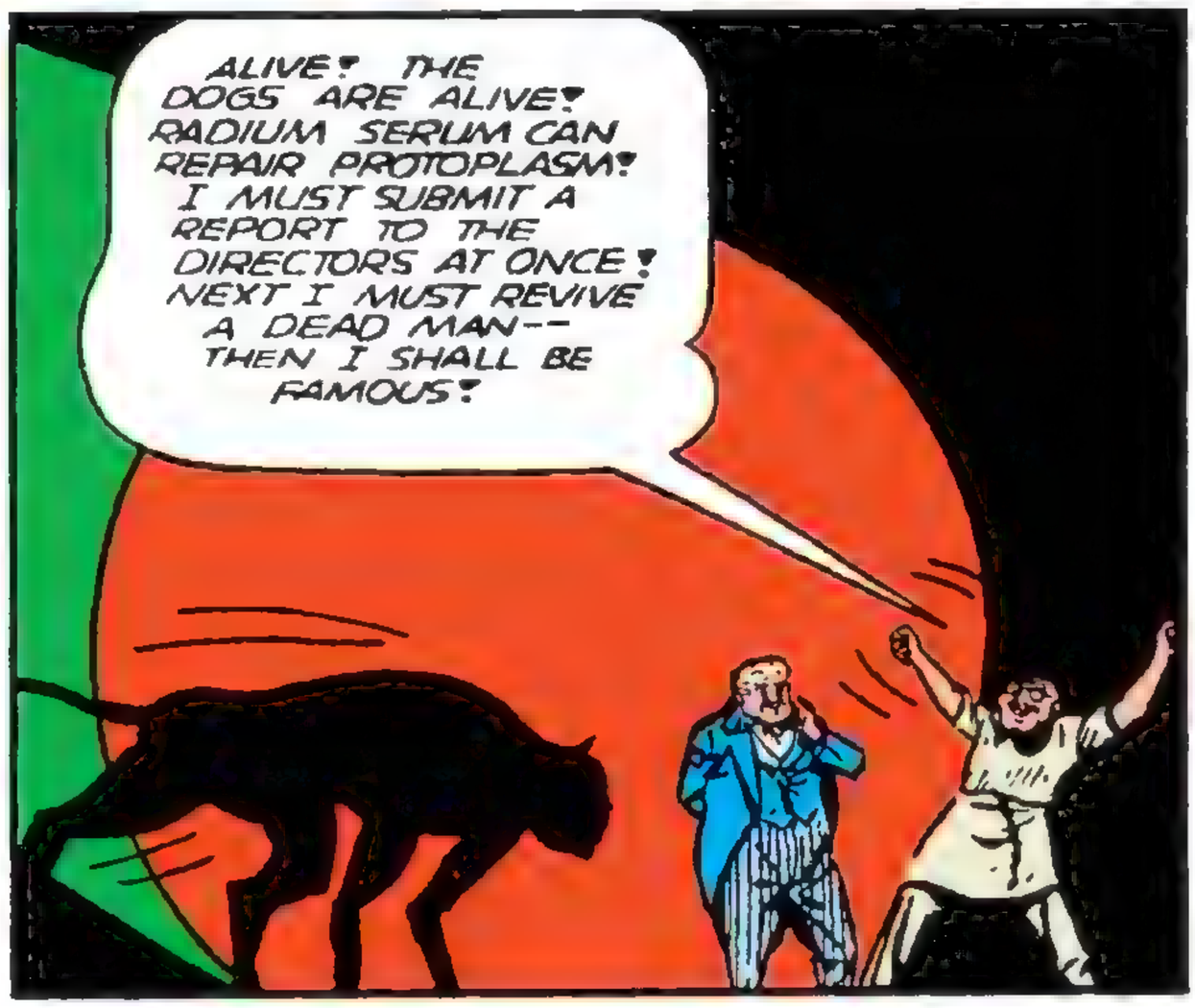


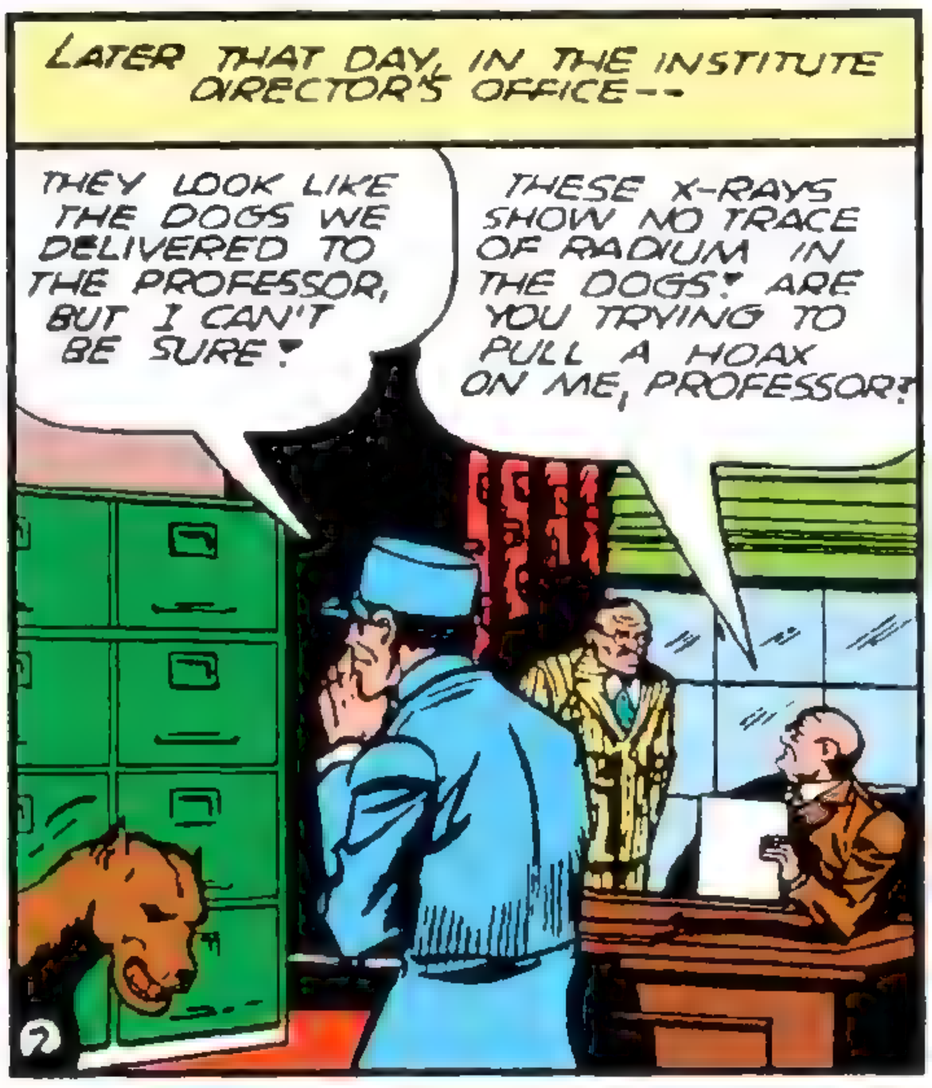

THAT NIGHT--IN A HOSPITAL LABORATORY, THE SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR ROSS, LABORS TO SOLVE MAN'S GREATEST RIDDLE--
WILL MY RADIUM SERUM REPAIR DEAD TISSUE AND MAKE MAN LIVE FOREVER? I SHALL EITHER FIND THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY SINCE TIME BEGAN--OR FAILURE!


BUT THE SERUM-INJECTED DOGS SHOW NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT--
I'VE FAILED! ALL THESE MONTHS OF WORK- BUT WAIT - PERHAPS IT'S TOO SOON-- PERHAPS IT NEEDS MORE TIME!

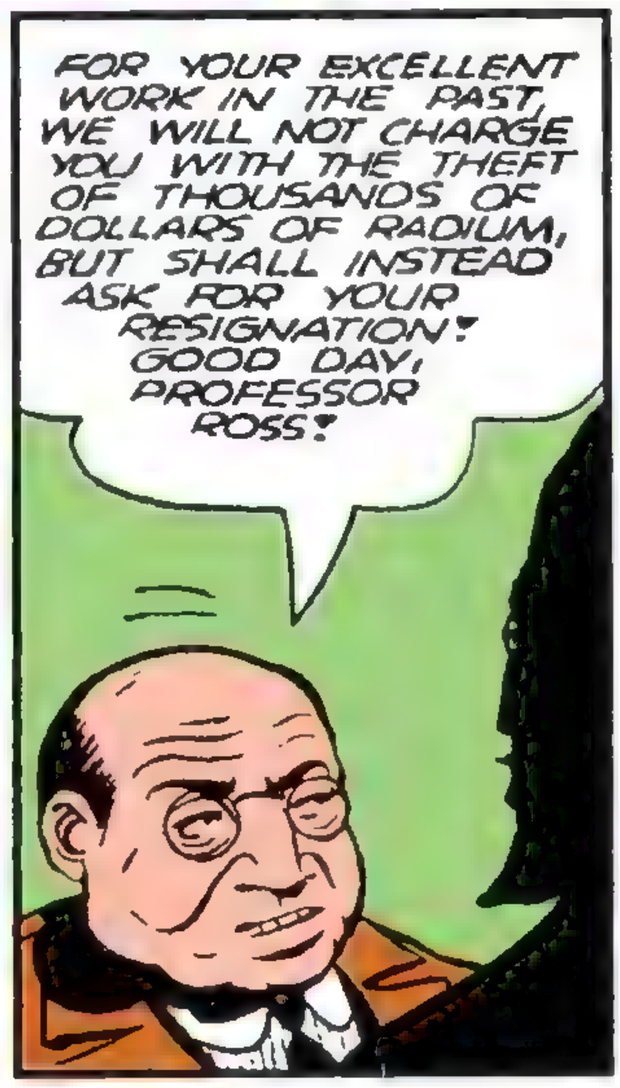

MINUTES DRAG INTO HOURS, AND AS THE BLEARY-EYED SCIENTIST WAITS AND WATCHES, SLEEP FINALLY CONQUERS HIS EXHAUSTED BODY--


A HAND SHAKES HIM--
HEY--WAKE UP! YOU MUST HAVE SLEPT IN THAT CHAIR ALL NIGHT! AND SAY, WHAT ARE YOU STARTING AROUND HERE-- A DOG KENNEL? HA-HA!

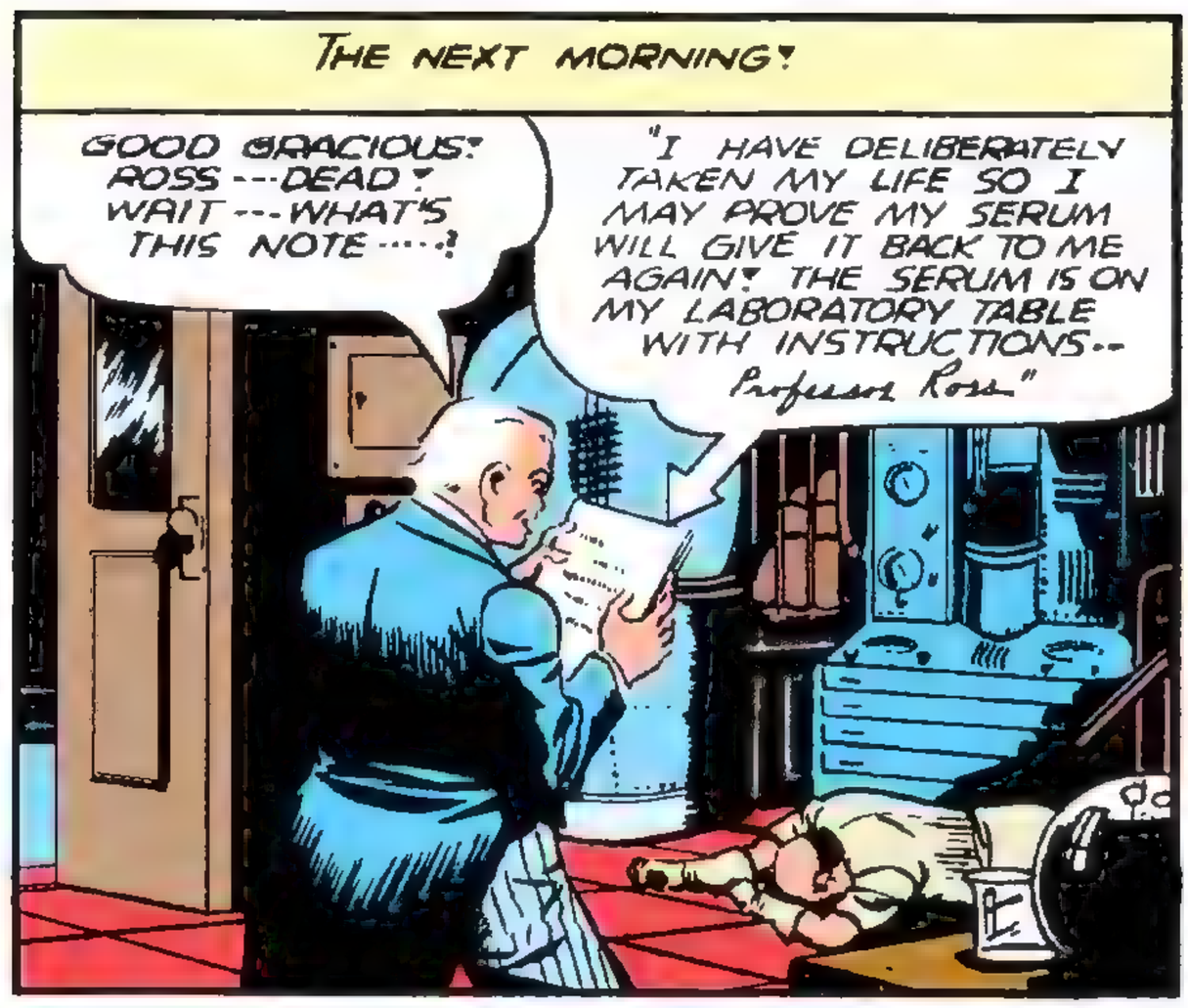

ALIVE! THE DOGS ARE ALIVE! RADIUM SERUM CAN REPAIR PROTOPLASM! I MUST SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS AT ONCE! NEXT I MUST REVIVE A DEAD MAN-- THEN I SHALL BE FAMOUS!


LATER THAT DAY, IN THE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE--
THEY LOOK LIKE THE DOGS WE DELIVERED TO THE PROFESSOR, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE!
THESE X-RAYS SHOW NO TRACE OF RADIUM IN THE DOGS! ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL A HOAX ON ME, PROFESSOR?

OF COURSE NOT! I'LL BRING ANOTHER DOG TO LIFE AND PROVE MY CLAIM IS TRUE!
A LIVE DOG COULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A DEAD ONE, YOU KNOW! YOUR LIFE-RENEWING CLAIM SEEMS ABSURD! PERHAPS YOU HAVE APPROPRIATED THE RADIUM FOR YOUR OWN PRIVATE USE.


FOR YOUR EXCELLENT WORK IN THE PAST, WE WILL NOT CHARGE YOU WITH THE THEFT OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF RADIUM, BUT SHALL INSTEAD ASK FOR YOUR RESIGNATION! GOOD DAY, PROFESSOR ROSS!

BAH! I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT A TRUE SCIENTIST IS!... A MAN WHO IS WILLING TO EXPERIMENT ON HIMSELF TO PROVE TO THE WORLD HE'S RIGHT!
POISON XXX

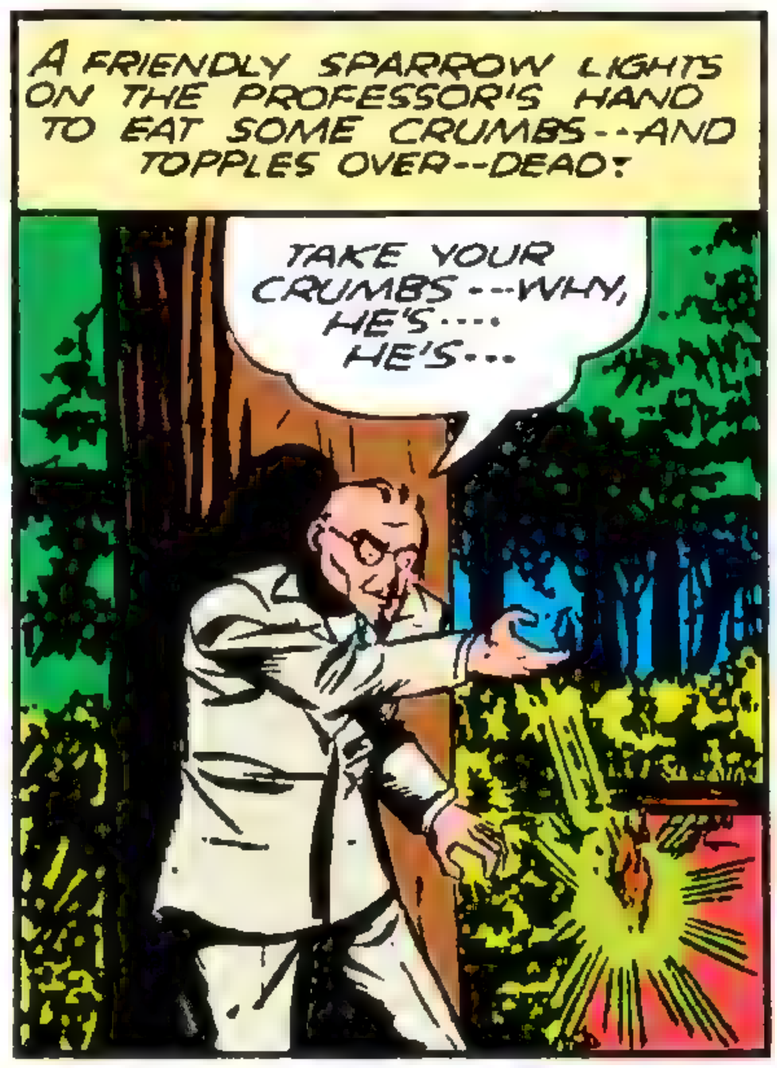

THE NEXT MORNING!
GOOD GRACIOUS! ROSS---DEAD! WAIT---WHAT'S THIS NOTE....!
"I HAVE DELIBERATELY TAKEN MY LIFE SO I MAY PROVE MY SERUM WILL GIVE IT BACK TO ME AGAIN! THE SERUM IS ON MY LABORATORY TABLE WITH INSTRUCTIONS-- Professor Ross"

WITH FEVERISH HASTE, JOHNSTON INJECTS THE SERUM INTO THE BRAVE PROFESSOR...AND WAITS UNTIL...
HE...HE'S MOVING! IT'S INCREDIBLE-- BUT HE'S ALIVE!
OHHHH!

LATER, JOHNSTON EXAMINES A DROP OF THE PROFESSOR'S BLOOD UNDER A MICROSCOPE...
AMAZING! THE BLOOD IS COMPLETELY FREE OF RADIUM!
I'M GOING HOME TO PREPARE MY PAPER EXPLAINING THE EXPERIMENT— I WANT TO SPRING IT AS A SURPRISE ON THE DIRECTOR!

AFTER WORKING MANY TEDIOUS HOURS, THE PROFESSOR RELAXES A FEW MOMENTS IN HIS GARDEN--
MMM!

SURPRISINGLY, THE FLOWER WITHERS IN HIS HAND!

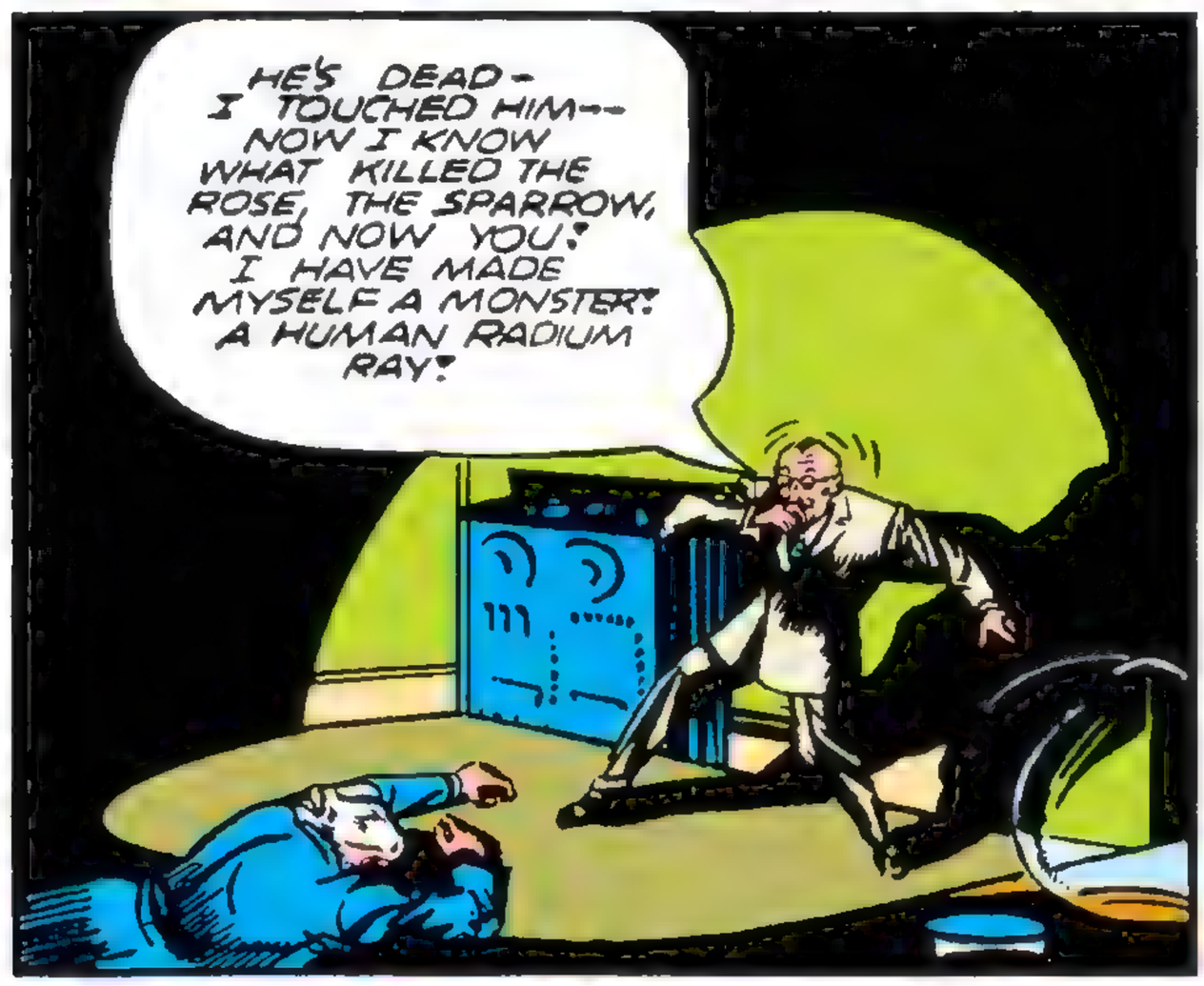

A FRIENDLY SPARROW LIGHTS ON THE PROFESSOR'S HAND TO EAT SOME CRUMBS--AND TOPPLES OVER--DEAD!
TAKE YOUR CRUMBS---WHY, HE'S.... HE'S...

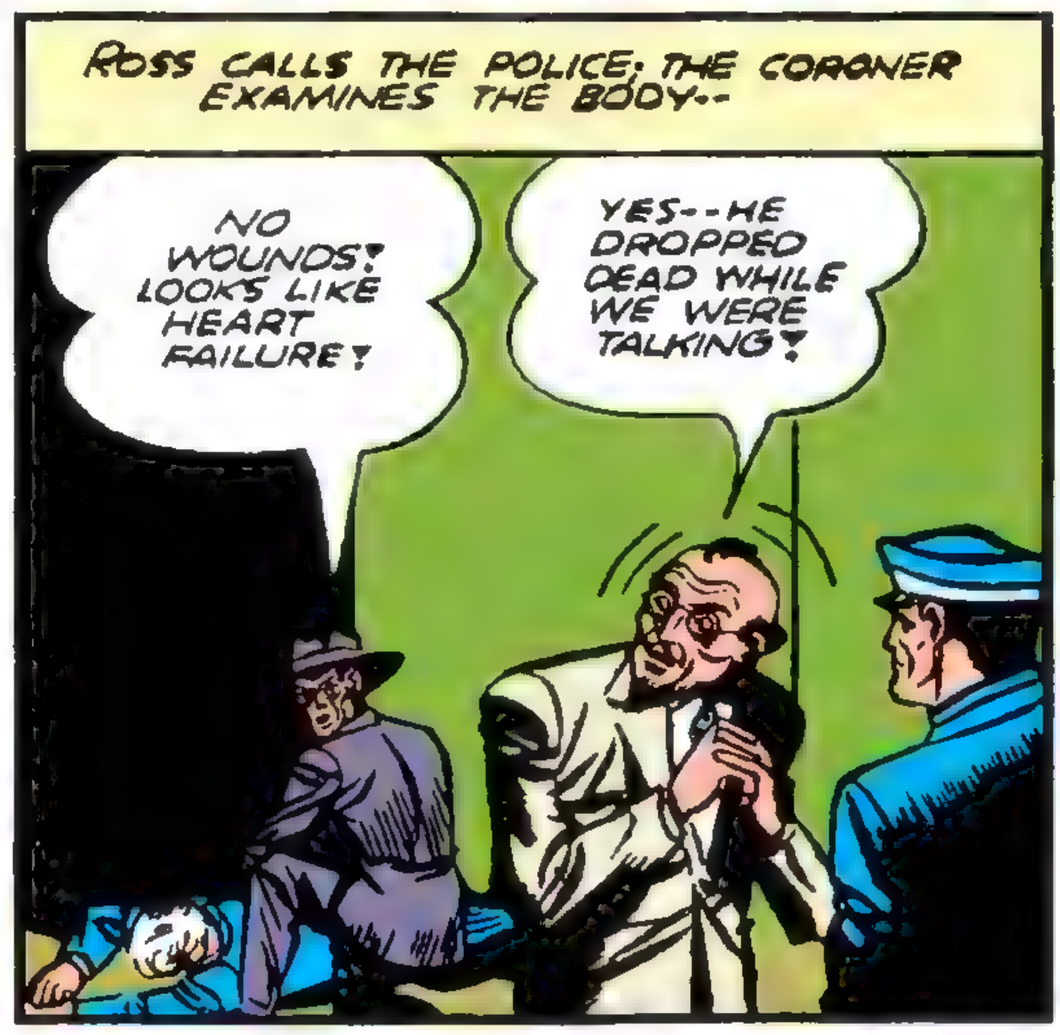
LATER THAT DAY--
ROSS..I EXAMINED THAT SLIDE AGAIN--AND THERE ARE DEFINITE TRACES OF RADIUM!
WHAT? QUICK! TAKE AN X-RAY OF MY BONE STRUCTURE IN MY LABORATORY!

ONCE IN A DARK LABORATORY, JOHNSTON SUDDENLY GASPS- THE PROFESSOR'S BODY GLOWS EERILY WITH A GREEN RADIANT LIGHT.
LOOK AT YOUR BODY!
AGGH!

WHEN THE LIGHT IS FINALLY SWITCHED ON--
YOU SAW IT -- WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?

JOHNSTON, DO YOU SUPPOSE-- WHY---
OH!


HE'S DEAD- I TOUCHED HIM-- NOW I KNOW WHAT KILLED THE ROSE, THE SPARROW, AND NOW YOU! I HAVE MADE MYSELF A MONSTER! A HUMAN RADIUM RAY!


ROSS CALLS THE POLICE; THE CORONER EXAMINES THE BODY--
NO WOUNDS! LOOKS LIKE HEART FAILURE!
YES--HE DROPPED DEAD WHILE WE WERE TALKING!

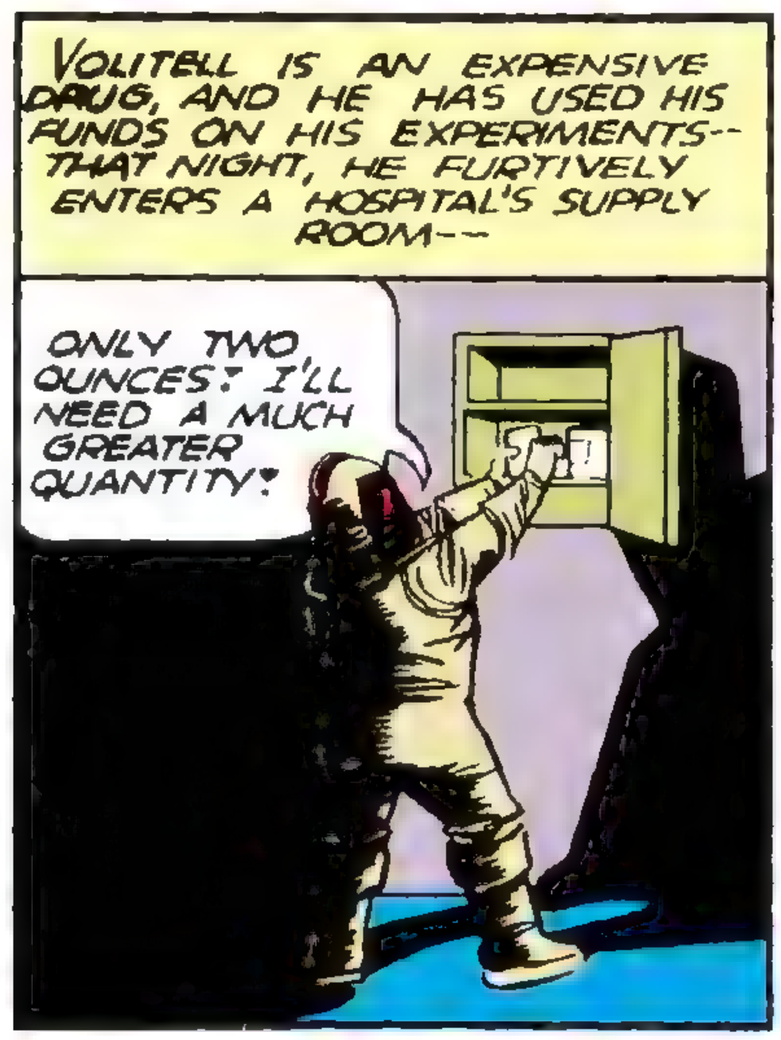
QUEER FELLOW! LEAVING, I WENT TO SHAKE HANDS. HE AVOIDED IT-

I MIGHT HAVE KILLED THAT CORONER HAD I TOUCHED HIM! I MUST FIND AN ANTIDOTE BEFORE I CAUSE SOMEONE'S DEATH!

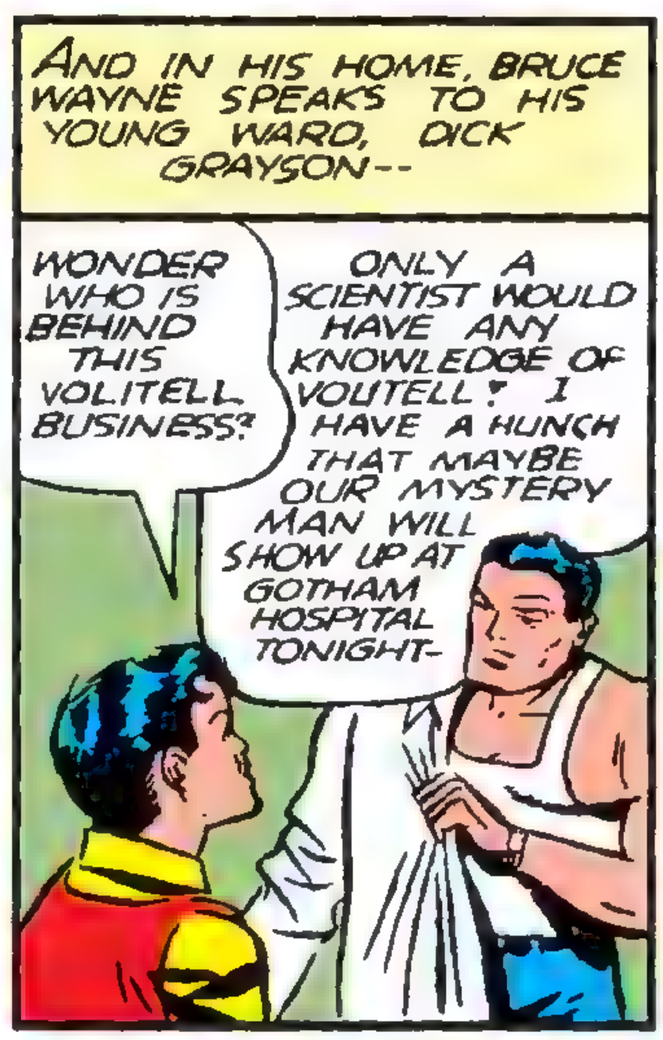
HE WORKS FEVERISHLY NIGHT AND DAY, WHEN---
I'VE GOT IT! THE ANTIDOTE- MY BLOOD SHOWS LESS RADIUM ACTIVITIES AFTER EACH INJECTION! VOLITELL WILL MAKE ME WELL AGAIN-

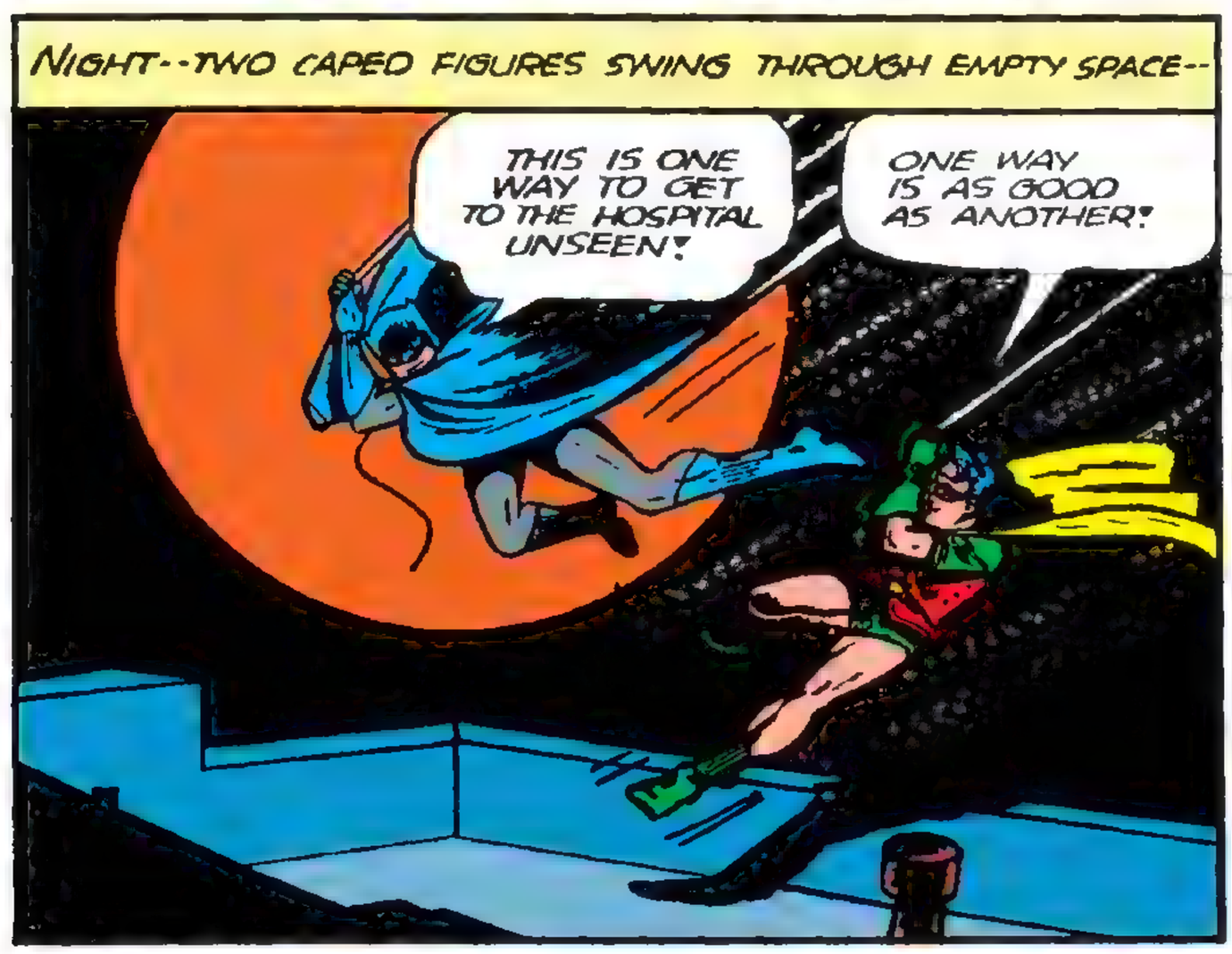
BUT ALL DOESN'T GO WELL--HE FINDS THAT VOLITELL WEARS OFF AFTER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS---
IT'S HORRIBLE--- I'VE CHANGED BACK TO RADIUM AGAIN!... I'VE NO MORE VOLITELL SERUM TO MAKE ME NORMAL-- I MUST GET VOLITELL-- BUT FIRST, I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE NO ONE ELSE WILL DIE--

HE FASHIONS A SUIT WOVEN FROM A RUBBEROID-LEAD COMPOSITION-- A GARB THROUGH WHICH THE DEADLY RADIUM RAYS WILL NOT PASS-
IT LOOKS BIZARRE, BUT WILL PROTECT ANYBODY WHO MIGHT CONTACT MY RADIUM-CHARGED BODY--NOW I CAN GO AFTER THE VOLITELL!

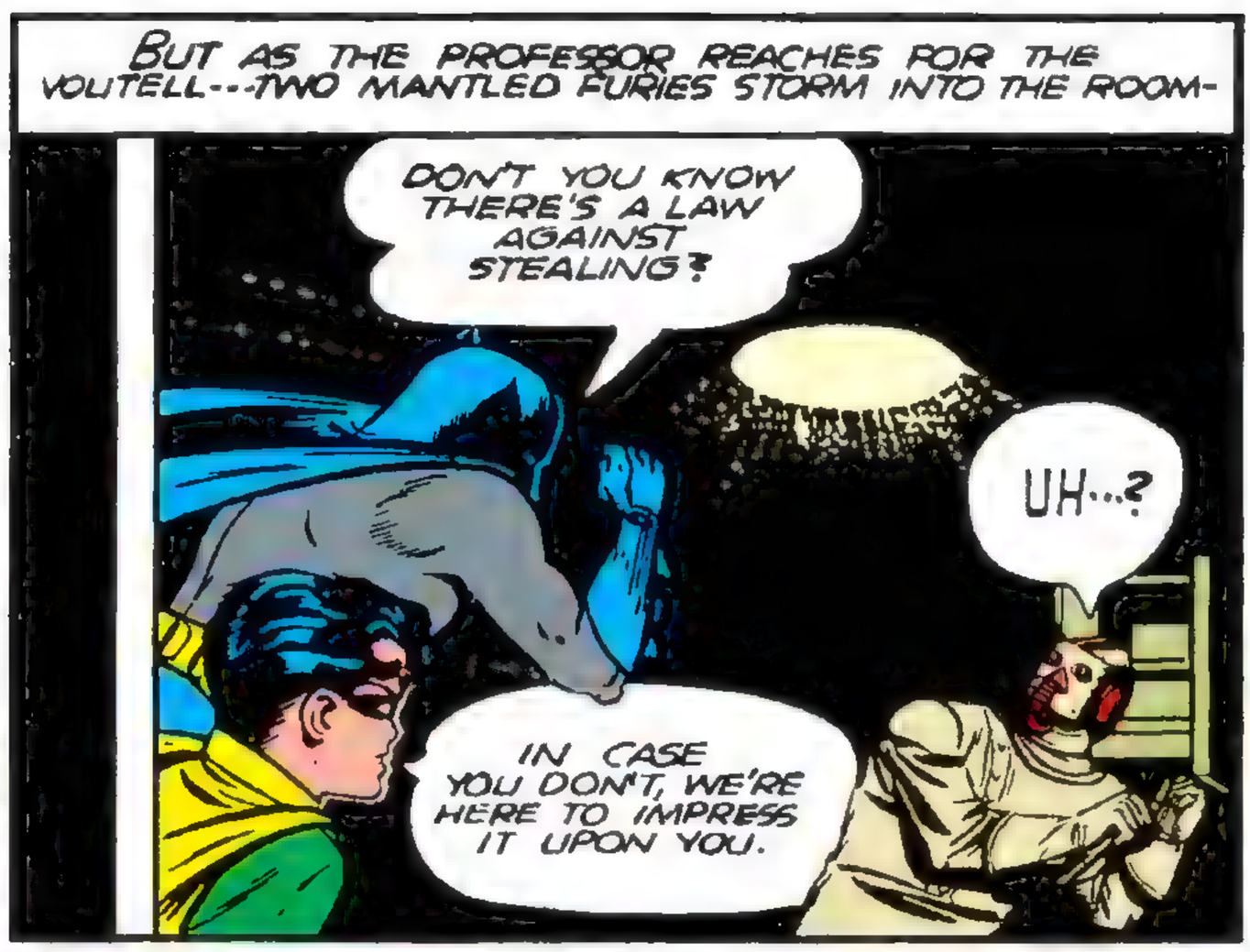

VOLITELL IS AN EXPENSIVE DRUG, AND HE HAS USED HIS FUNDS ON HIS EXPERIMENTS-- THAT NIGHT, HE FURTIVELY ENTERS A HOSPITAL'S SUPPLY ROOM--
ONLY TWO OUNCES! I'LL NEED A MUCH GREATER QUANTITY!

AS THE DESPERATE SCIENTIST STEALS MORE AND MORE VOLITELL, NEWSPAPERS TELL AN AMAZING STORY---
DARING HOSPITAL ROBBERIES-VOLITELL DRUG STOLEN
VOLITELL, VALUABLE DRUG SUPPLY, STOLEN BY A FANTASTIC FIGURE
I MUST HAVE MORE VOLITELL!

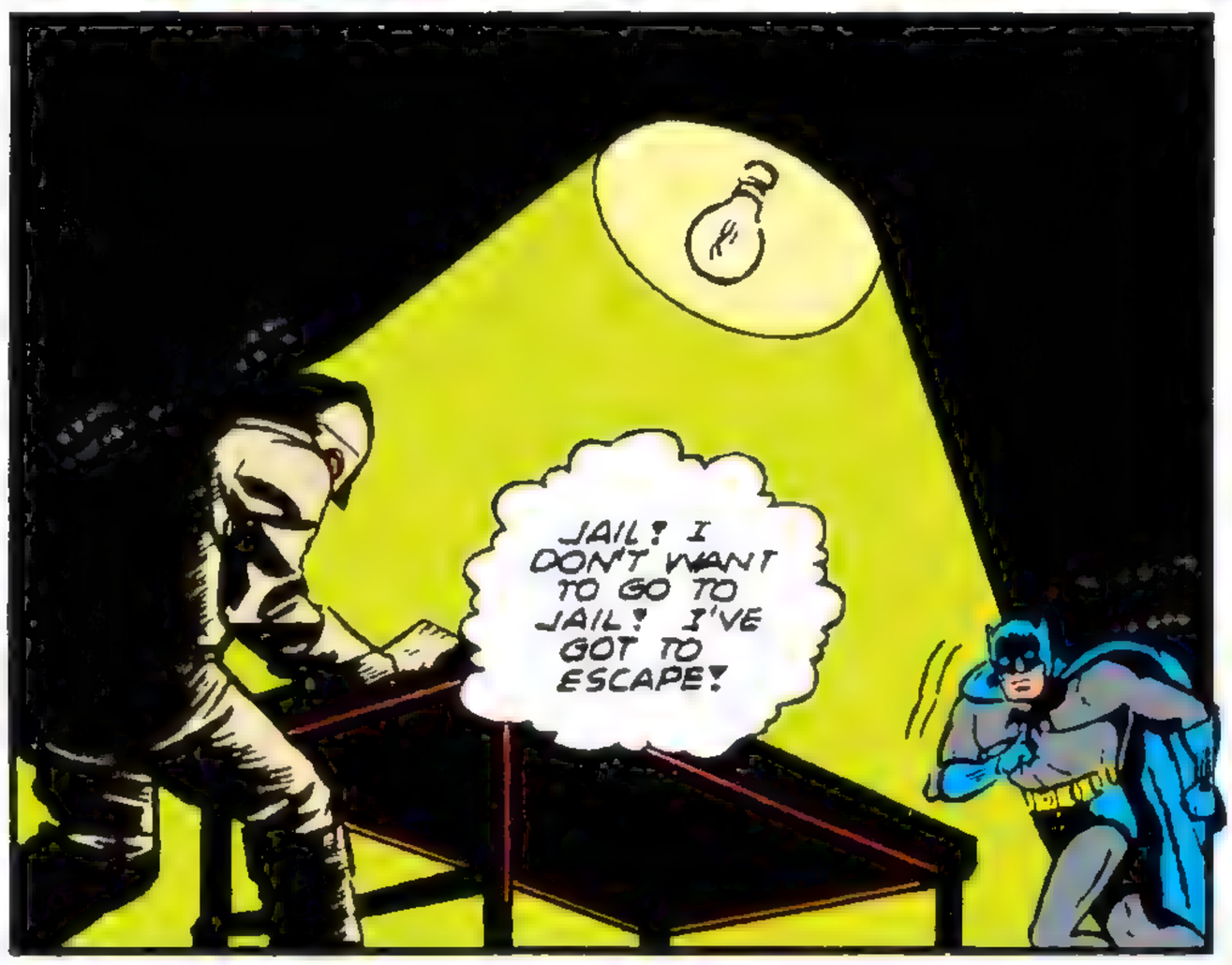

AND IN HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE SPEAKS TO HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON--
WONDER WHO IS BEHIND THIS VOLITELL BUSINESS?
ONLY A SCIENTIST WOULD HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF VOLITELL! I HAVE A HUNCH THAT MAYBE OUR MYSTERY MAN WILL SHOW UP AT GOTHAM HOSPITAL TONIGHT-

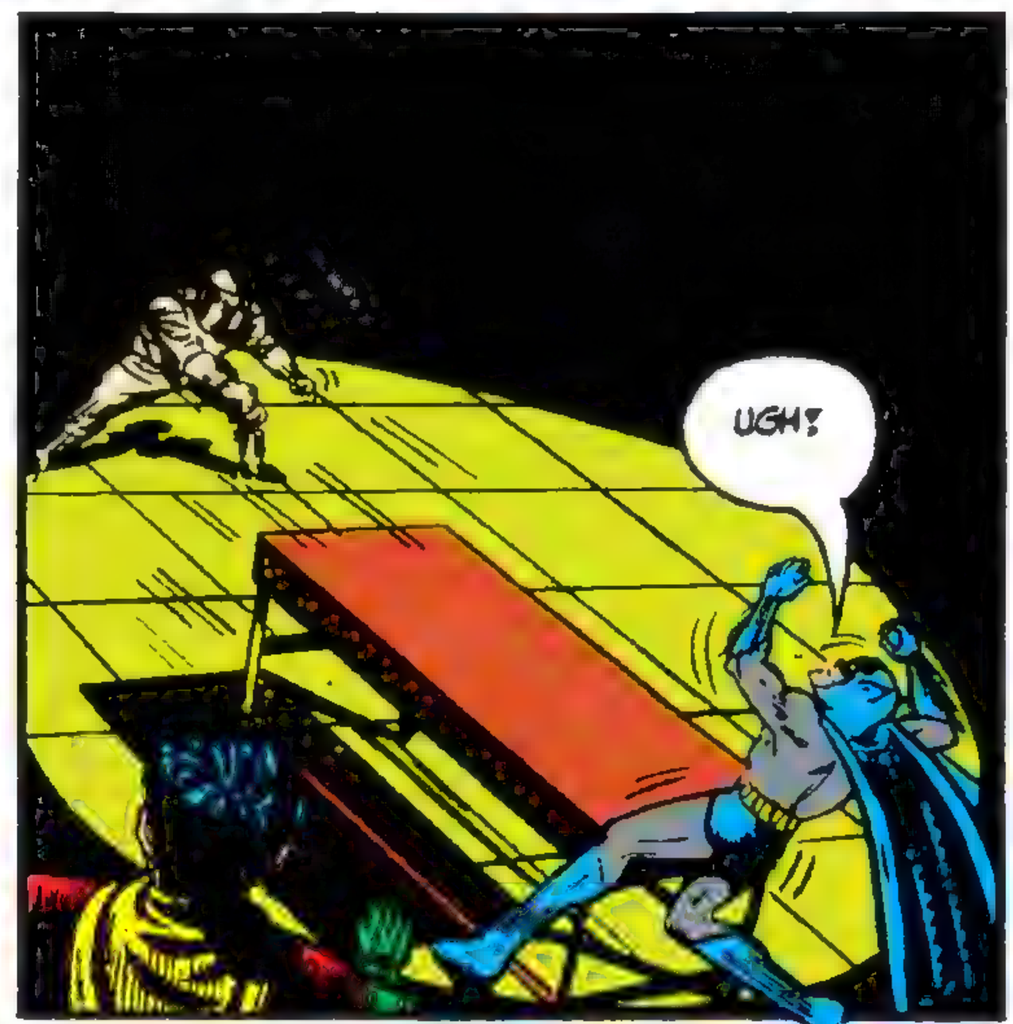

NIGHT--TWO CAPED FIGURES SWING THROUGH EMPTY SPACE--
THIS IS ONE WAY TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL UNSEEN!
ONE WAY IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER!

THE PROFESSOR HAS REMAINED HIDDEN INSIDE THE HOSPITAL ALL DAY LONG-
I CAN SLIP PAST THOSE GUARDS EASILY ENOUGH AND GET INTO THE SUPPLY ROOM!


BUT AS THE PROFESSOR REACHES FOR THE VOLTELL---TWO MANTLED FURIES STORM INTO THE ROOM-
DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A LAW AGAINST STEALING?
UH...?
IN CASE YOU DON'T, WE'RE HERE TO IMPRESS IT UPON YOU.

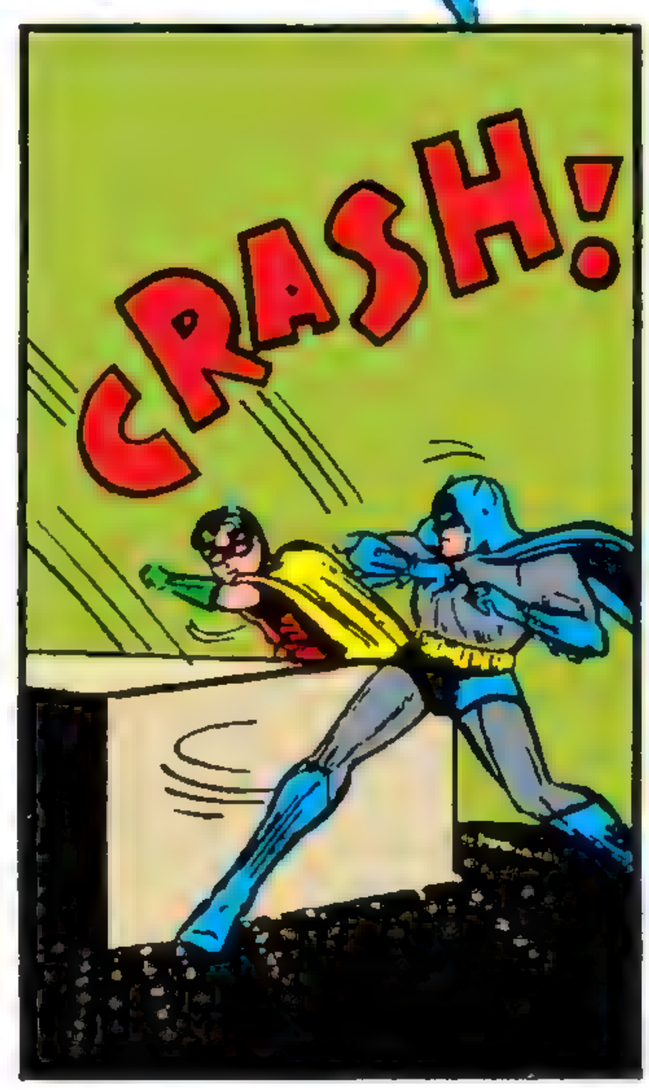
SORRY, MISTER...BUT YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL!

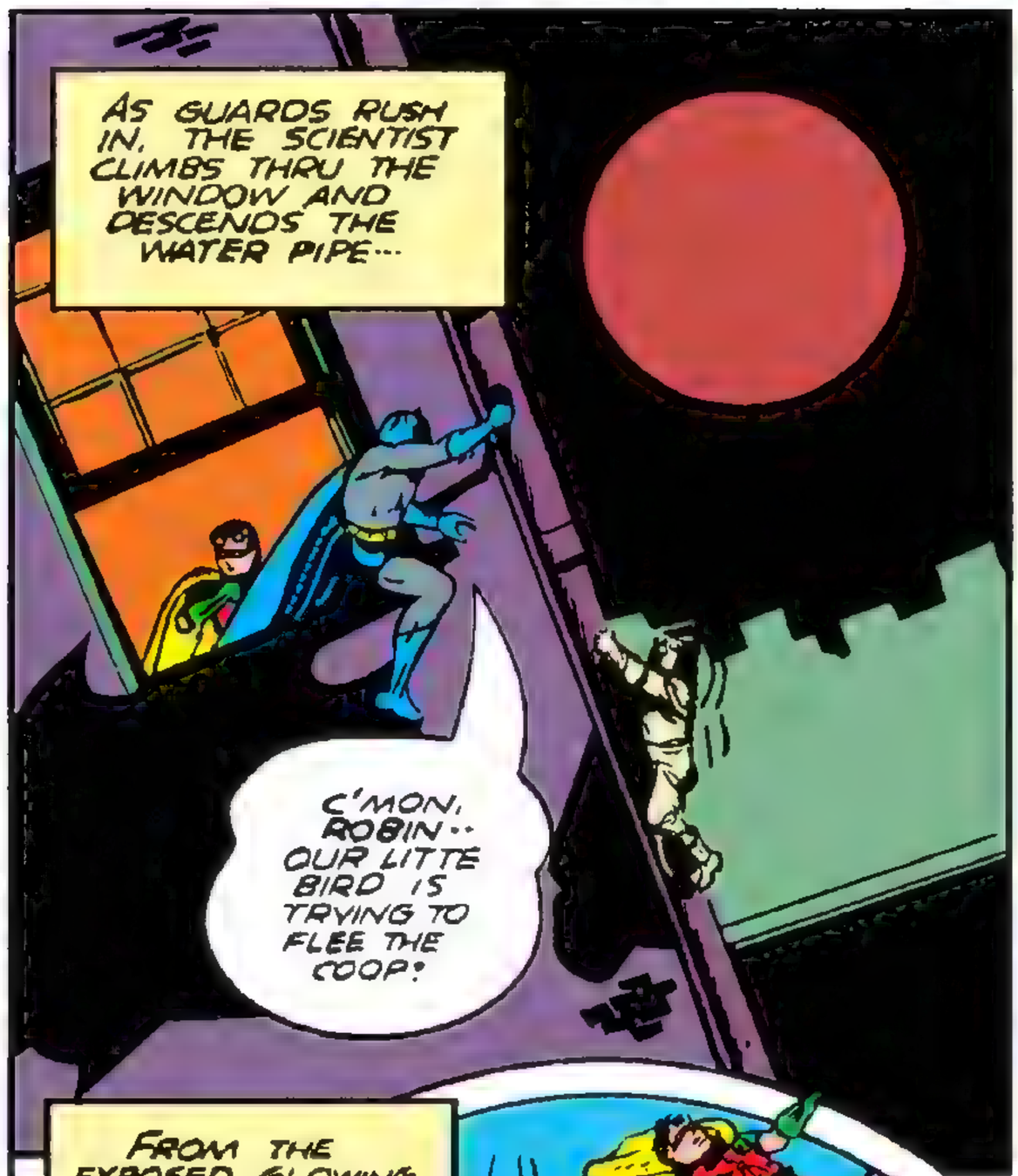

JAIL! I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL! I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!


UGH!

THE FEAR-MADDENED PROFESSOR HURLS RAZOR-EDGED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AT THE CHARGING ROBIN....
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE ME TO JAIL!
WOW! THIS FELLA IS TRYING TO GIVE ME A FREE OPERATION-
6

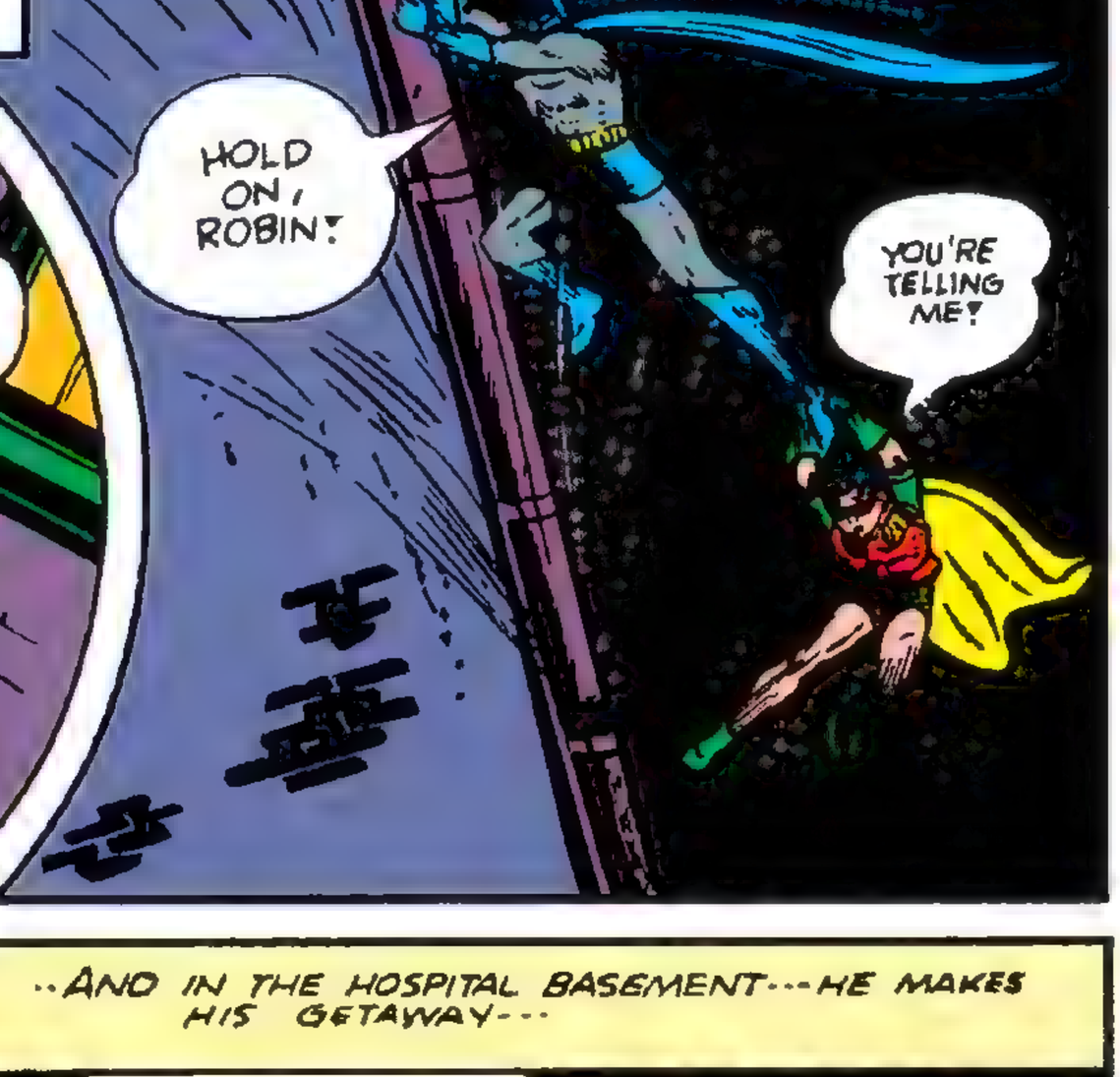
AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN CHARGE ANEW, THE PROFESSOR PUSHES AN INSTRUMENT CLOSET OVER THEM-
HOLY SMOKE! THIS BABY IS FULL OF TRICKS!


CRASH!

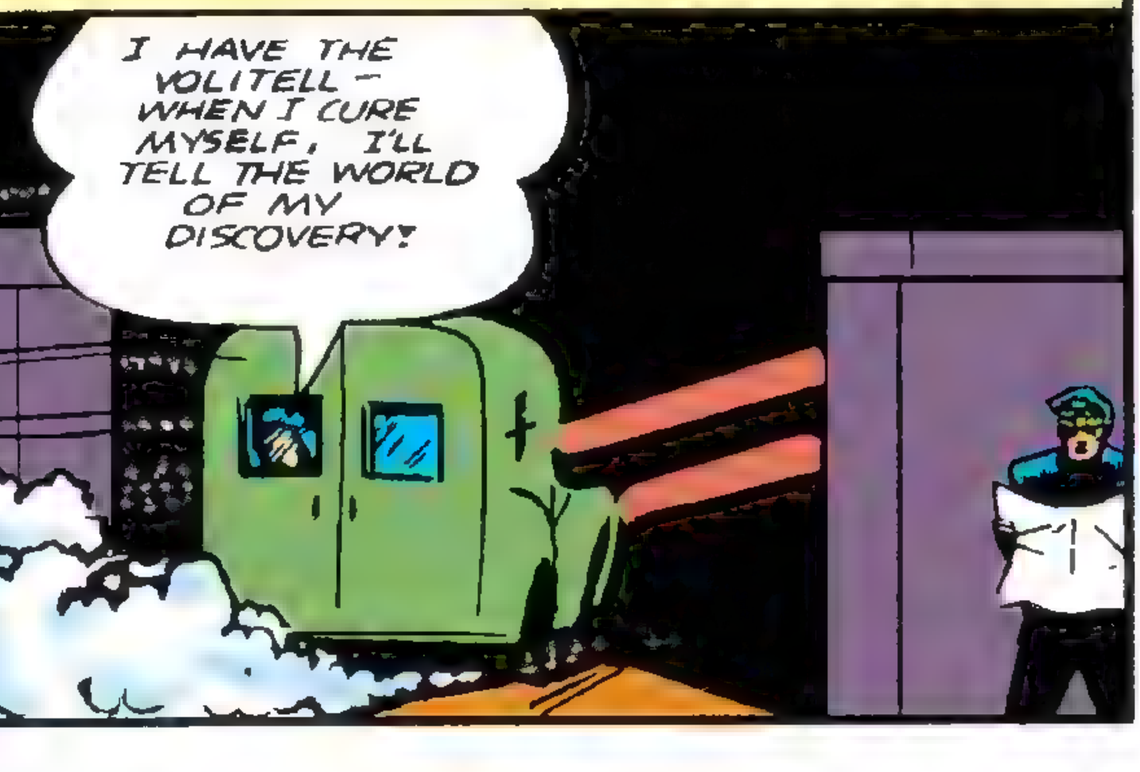

AS GUARDS RUSH IN, THE SCIENTIST CLIMBS THRU THE WINDOW AND DESCENDS THE WATER PIPE...
C'MON, ROBIN.. OUR LITTE BIRD IS TRYING TO FLEE THE COOP!

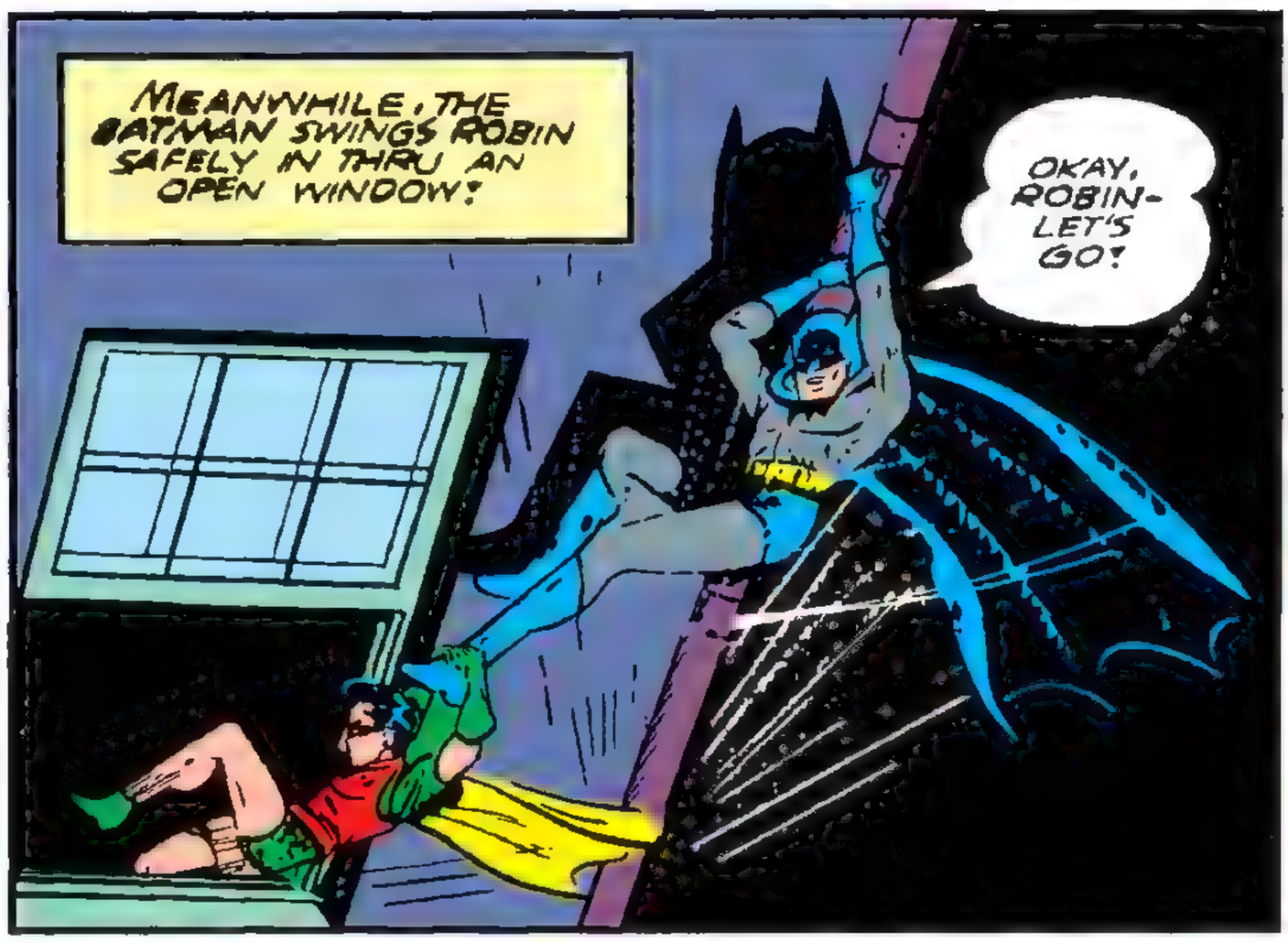
I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM--

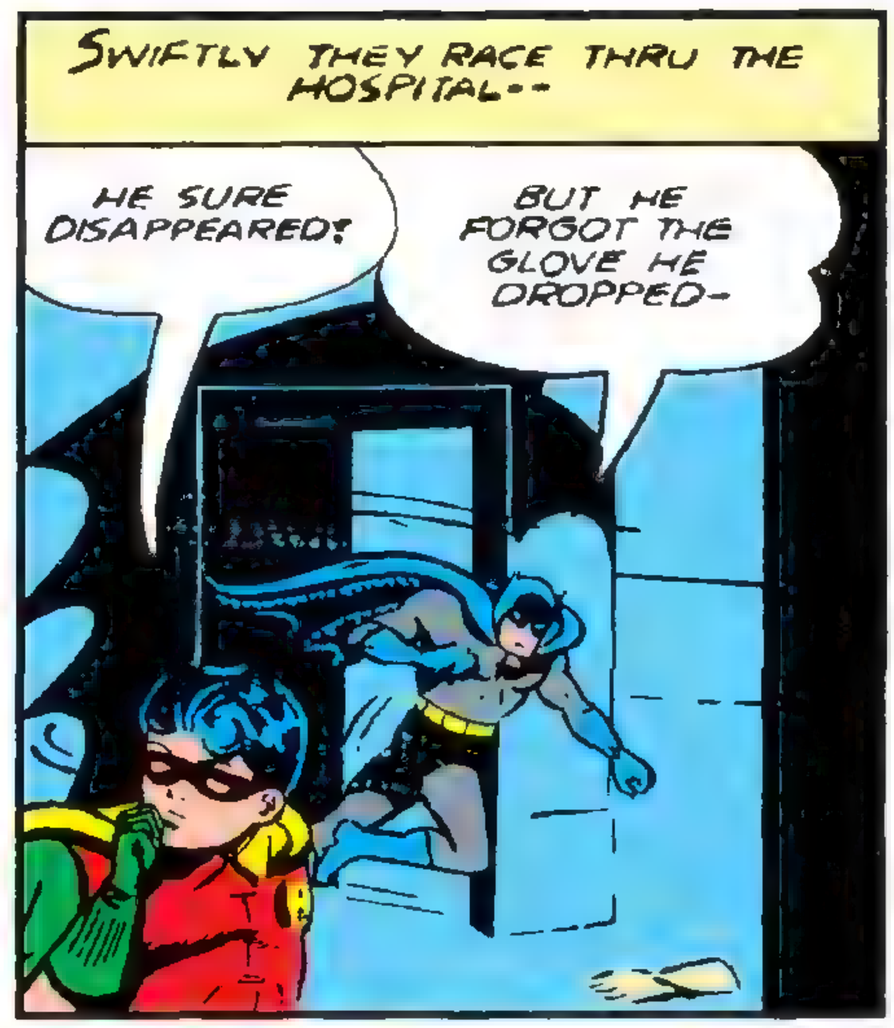
FROM THE EXPOSED GLOWING HAND EMANATES DEADLY RADIUM RAYS THAT EAT AWAY THE PIPE, AND...
I'M.. I'M... SLIPPING!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME BEING A HUMAN RADIUM RAY HELPED ME!


EVEN AS HE DROPS, THE BOY WONDER CLUTCHES THE BATMAN'S ANKLE AND HANGS PERILOUSLY--
HOLD ON, ROBIN!
YOU'RE TELLING ME!

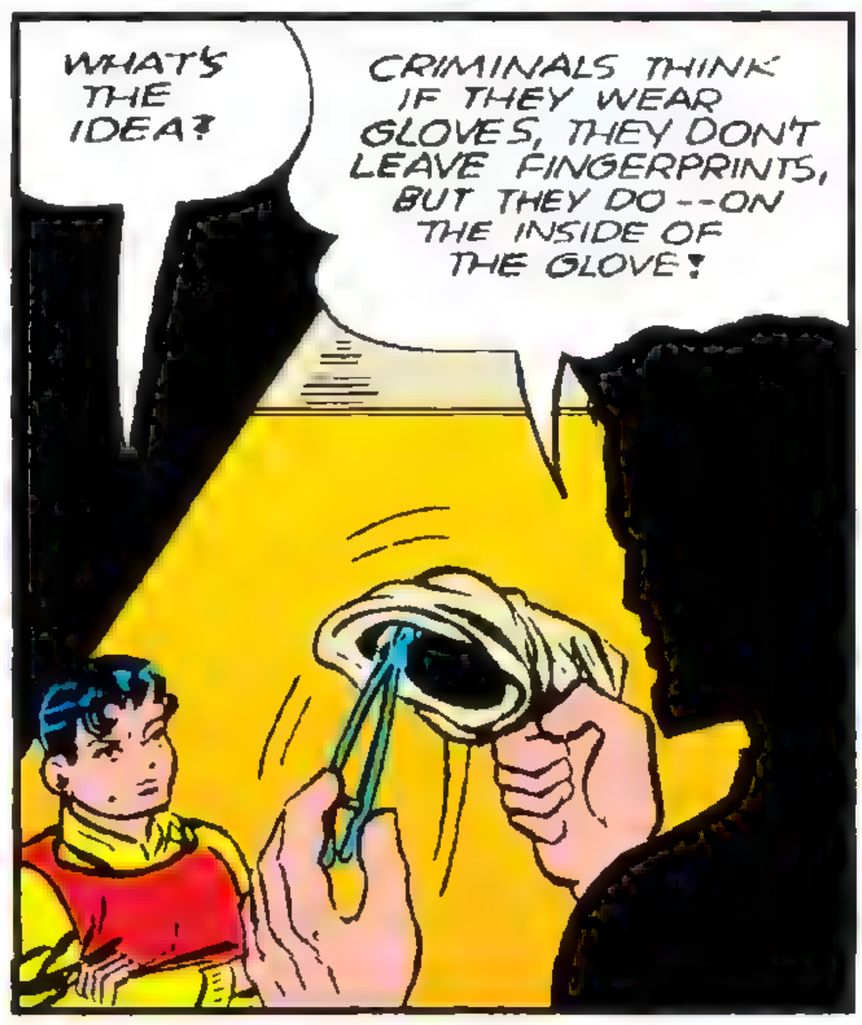
MEANWHILE, THE PROFESSOR SLIPS IN THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW ON THE FLOOR BELOW.
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.. BUT I HAVE TO..
7

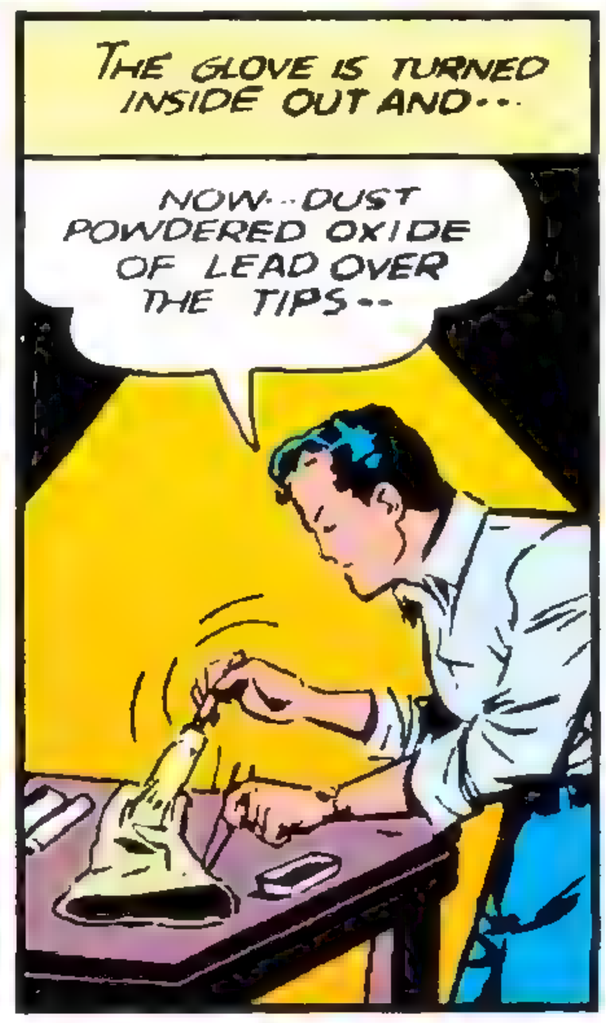

..AND IN THE HOSPITAL BASEMENT---HE MAKES HIS GETAWAY---
I HAVE THE VOLITELL — WHEN I CURE MYSELF, I'LL TELL THE WORLD OF MY DISCOVERY!


MEANWHILE, THE BATMAN SWINGS ROBIN SAFELY IN THRU AN OPEN WINDOW!
OKAY, ROBIN- LET'S GO!

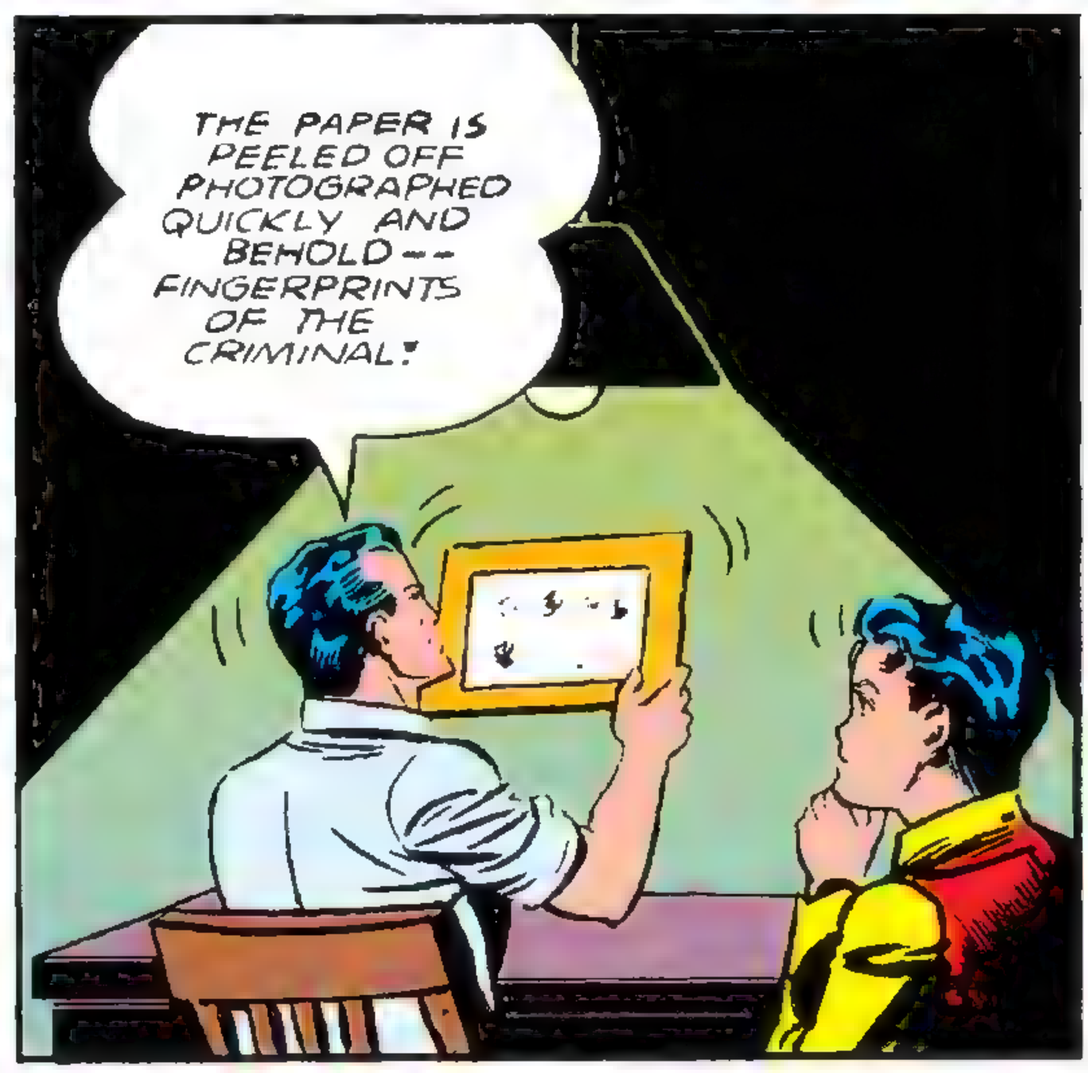

SWIFTLY THEY RACE THRU THE HOSPITAL--
HE SURE DISAPPEARED!
BUT HE FORGOT THE GLOVE HE DROPPED-

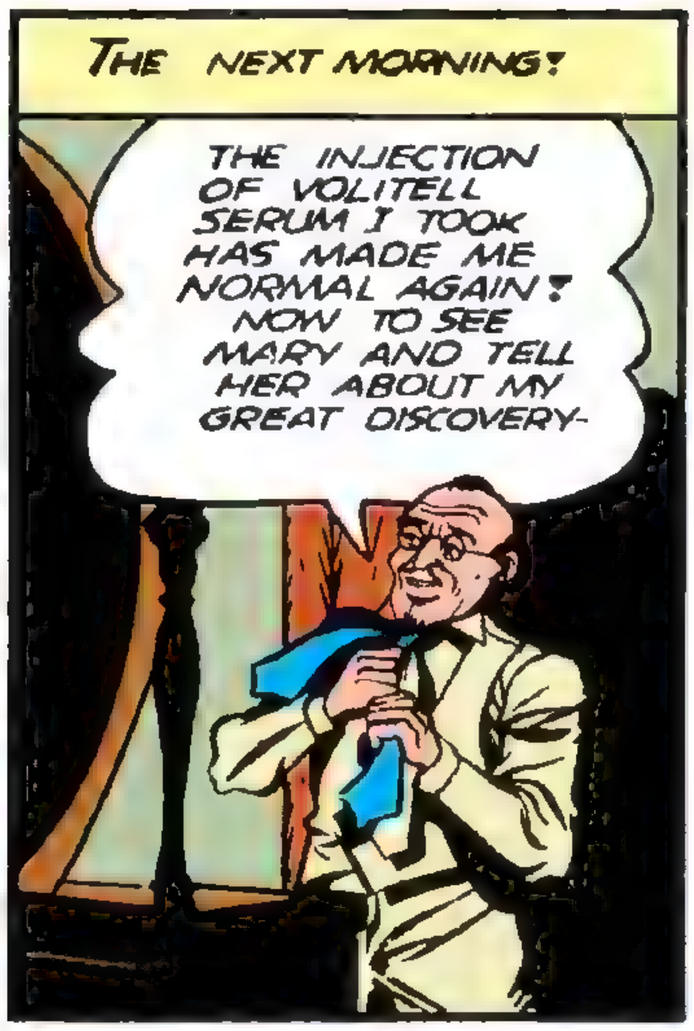
WHAT GOOD WILL THE GLOVE DO?
NOTHING, BUT IT MAY BE A CLUE TO OUR MURDERER! C'MON--


WHAT'S THE IDEA?
CRIMINALS THINK IF THEY WEAR GLOVES, THEY DON'T LEAVE FINGERPRINTS, BUT THEY DO--ON THE INSIDE OF THE GLOVE!


THE GLOVE IS TURNED INSIDE OUT AND...
NOW--DUST POWDERED OXIDE OF LEAD OVER THE TIPS--

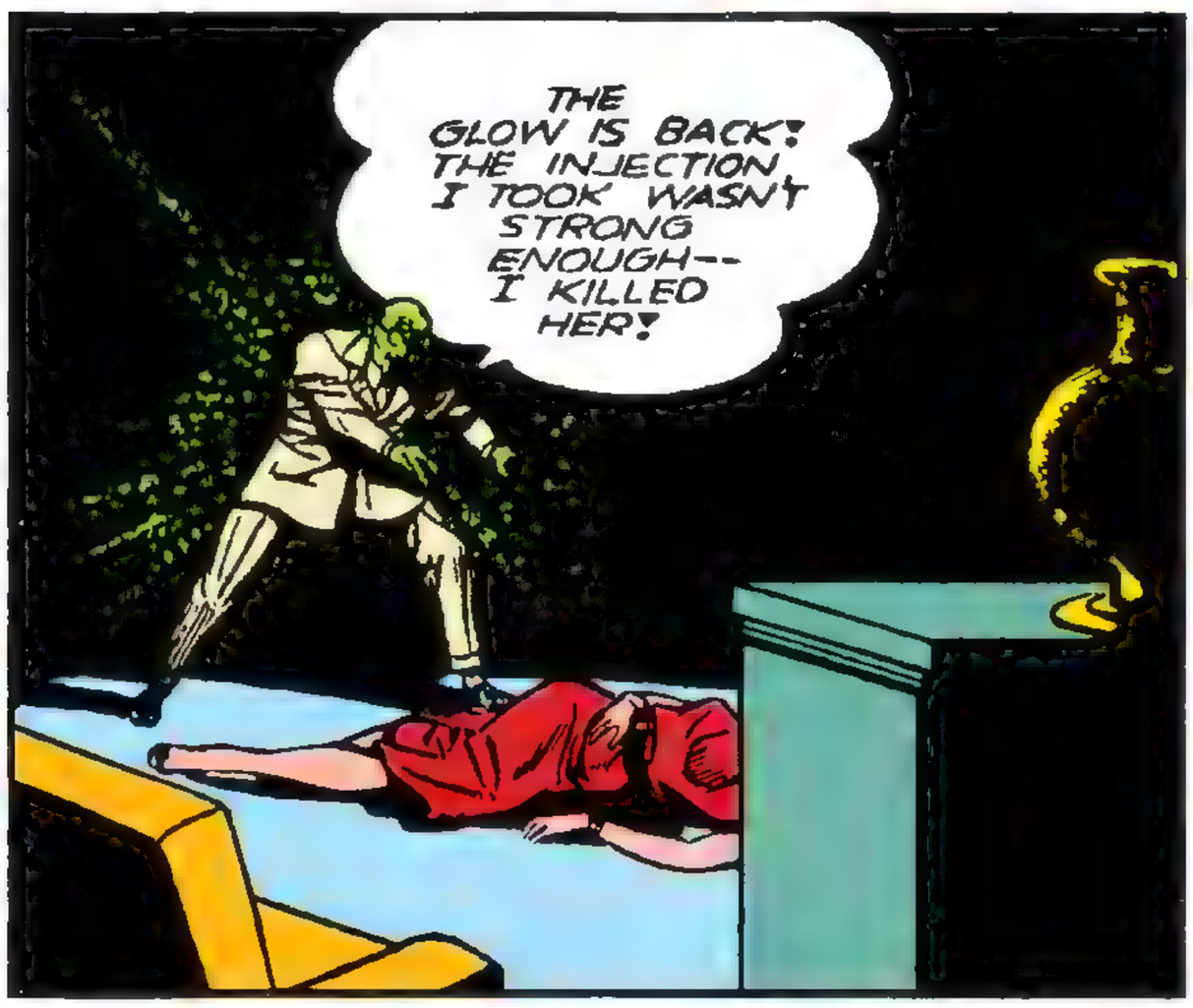
THEN A GELATIN SHEET SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHIC CITRATE PAPER, WHICH HAS BEEN EXPOSED AND DEVELOPED- SOAKED, CAUSING THE GELATIN TO SWELL PRESSED OVER THE MARKS MADE VISIBLE BY THE LEAD OXYDE.


THE PAPER IS PEELED OFF PHOTOGRAPHED QUICKLY AND BEHOLD-- FINGERPRINTS OF THE CRIMINAL!

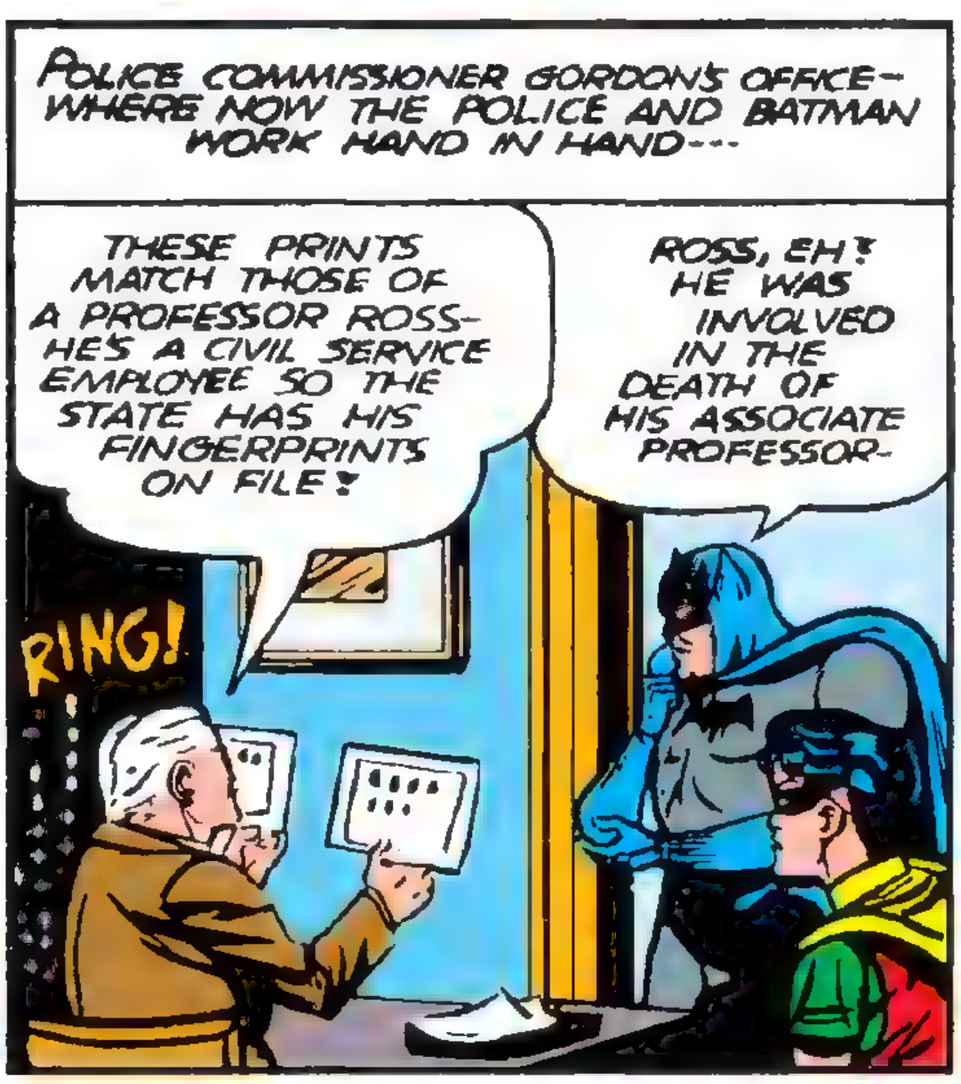

THE NEXT MORNING!
THE INJECTION OF VOLITELL SERUM I TOOK HAS MADE ME NORMAL AGAIN! NOW TO SEE MARY AND TELL HER ABOUT MY GREAT DISCOVERY-

HENRY DARLING-- YOU LOOK EXCITED!
THE MOST WONDERFUL THING HAS HAPPENED, MARY!
12:05

BUT HE DOES NOT NOTICE THE GLOW ABOUT HIS BODY GROWING STRONGER--AS HE LEANS FORWARD!-
MARY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SURPRI--- MARY!...
OHHH!


THE GLOW IS BACK! THE INJECTION I TOOK WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH-- I KILLED HER!

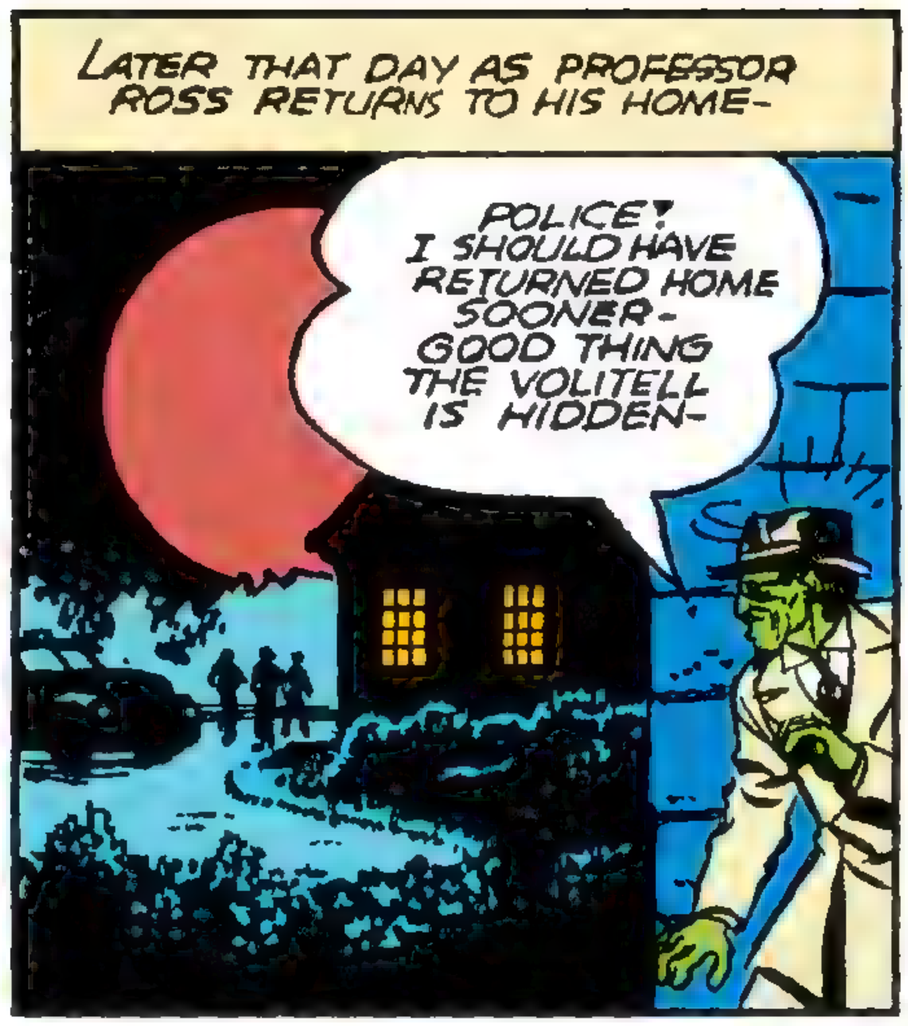
I'VE KILLED HER- --- I-
KILLED HER...? HELP! POLICE!


POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE- WHERE NOW THE POLICE AND BATMAN WORK HAND IN HAND---
THESE PRINTS MATCH THOSE OF A PROFESSOR ROSS- HE'S A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE SO THE STATE HAS HIS FINGERPRINTS ON FILE!
ROSS, EH? HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE DEATH OF HIS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR-
RING!

WHAT? YOUR MISTRESS, MISS LAMONT, KILLED? WHO-- PROFESSOR ROSS?
OH--OH- GET READY, ROBIN!

YOU SAY, HIS BODY HAD A SORT OF A GLOW ABOUT IT?
A GLOW, EH? I SUGGEST YOU MAKE A FAST AUTOPSY, CORONER-
YES SIR- IT WAS AS IF HE WAS ALL LIT UP INSIDE!
9

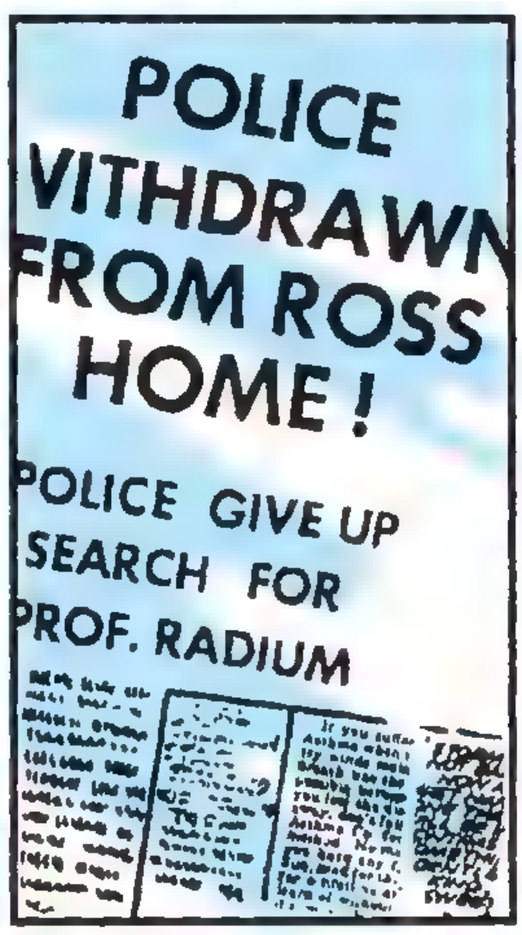
SOMETIME LATER—
YOU WERE RIGHT, BATMAN! THAT GIRL DIED OF INTERNAL RADIUM BURNS!
RADIUM BURNS!
YES... AND I SUSPECT PROFESSOR JOHNSTON DIED THE SAME WAY- THIS ALL TIES UP WITH PROFESSOR ROSS'S RADIUM EXPERIMENTS! SOMETHING WENT WRONG- HE NEEDS VOLITELL FOR AN ANTIDOTE--

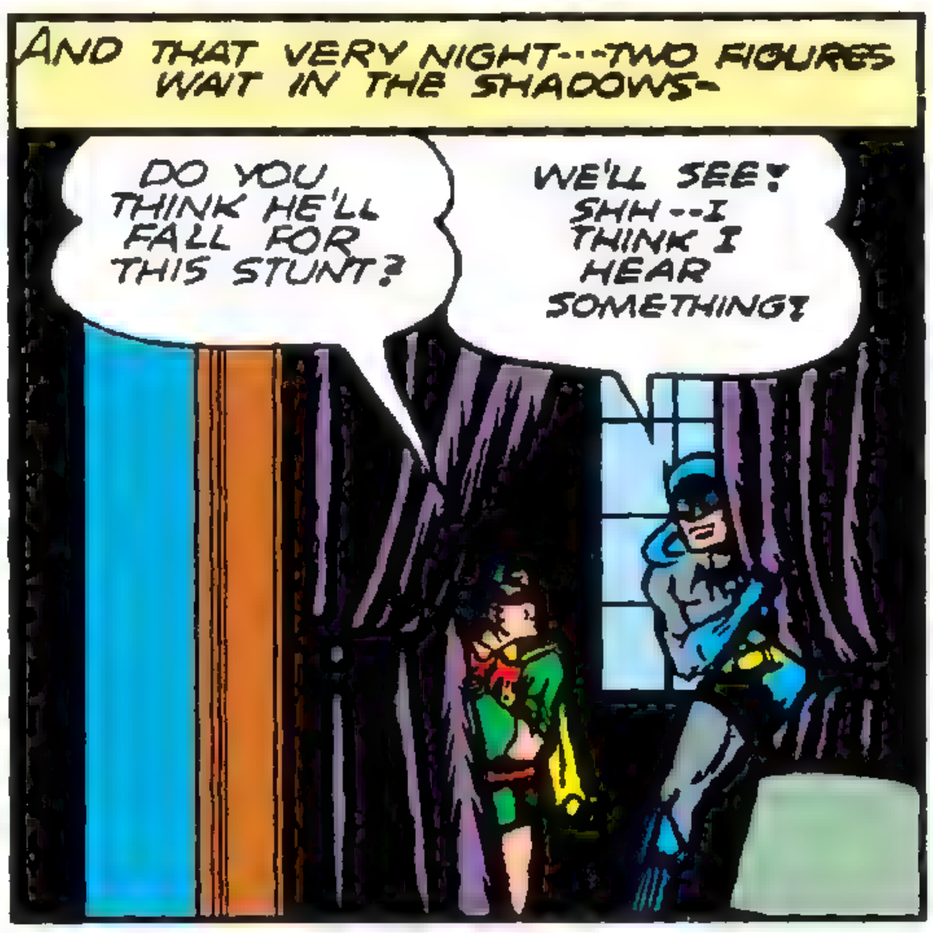

LATER THAT DAY AS PROFESSOR ROSS RETURNS TO HIS HOME-
POLICE! I SHOULD HAVE RETURNED HOME SOONER- GOOD THING THE VOLITELL IS HIDDEN-

THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW SEE THE GREATEST MANHUNT IN THE HISTORY OF CRIME-
PROF. HENRY (RADIUM) ROSS AT LARGE!

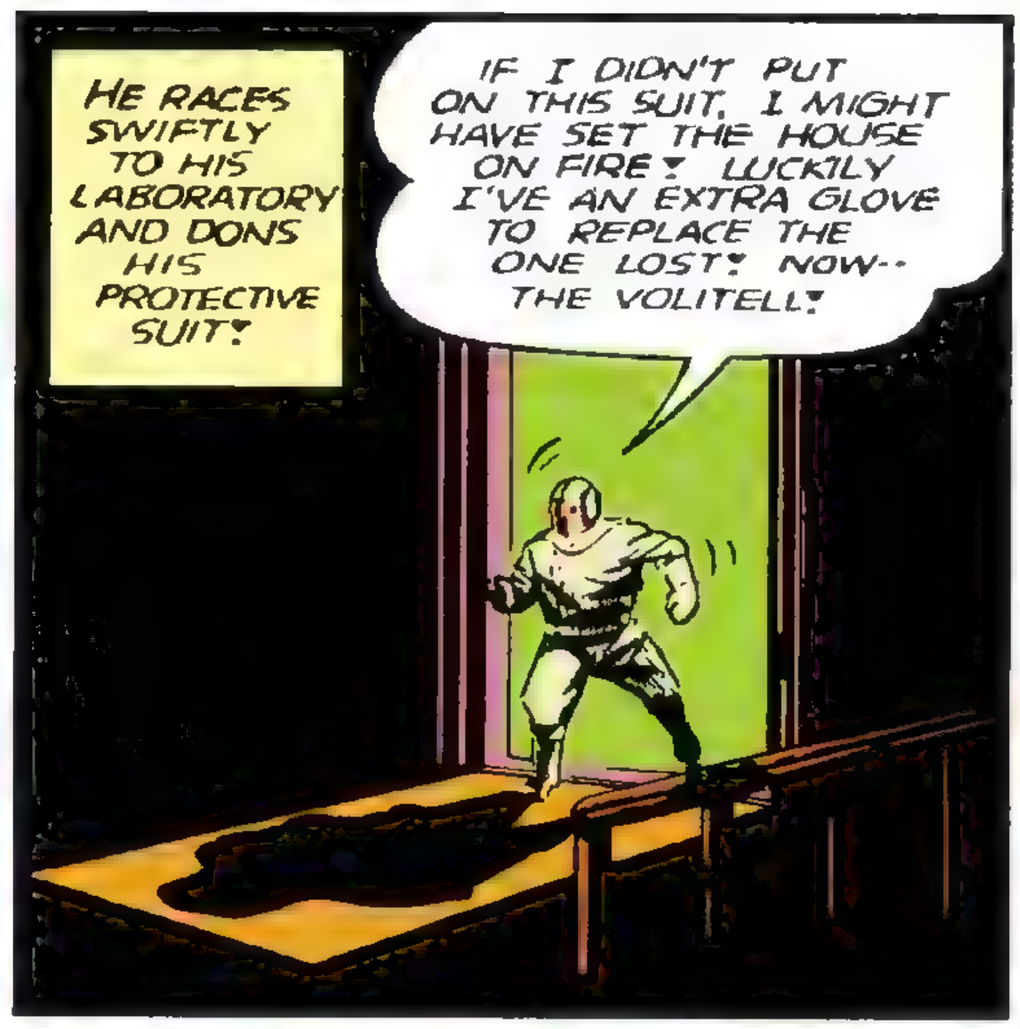
MEANWHILE, A DREADFUL CHANGE COMES OVER PROFESSOR ROSS- HE IS NOW KNOWN AS PROFESSOR RADIUM-
I NEEED MORE VOLITELL!
I'M MAD! HA-HA! I'M CRAZY! THE CURSED RADIUM!
MY HAIR IS FALLING OUT! THE RADIUM IS BEGINNING TO WREAK ITS HAVOC ON MY BODY!
I WANT TO MURDER... WAIT ...WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?
THE RADIUM--IT'S EATING INTO MY BODY-- INTO MY BRAIN- I'M GOING MAD-

NOT A SIGN OF PROFESSOR RADIUM AND THAT BLASTED VOLITELL-- WHERE DID HE HIDE IT?
VOLITELL, HMM! THAT'S WHAT HE NEEDS-- IF YOU DRAW YOUR MEN AWAY FROM HIS HOUSE, I THINK HE'LL COME BACK FOR THAT VOLITELL! ROBIN AND I WILL BE WAITING FOR HIM-

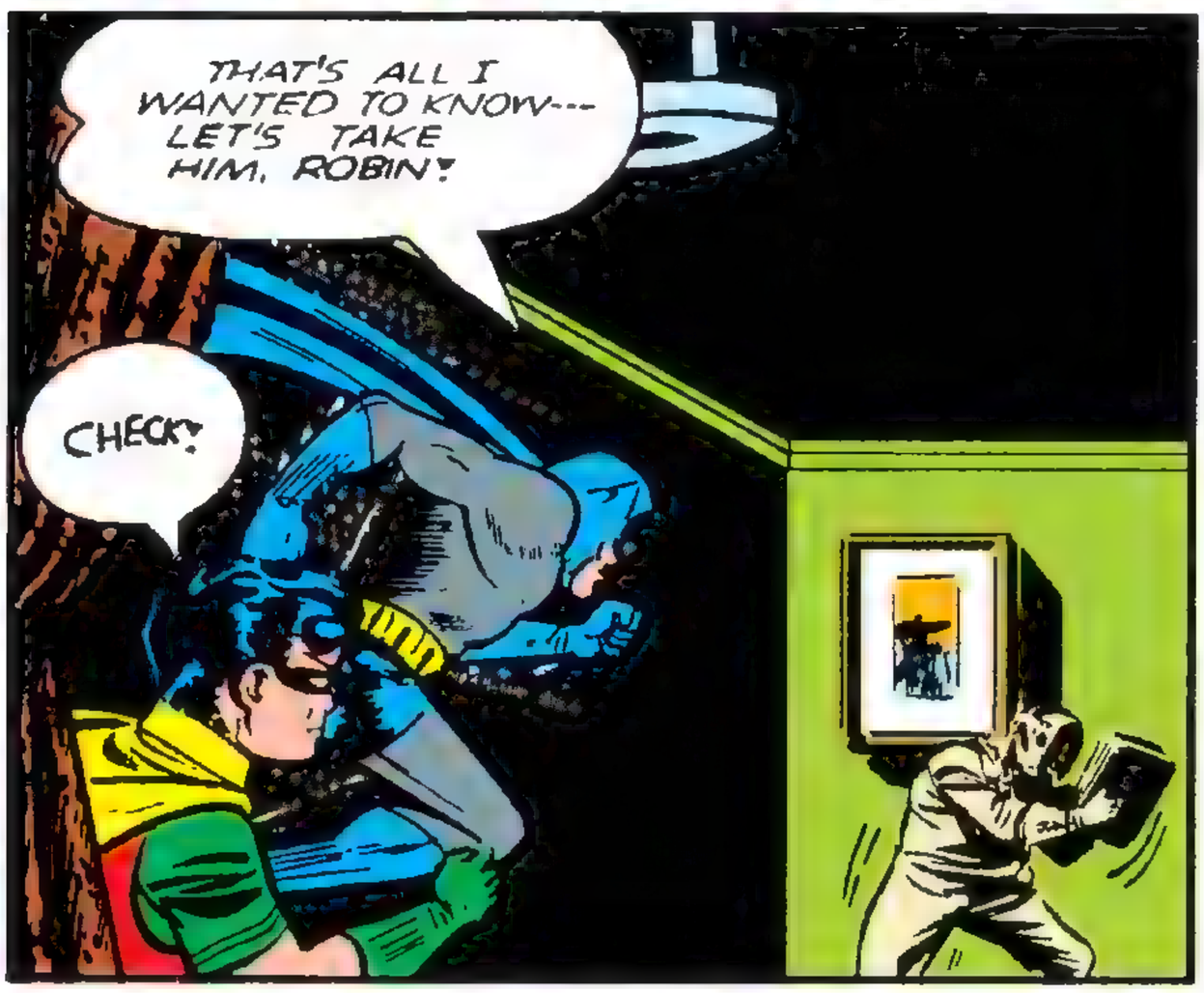

POLICE WITHDRAWN FROM ROSS HOME!
POLICE GIVE UP SEARCH FOR PROF. RADIUM


AND THAT VERY NIGHT---TWO FIGURES WAIT IN THE SHADOWS-
DO YOU THINK HE'LL FALL FOR THIS STUNT?
WE'LL SEE! SHH--I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING!

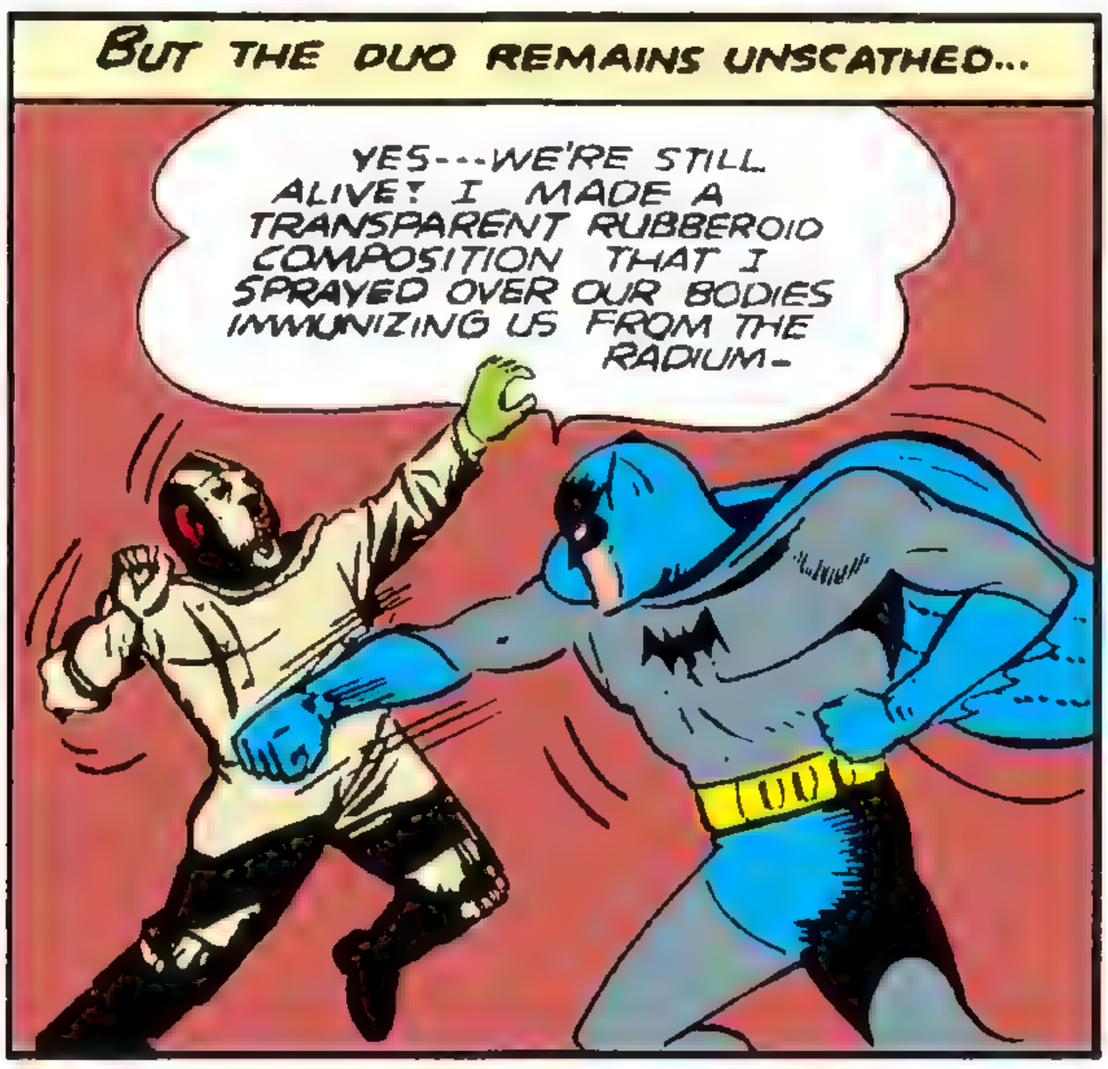
SO STRONG IS THE RADIUM-CHARGED BODY OF THE PROFESSOR THAT HE LITERALLY SEARS HIS WAY THROUGH THE DOOR!
GOOD! IT'S EMPTY!

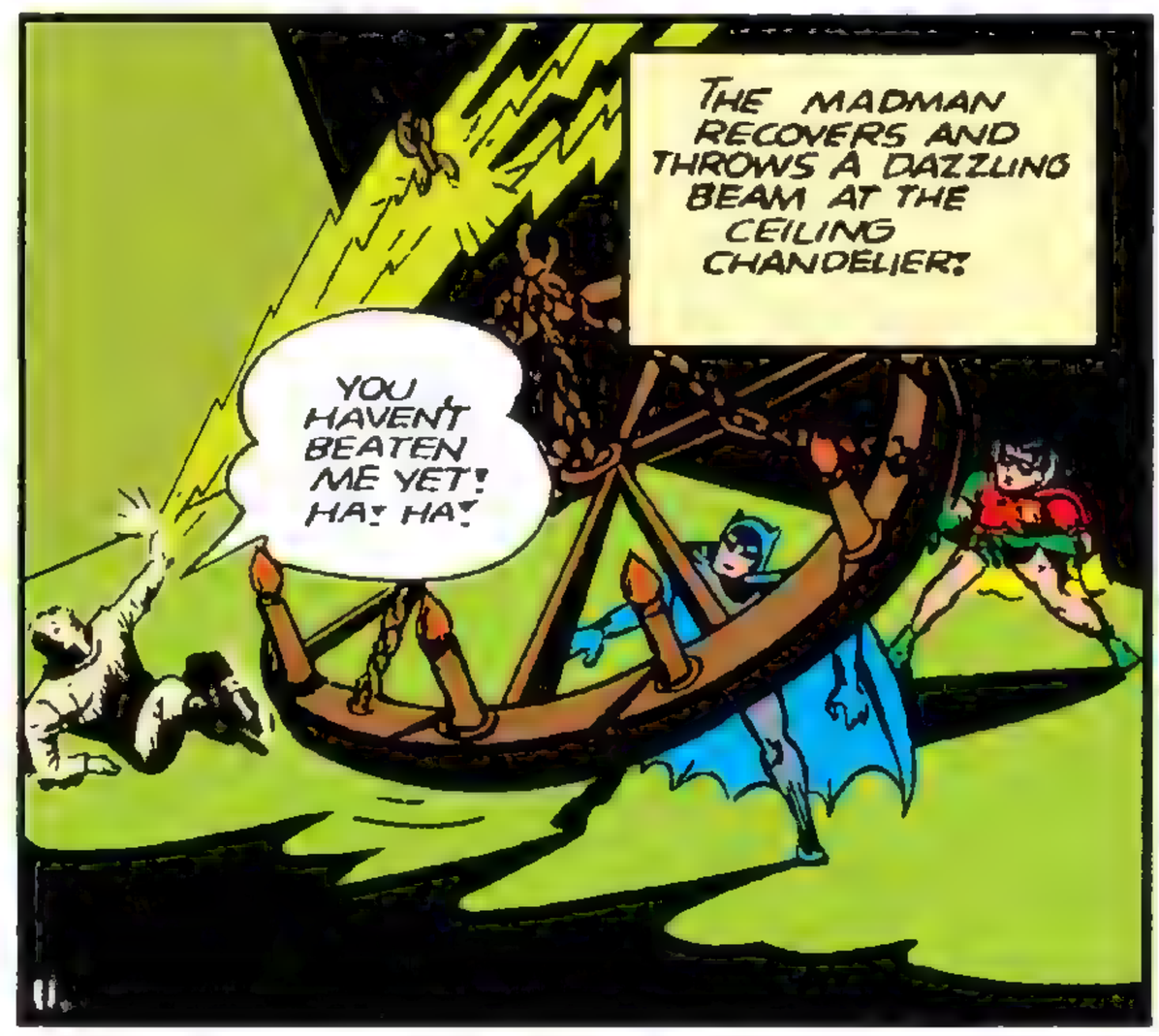

HE RACES SWIFTLY TO HIS LABORATORY AND DONS HIS PROTECTIVE SUIT!
IF I DIDN'T PUT ON THIS SUIT, I MIGHT HAVE SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE! LUCKILY I'VE AN EXTRA GLOVE TO REPLACE THE ONE LOST! NOW-- THE VOLITELL!

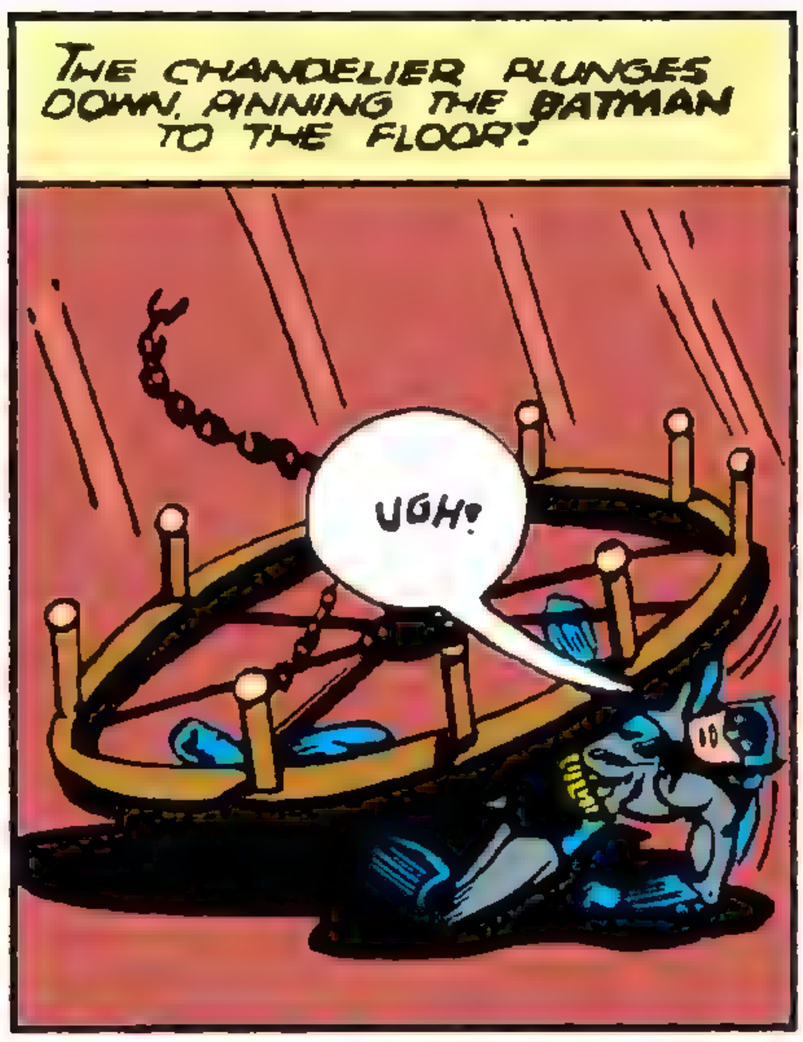
HE WITHDRAWS A LARGE BOOK, AND....
THE VOLITELL! THE POLICE NEVER THOUGHT OF LOOKING IN A BOOK FOR IT!

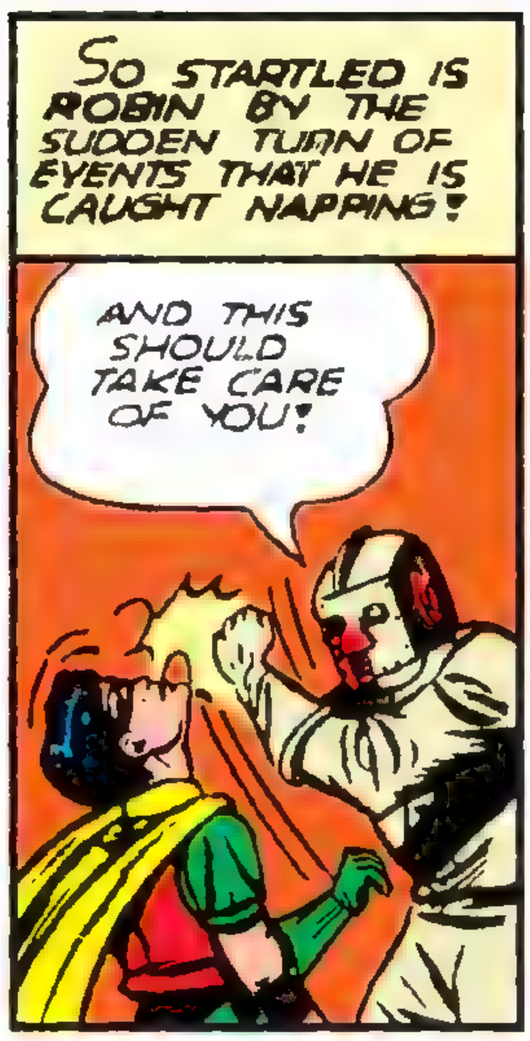

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW--- LET'S TAKE HIM, ROBIN!
CHECK!

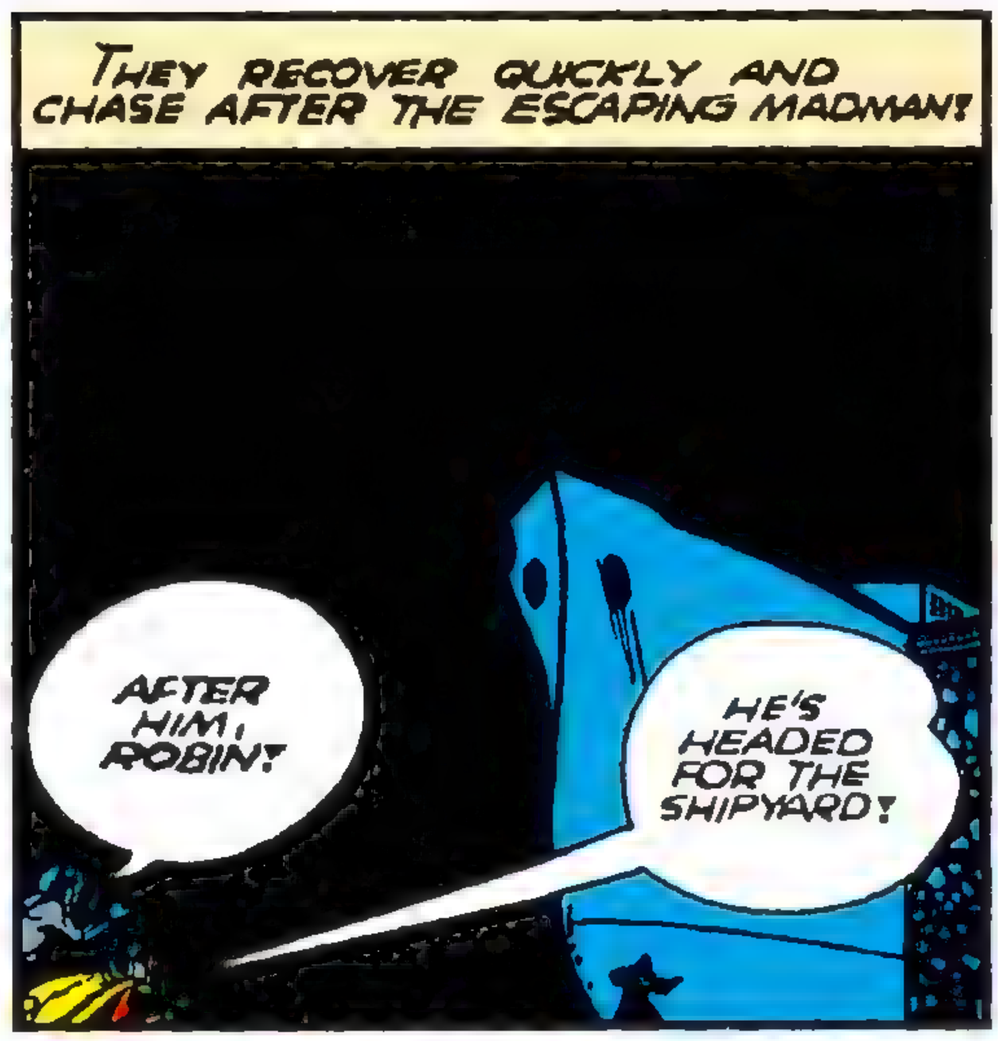
SWIFTLY PEELING OFF A GLOVE, THE PROFESSOR EXPOSES A GLOWING HAND!
YOU FOOLS! DIE....DIE... NOW!
DEATH-DEALING RADIUM RAYS BOMBARD THE BATMAN AND ROBIN-


BUT THE DUO REMAINS UNSCATHED...
YES---WE'RE STILL ALIVE! I MADE A TRANSPARENT RUBBEROID COMPOSITION THAT I SPRAYED OVER OUR BODIES IMMUNIZING US FROM THE RADIUM-

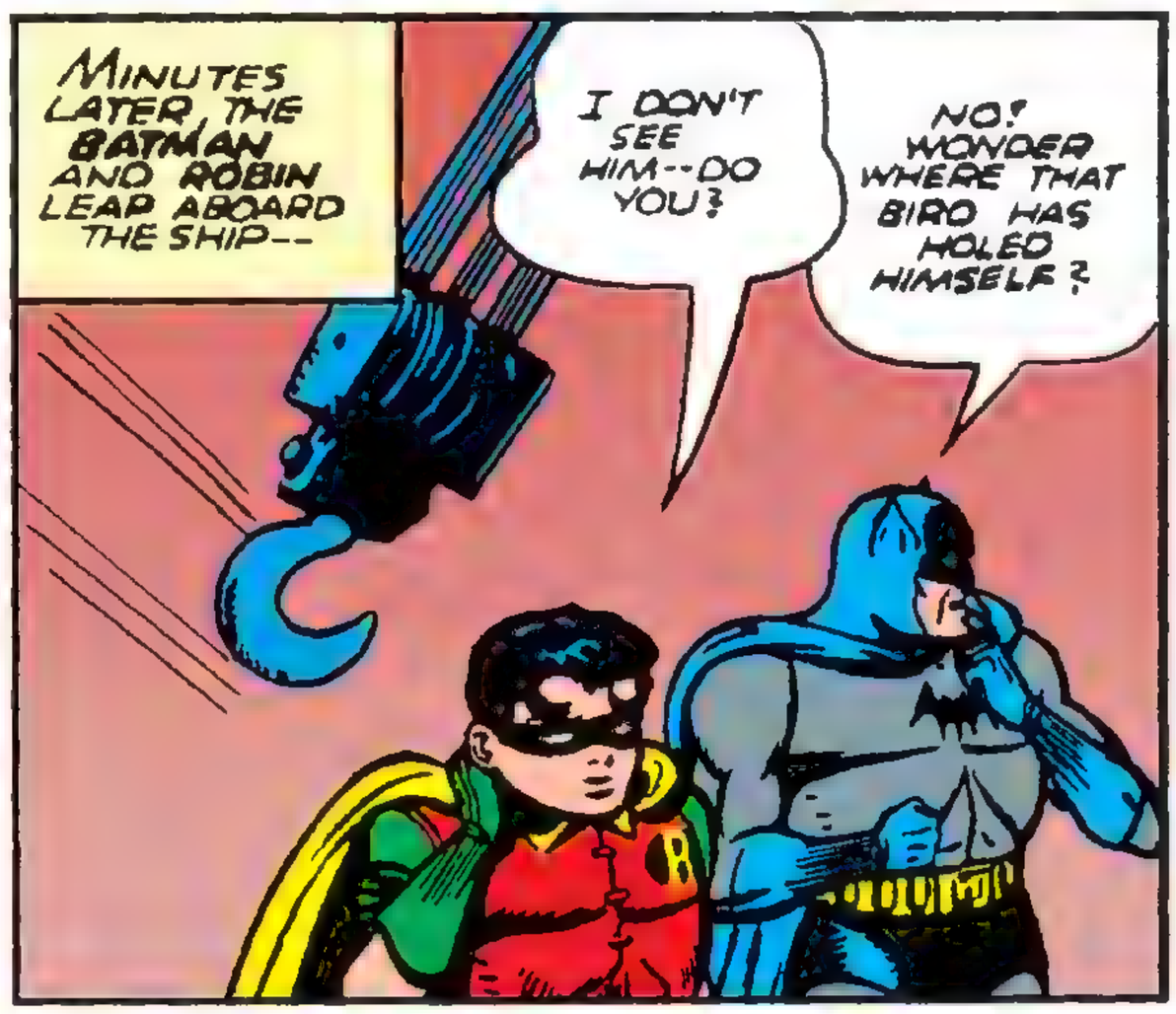

THE MADMAN RECOVERS AND THROWS A DAZZLING BEAM AT THE CEILING CHANDELIER!
YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME YET! HA! HA!

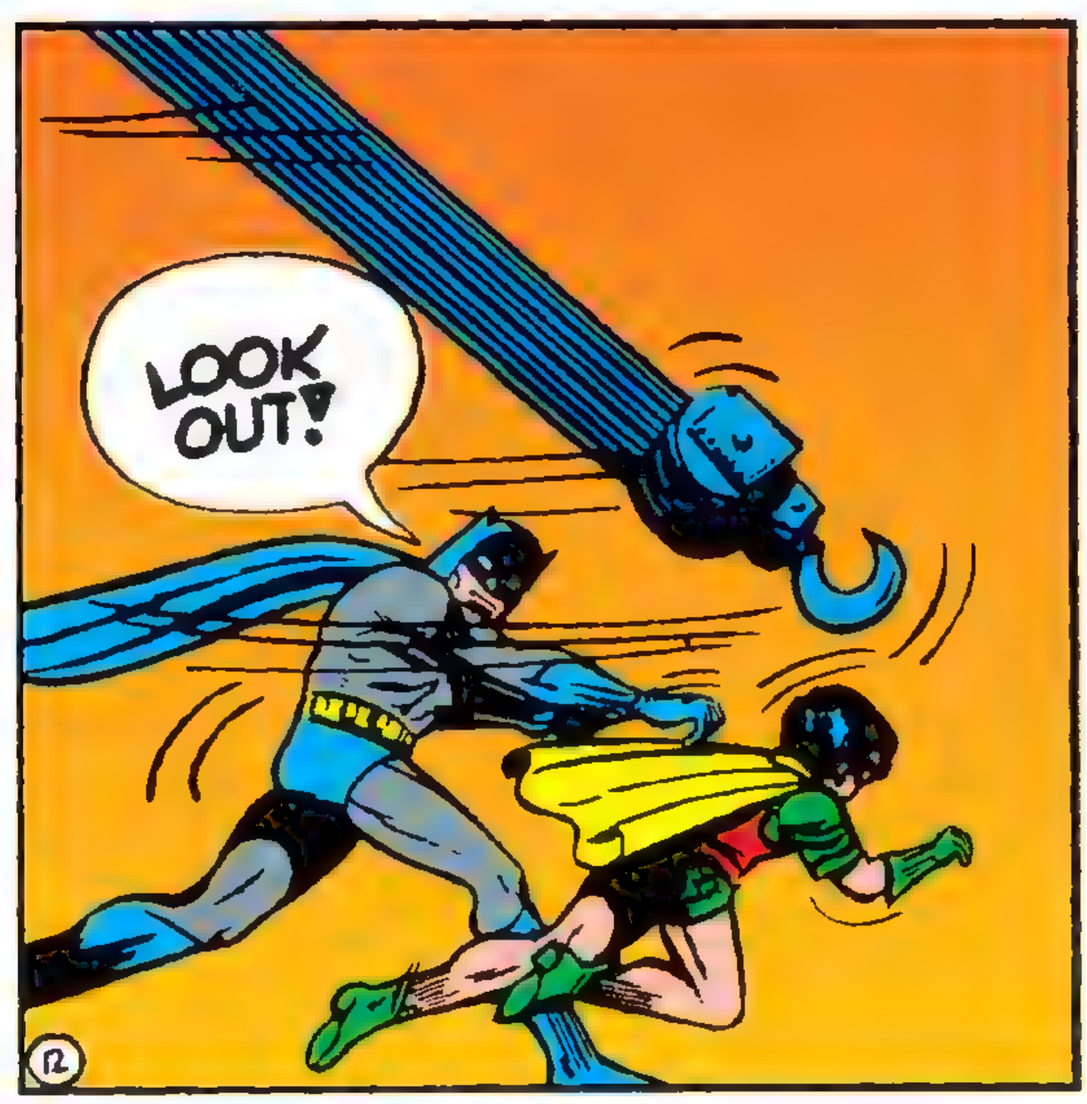

THE CHANDELIER PLUNGES DOWN, PINNING THE BATMAN TO THE FLOOR!
UGH!

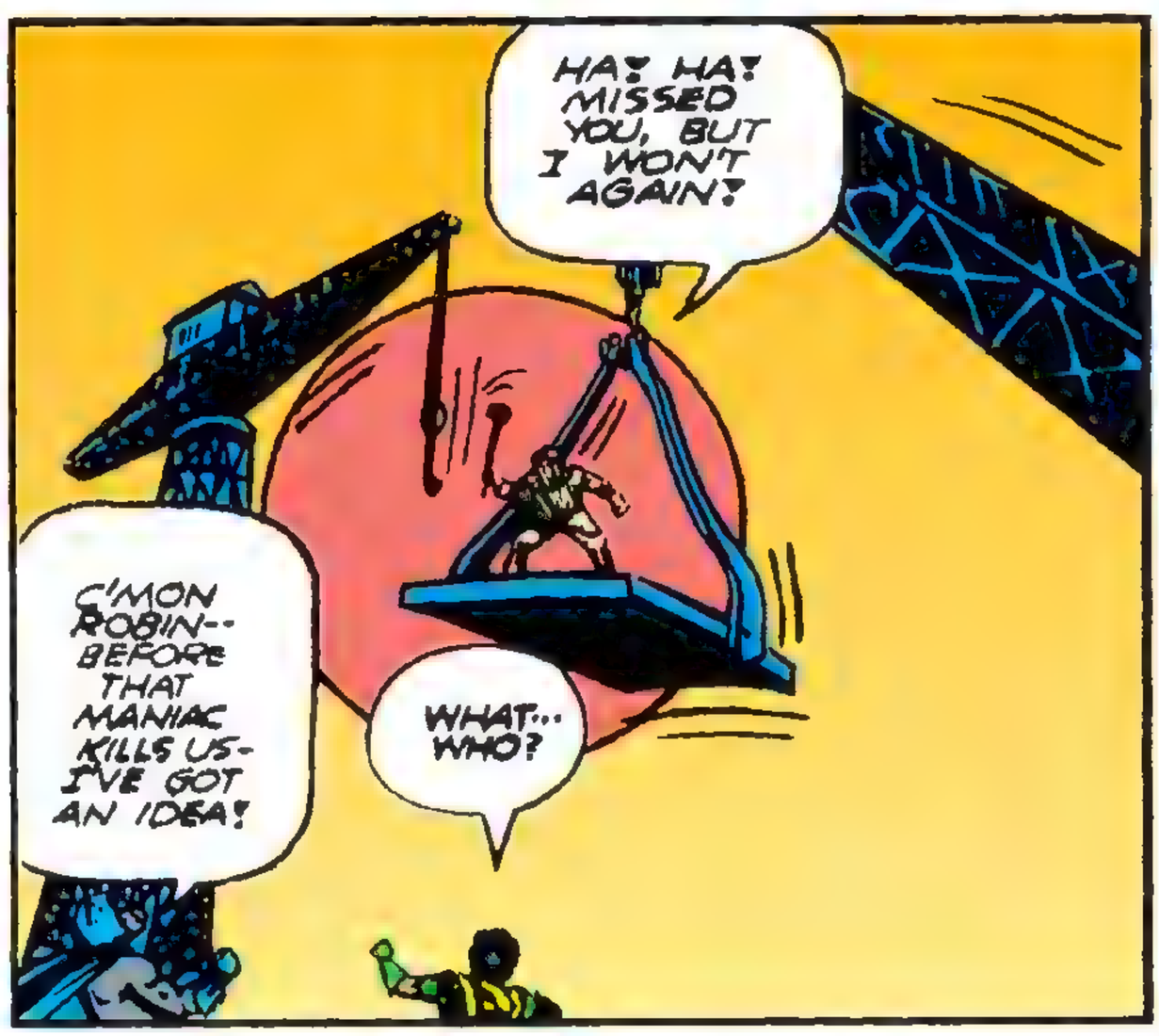

SO STARTLED IS ROBIN BY THE SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS THAT HE IS CAUGHT NAPPING!
AND THIS SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOU!

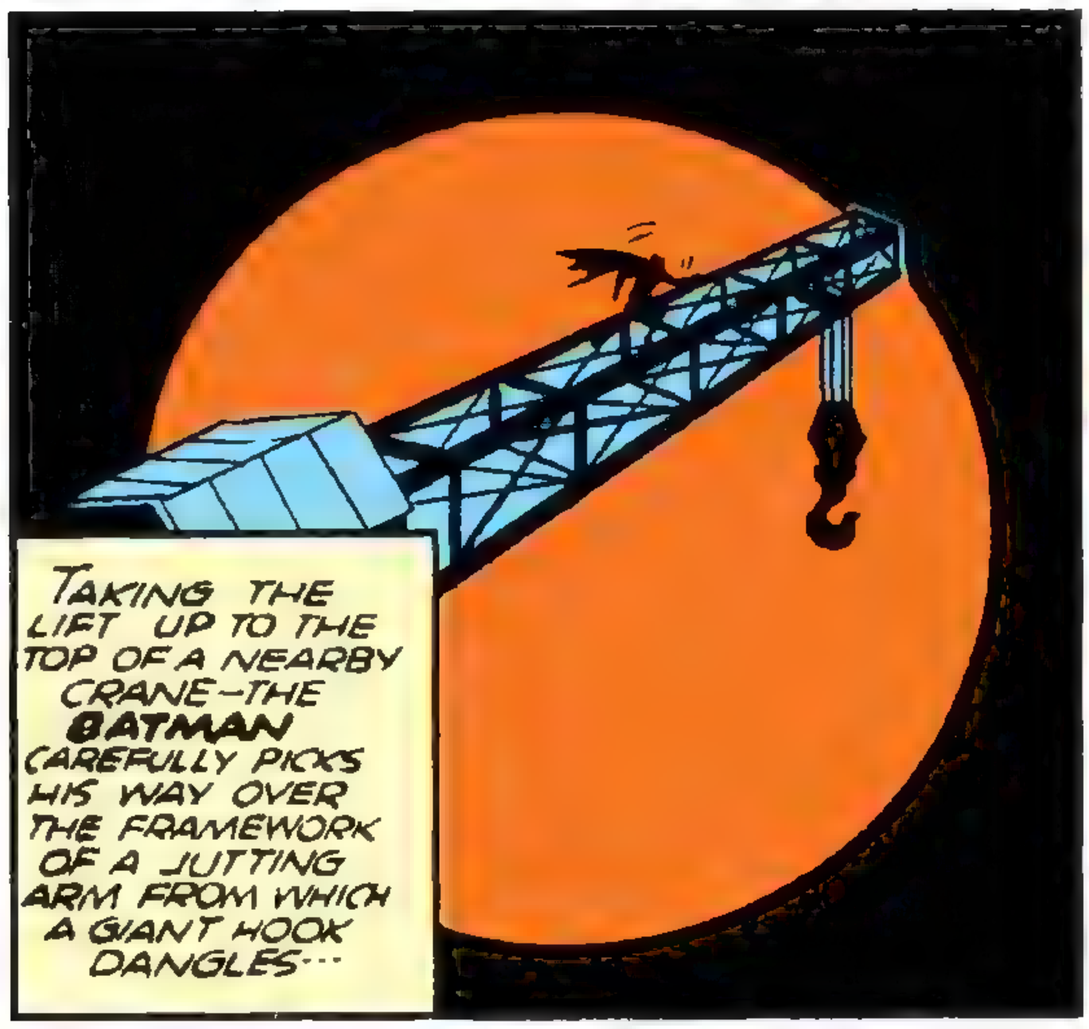

THEY RECOVER QUICKLY AND CHASE AFTER THE ESCAPING MADMAN!
AFTER HIM, ROBIN!
HE'S HEADED FOR THE SHIPYARD!

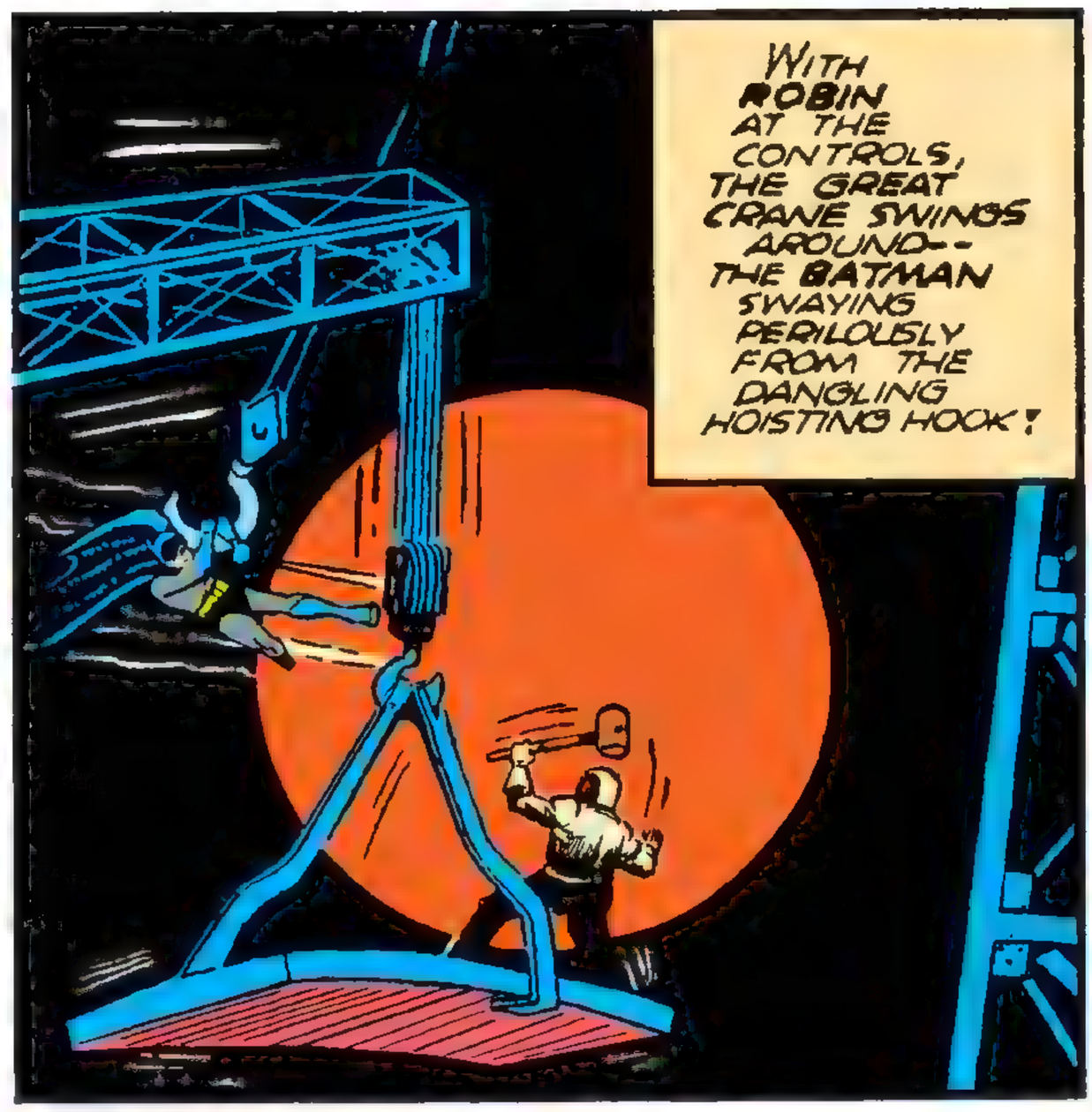
PROFESSOR RADIUM SCRAMBLES UP A SIDE LADDER...


MINUTES LATER, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAP ABOARD THE SHIP--
I DON'T SEE HIM--DO YOU?
NO! WONDER WHERE THAT BIRD HAS HOLED HIMSELF?

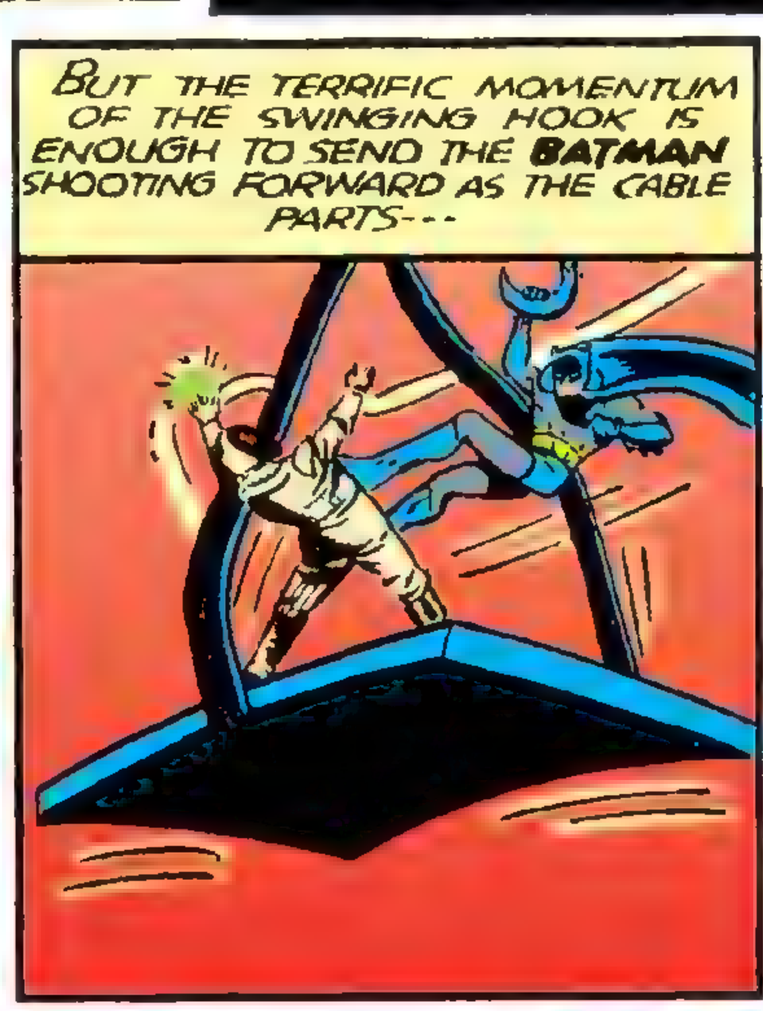

LOOK OUT!


HA! HA! MISSED YOU, BUT I WON'T AGAIN!
C'MON ROBIN-- BEFORE THAT MANIAC KILLS US- I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
WHAT... WHO?

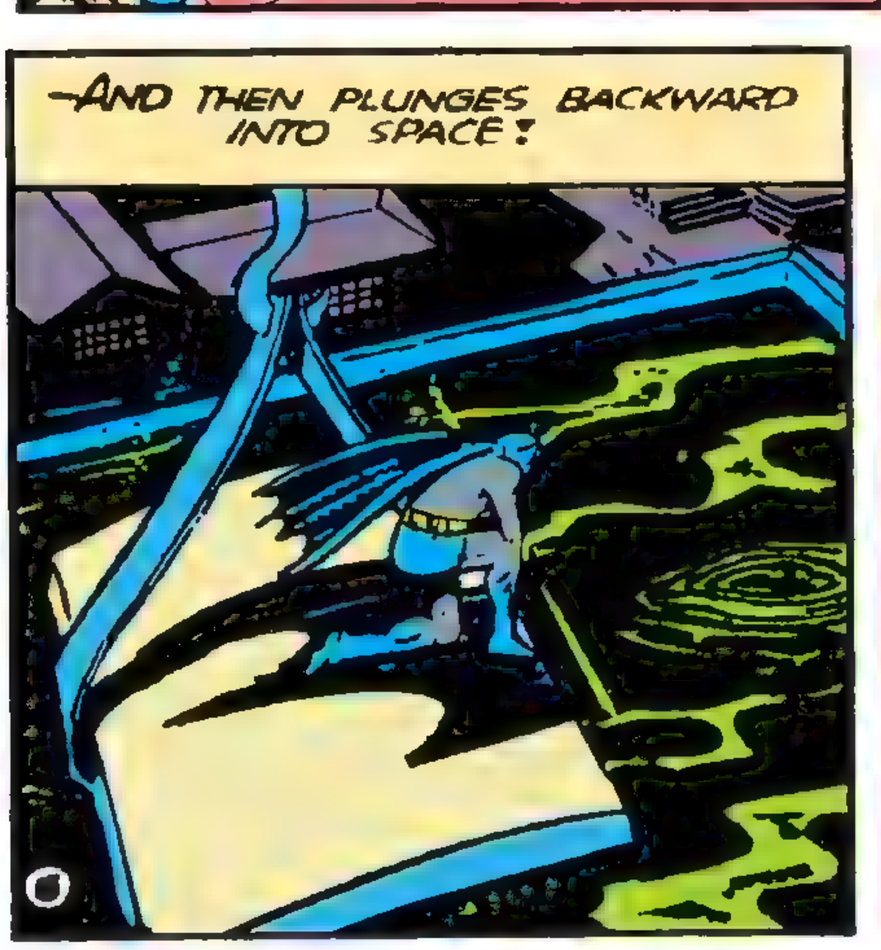

TAKING THE LIFT UP TO THE TOP OF A NEARBY CRANE—THE BATMAN CAREFULLY PICKS HIS WAY OVER THE FRAMEWORK OF A JUTTING ARM FROM WHICH A GIANT HOOK DANGLES···


WITH ROBIN AT THE CONTROLS, THE GREAT CRANE SWINGS AROUND-- THE BATMAN SWAYING PERILOUSLY FROM THE DANGLING HOISTING HOOK!

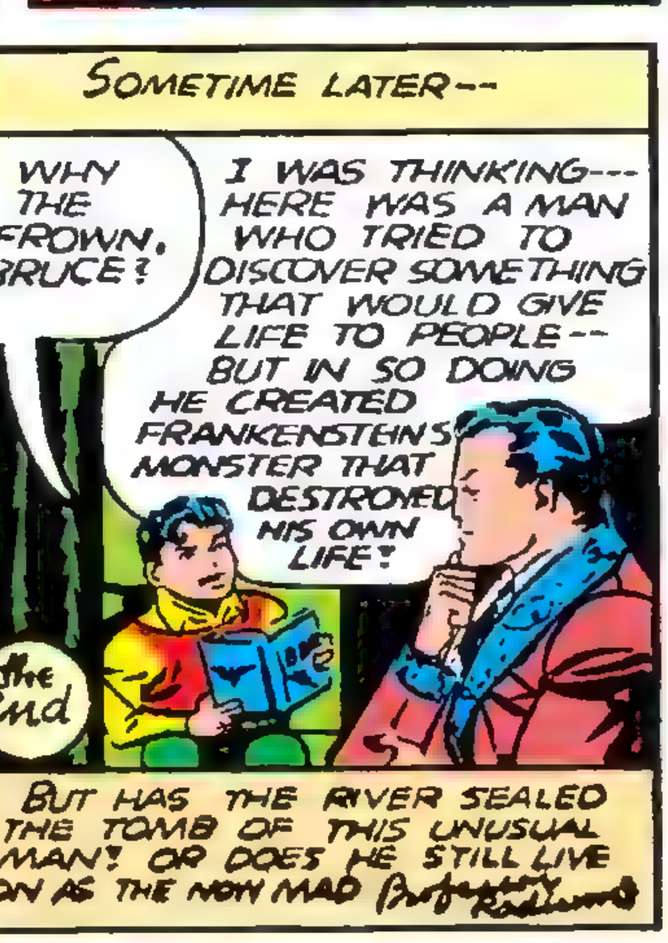
PROFESSOR RADIUM IS READY AND WAITING! EXPOSING HIS HAND, HE SENDS OUT SEARING RAYS THAT PART THE CABLE!
HA— TRY TO GET OUT OF THIS, BATMAN!


BUT THE TERRIFIC MOMENTUM OF THE SWINGING HOOK IS ENOUGH TO SEND THE BATMAN SHOOTING FORWARD AS THE CABLE PARTS···

PROFESSOR RADIUM'S ARMS FLAIL WILDLY AS HE TRIES TO KEEP HIS BALANCE···


—AND THEN PLUNGES BACKWARD INTO SPACE!

--HE MUST HAVE SUNK LIKE A LOG! I MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK TO RECOVER THE VOLITELL AND RETURN IT TO THE HOSPITAL—


SOMETIME LATER--
WHY THE FROWN, BRUCE?
I WAS THINKING--- HERE WAS A MAN WHO TRIED TO DISCOVER SOMETHING THAT WOULD GIVE LIFE TO PEOPLE-- BUT IN SO DOING HE CREATED FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER THAT DESTROYED HIS OWN LIFE!
The End
BUT HAS THE RIVER SEALED THE TOMB OF THIS UNUSUAL MAN! OR DOES HE STILL LIVE ON AS THE NOW MAD

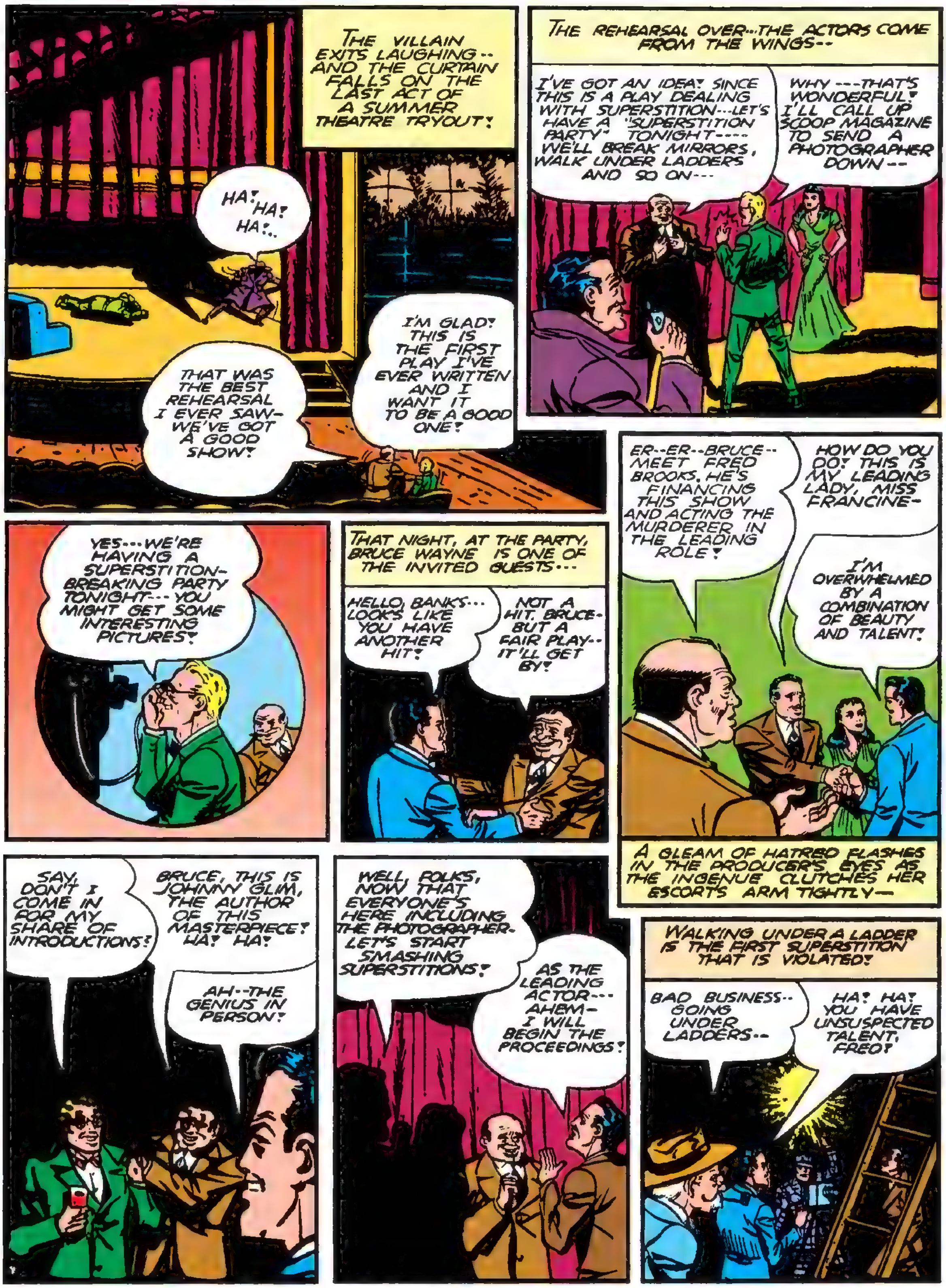
BATMAN WITH ROBIN

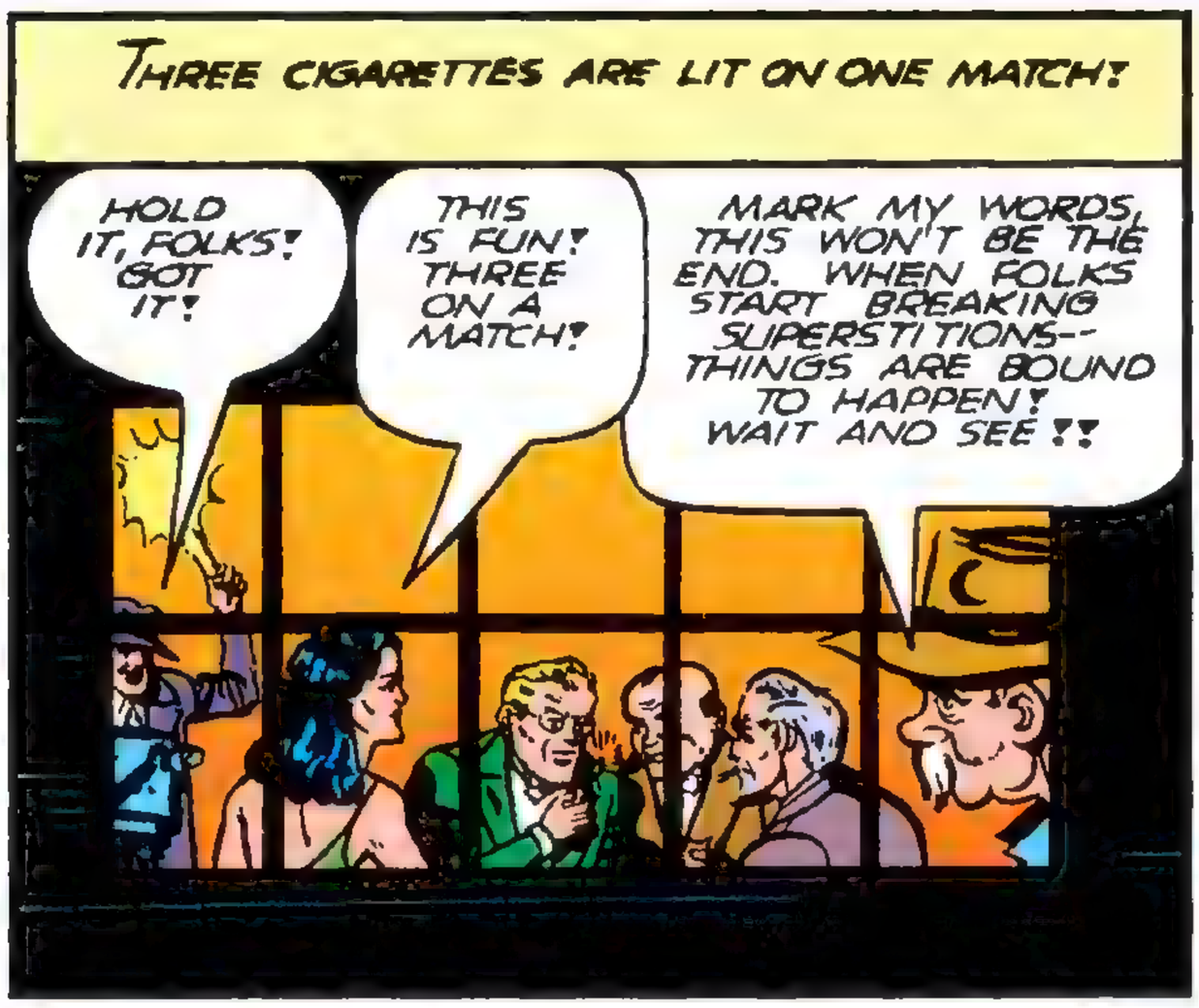
EVER WALK UNDER A LADDER AND WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN? EVER JUMP IN FRIGHT AS A BLACK CAT CROSSED YOUR PATH? EVER BREAK A MIRROR AND FEAR SEVEN YEARS OF BAD LUCK WOULD FOLLOW? WELL...YOU ARE GOING TO BE INTRODUCED TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO DEFIED THESE AGE-OLD SUPERSTITIONS...AND THE STRANGE EVENTS THAT BEFELL THEM. READ HOW A FEAR OF SUPERSTITION TRANSFORMED A COMPANY OF ACTORS INTO TERROR-RIDDEN WRETCHES WHO CRINGED AT THEIR OWN SHADOWS...AND HOW THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WERE FORCED TO CALL UPON THE LAST OUNCE OF THEIR STRENGTH AND REASONING POWERS TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF *The Superstition Murders!*

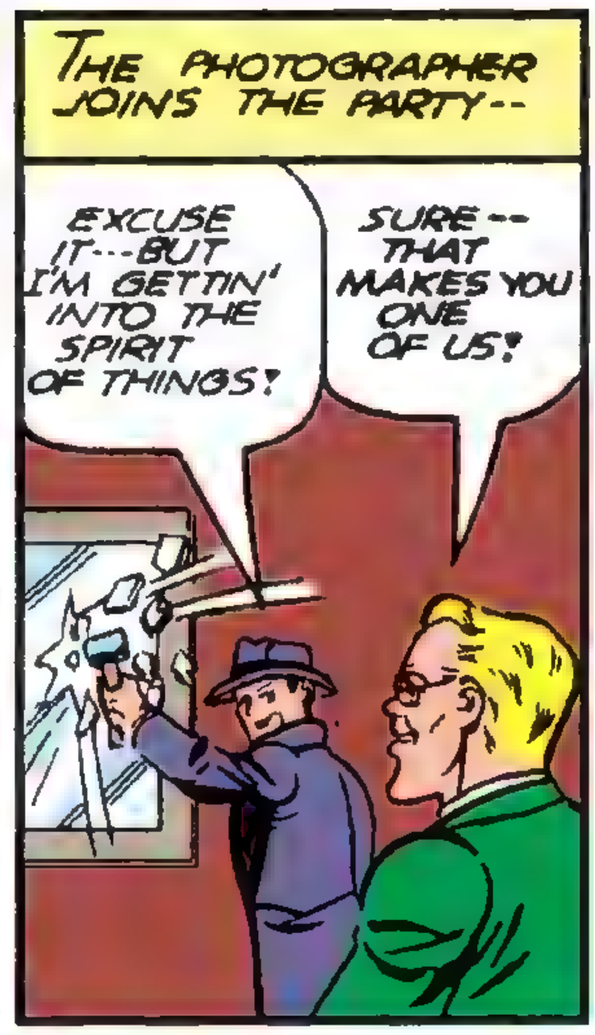
A GLISTENING NEEDLE ENTERS THE BODY OF A TINY DOLL----A HAND CLUTCHES AT A FALTERING HEART---AND A LIFELESS BODY FALLS FORWARD!

HA-HA--AS THIS NEEDLE ENTERS THE HEART OF THE DOLL WHICH REPRESENTS YOU...YOU DIE!

UGHHHH

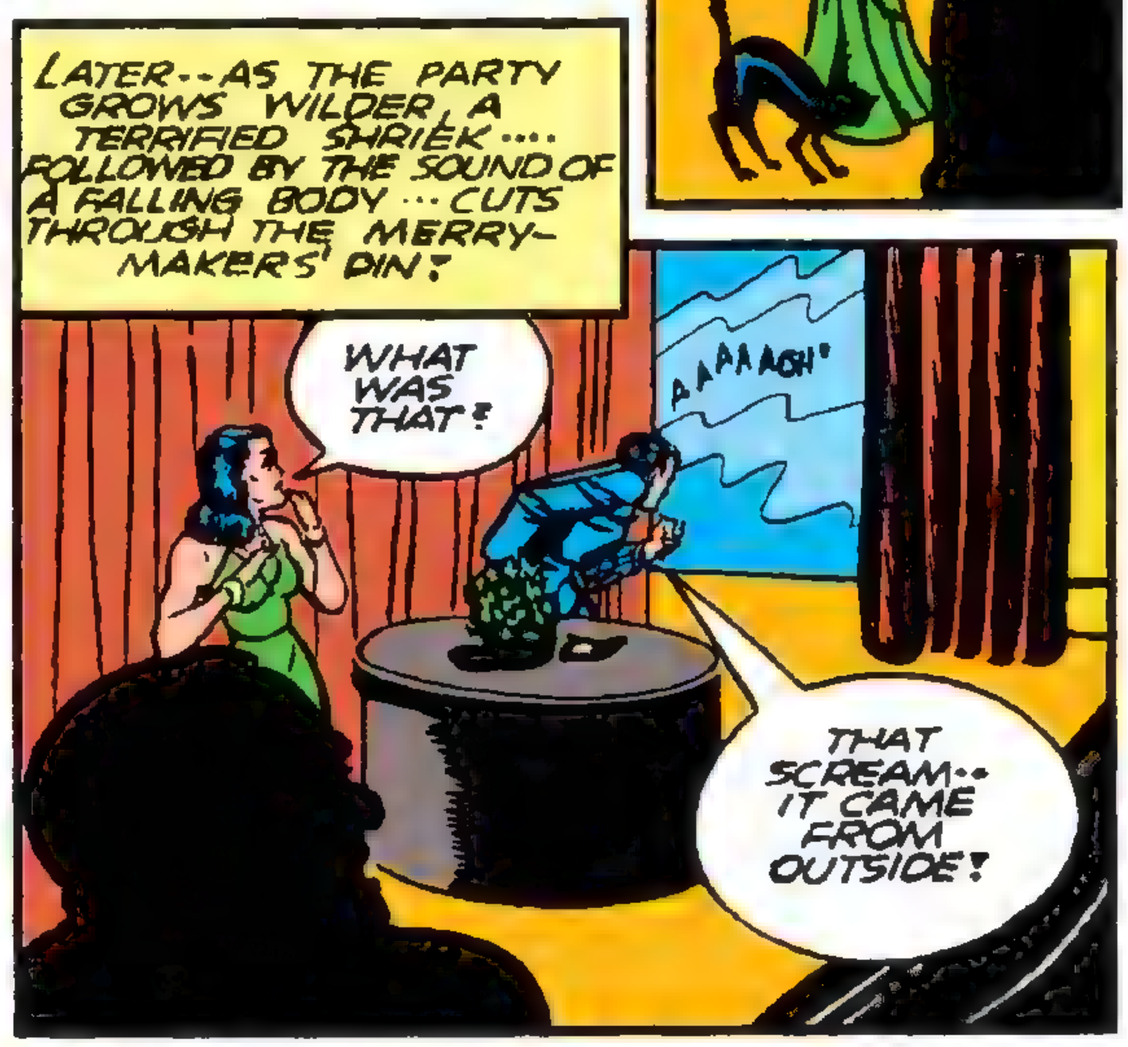

THE VILLAIN EXITS LAUGHING-- AND THE CURTAIN FALLS ON THE LAST ACT OF A SUMMER THEATRE TRYOUT!
HA! HA! HA!..
THAT WAS THE BEST REHEARSAL I EVER SAW- WE'VE GOT A GOOD SHOW!
I'M GLAD! THIS IS THE FIRST PLAY I'VE EVER WRITTEN AND I WANT IT TO BE A GOOD ONE!
THE REHEARSAL OVER--THE ACTORS COME FROM THE WINGS--
I'VE GOT AN IDEA! SINCE THIS IS A PLAY DEALING WITH SUPERSTITION--LET'S HAVE A "SUPERSTITION PARTY" TONIGHT---- WE'LL BREAK MIRRORS, WALK UNDER LADDERS AND SO ON---
WHY ---THAT'S WONDERFUL! I'LL CALL UP SCOOP MAGAZINE TO SEND A PHOTOGRAPHER DOWN --
YES---WE'RE HAVING A SUPERSTITION-BREAKING PARTY TONIGHT--- YOU MIGHT GET SOME INTERESTING PICTURES!
THAT NIGHT, AT THE PARTY, BRUCE WAYNE IS ONE OF THE INVITED GUESTS---
HELLO, BANKS... LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE ANOTHER HIT!
NOT A HIT, BRUCE- BUT A FAIR PLAY-- IT'LL GET BY!
ER--ER--BRUCE-- MEET FREO BROOKS. HE'S FINANCING THIS SHOW AND ACTING THE MURDERER IN THE LEADING ROLE!
HOW DO YOU DO! THIS IS MY LEADING LADY, MISS FRANCINE-
I'M OVERWHELMED BY A COMBINATION OF BEAUTY AND TALENT!
A GLEAM OF HATRED FLASHES IN THE PRODUCER'S EYES AS THE INGENUE CLUTCHES HER ESCORT'S ARM TIGHTLY—
SAY, DON'T I COME IN FOR MY SHARE OF INTRODUCTIONS?
BRUCE, THIS IS JOHNNY GLIM, THE AUTHOR OF THIS MASTERPIECE! HA! HA!
AH--THE GENIUS IN PERSON!
WELL, FOLKS, NOW THAT EVERYONE'S HERE INCLUDING THE PHOTOGRAPHER- LET'S START SMASHING SUPERSTITIONS!
AS THE LEADING ACTOR--- AHEM- I WILL BEGIN THE PROCEEDINGS!
WALKING UNDER A LADDER IS THE FIRST SUPERSTITION THAT IS VIOLATED!
BAD BUSINESS-- GOING UNDER LADDERS--
HA! HA! YOU HAVE UNSUSPECTED TALENT, FREO!

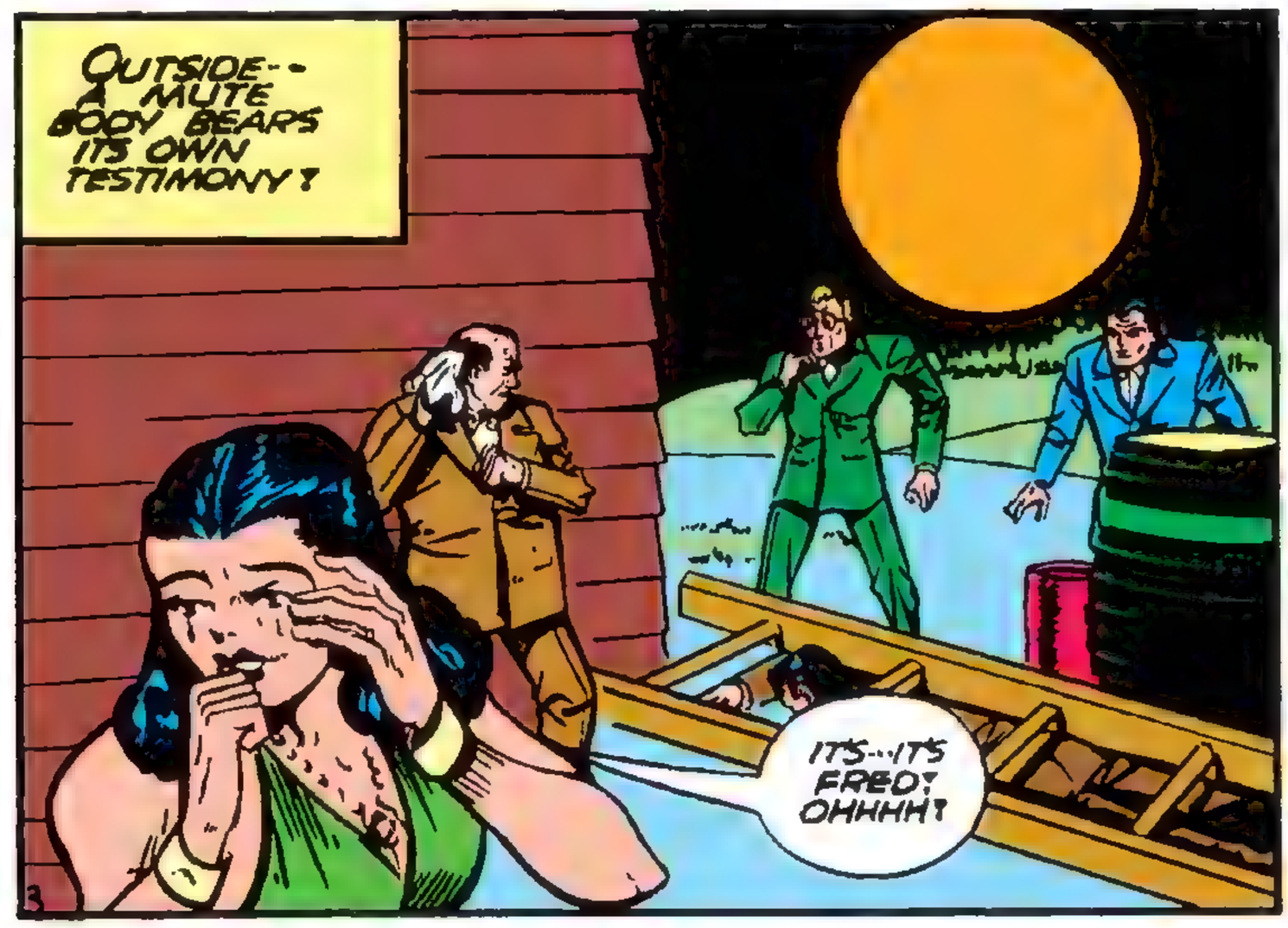

THREE CIGARETTES ARE LIT ON ONE MATCH!
HOLD IT, FOLKS! GOT IT!
THIS IS FUN! THREE ON A MATCH!
MARK MY WORDS, THIS WON'T BE THE END. WHEN FOLKS START BREAKING SUPERSTITIONS-- THINGS ARE BOUND TO HAPPEN! WAIT AND SEE!!


THE PHOTOGRAPHER JOINS THE PARTY--
EXCUSE IT---BUT I'M GETTIN' INTO THE SPIRIT OF THINGS!
SURE-- THAT MAKES YOU ONE OF US!

YELLOW EYES SHINING--AND FUR ERECT--A BLACK CAT STALKS IN---
LOOK! WE HAVE COMPANY- COME, KITTY-- KITTY--- CROSS MY PATH!
SOME-HOW, I DON'T LIKE THIS-- IT'S AS IF THEY WERE INVITING TROUBLE

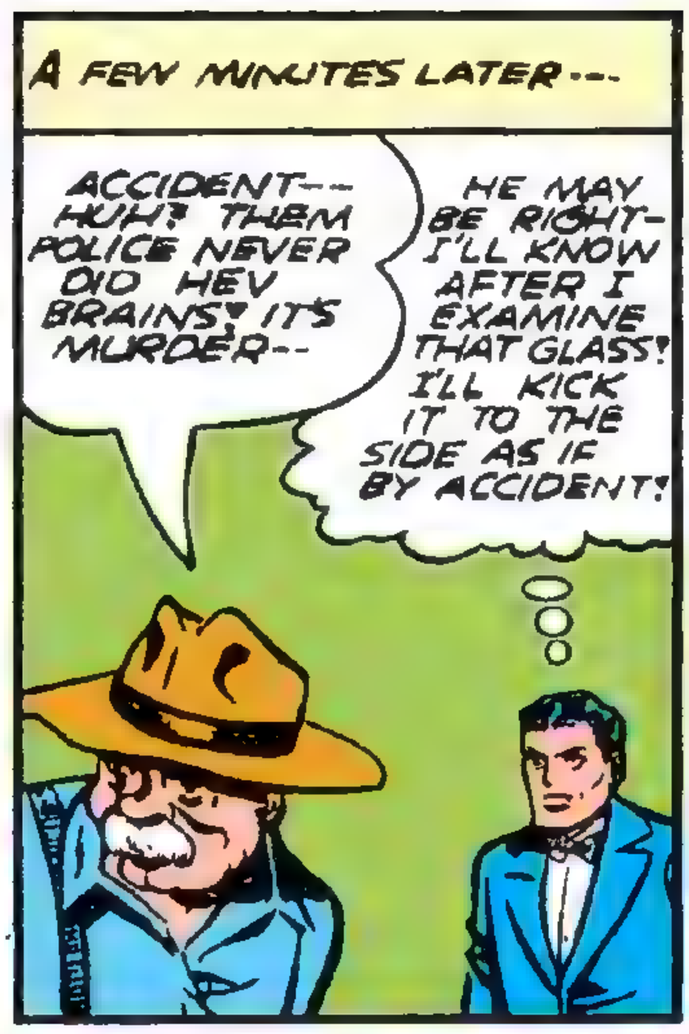
ANOTHER SUPERSTITION IS BROKEN--AN UMBRELLA IS OPENED INDOORS!
THIS IS ONE ON ME! MAYBE IT'S GONNA RAIN-- HA! HA!
ISN'T THIS FUN?
FRANKLY--- NO! I DON'T LIKE IT!


LATER--AS THE PARTY GROWS WILDER, A TERRIFIED SHRIEK.... FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF A FALLING BODY ...CUTS THROUGH THE MERRY-MAKERS' DIN!
WHAT WAS THAT?
AAAAAGH!
THAT SCREAM-- IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE!


OUTSIDE-- A MUTE BODY BEARS ITS OWN TESTIMONY!
IT'S--IT'S FRED! OHHHH!

THE LADDER KILLED HIM- AND HE WAS THE ONE WHO LAUGHED AS HE WALKED UNDER ONE A LITTLE WHILE AGO!
SO YE THOUGHT YE KNEW EVERYTHIN'? LEMME TELL YE THAT THERE ARE THINGS WHICH CAIN'T BE TAMPERED WITH- AN' SUPERSTITION IS ONE OF 'EM!

SOMEONE CALLS THE LOCAL POLICE...
I'D SAY THE LADDER FELL ON HIM! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I'D LIKE TO EXAMINE THAT GLASS NEAR THE BODY!


A FEW MINUTES LATER...
ACCIDENT-- HUH! THEM POLICE NEVER DID HEV BRAINS! IT'S MURDER--
HE MAY BE RIGHT- I'LL KNOW AFTER I EXAMINE THAT GLASS! I'LL KICK IT TO THE SIDE AS IF BY ACCIDENT!

IN HIS LABORATORY, THE PHOTOGRAPHER DEVELOPS THE PARTY'S PICTURES--WHEN--
WELL.. THAT OLD COOT WAS RIGHT! THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT-- IT WAS MURDER!

LATER ---
I GOT YOUR PHONE CALL-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?
NOTHING-- EXCEPT-- EXAMINE THIS PICTURE!

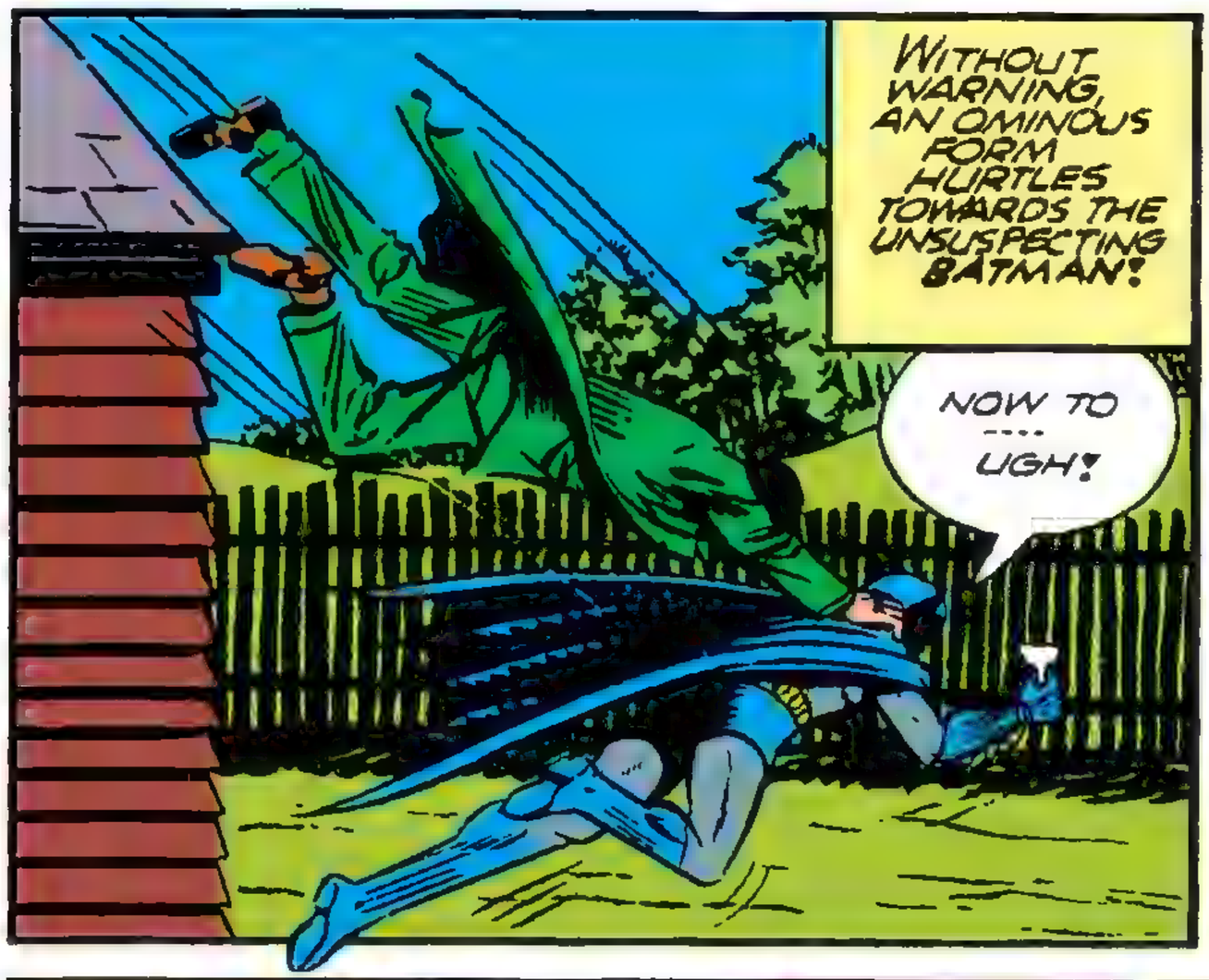
IT SHOWS YOU PUTTING POISON, FROM THE TRICK RING ON YOUR HAND, INTO BROOKS' GLASS! ER--WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY THE PICTURE--- FOR A PRICE?
I SEE..
BLACKMAIL!

MEANWHILE—
TWO THINGS HAVE TO BE CLEARED UP- ONE IS FRED'S DRINKING GLASS--AND THE OTHER IS THAT LADDER!

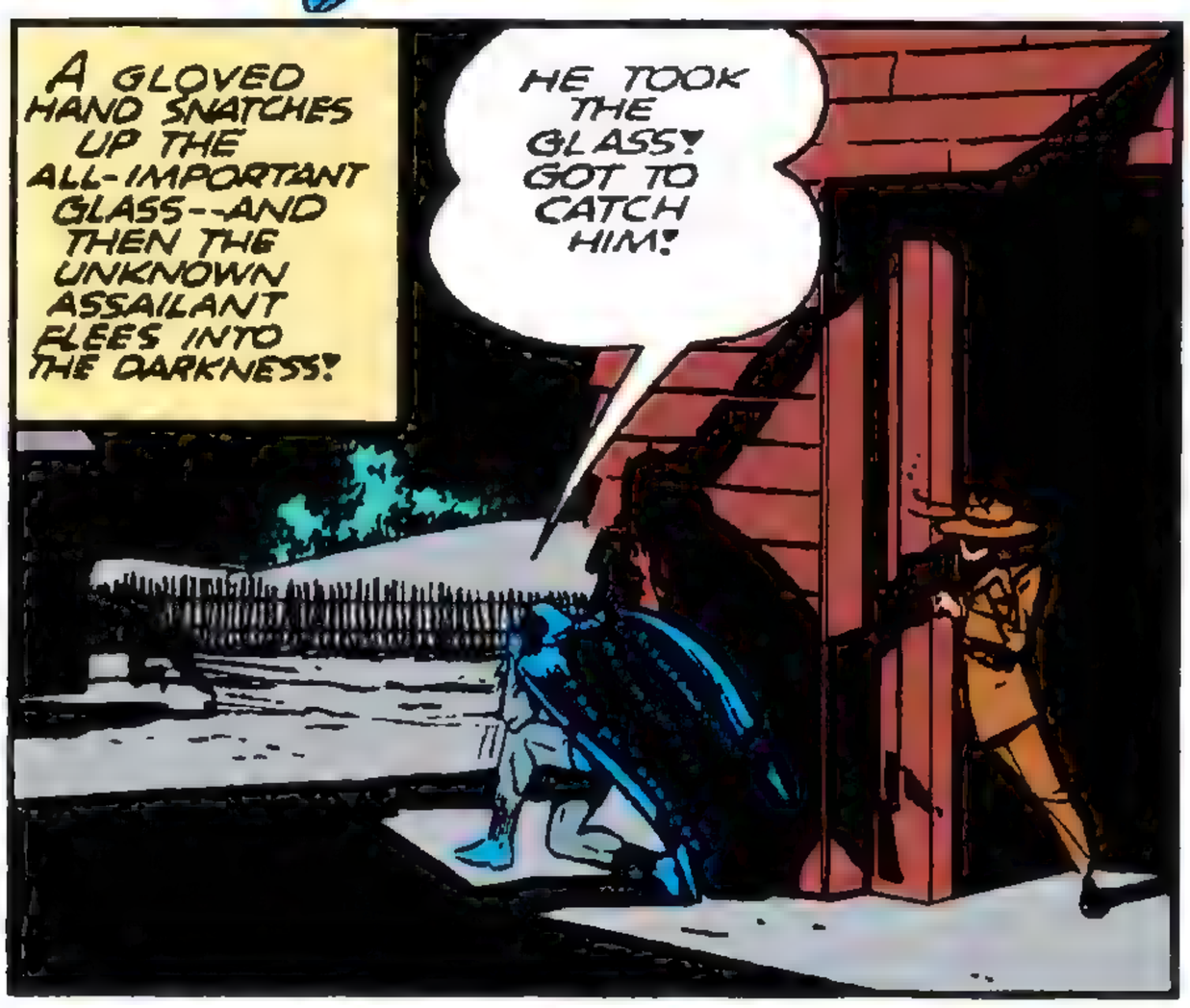
LATER-- AFTER RETURNING FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER--
YOU OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS!

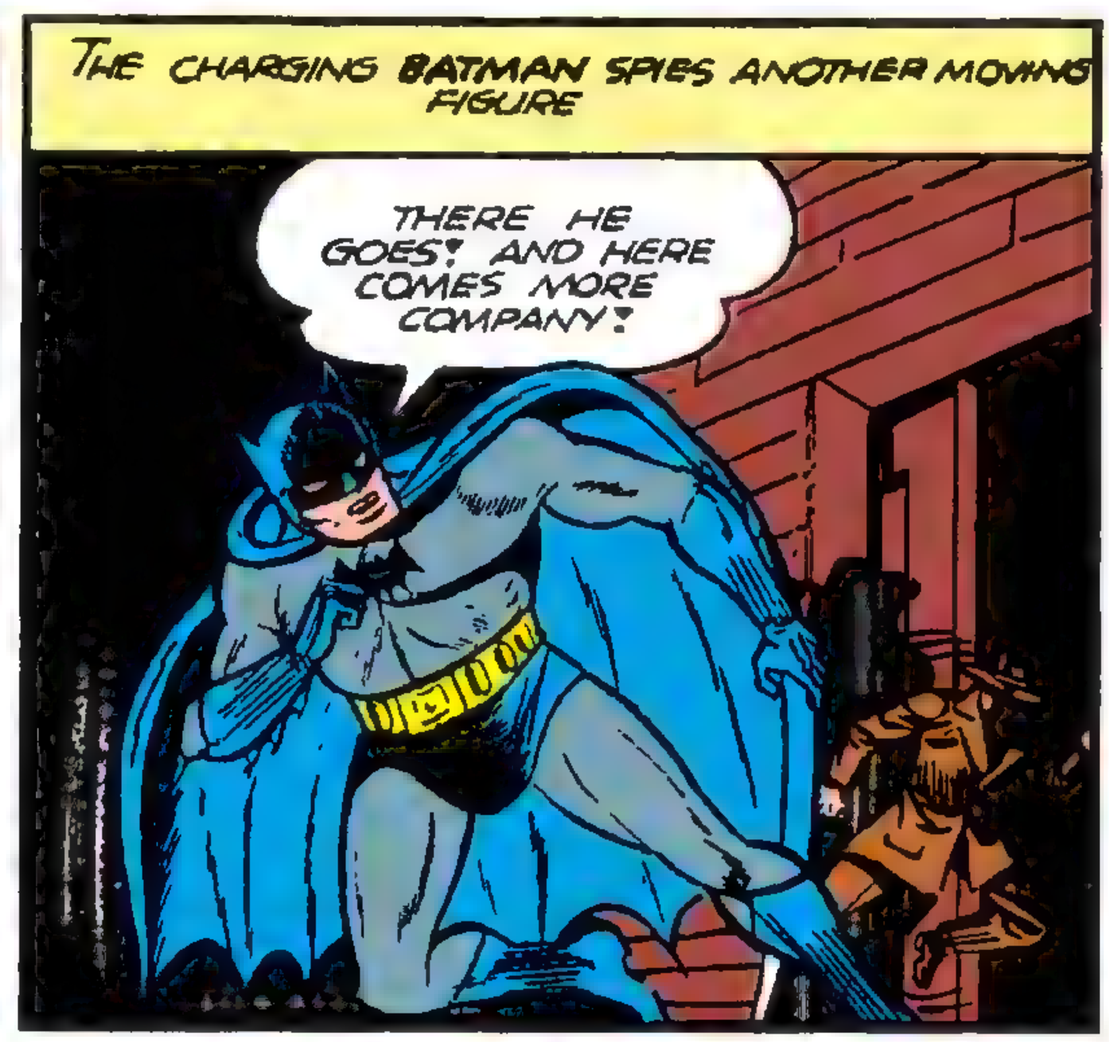
THE BATMAN GLIDES SILENTLY OVER THE HARD-PACKED GROUND!
HERE'S HOPING NOBODY'S MOVED ANYTHING!

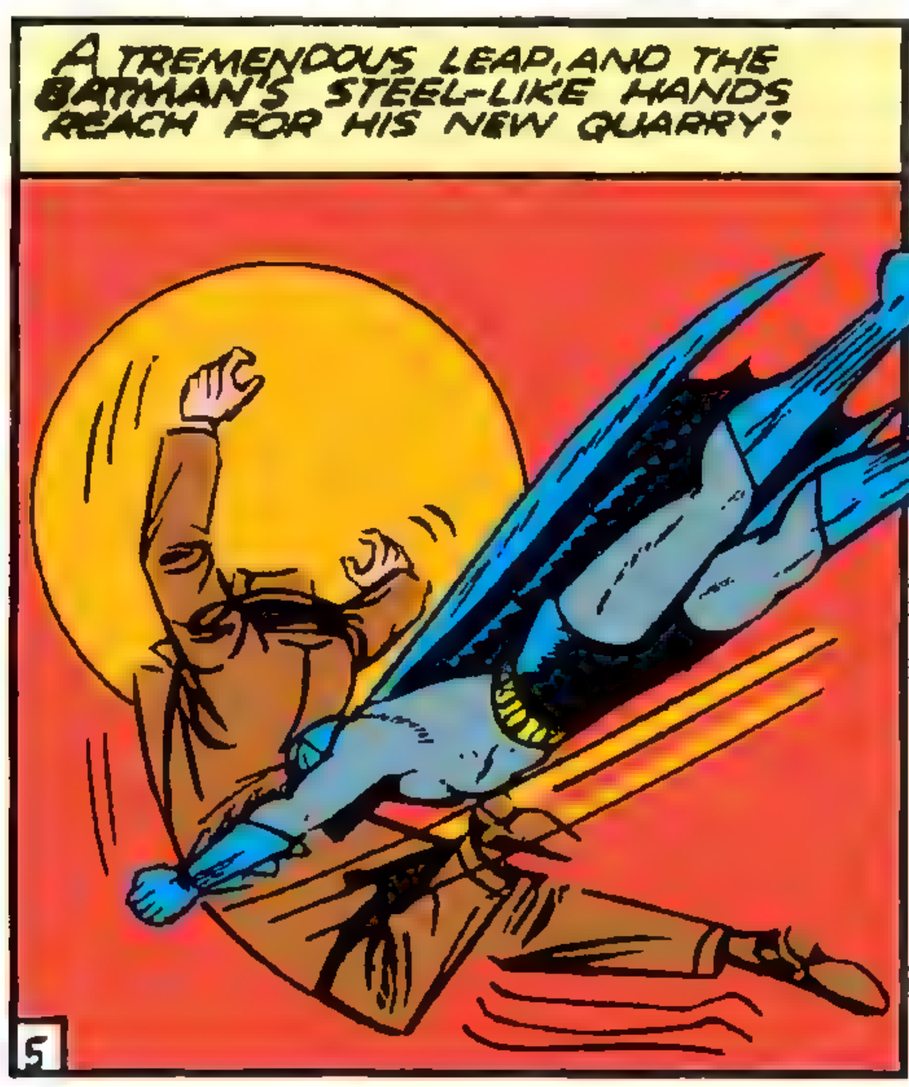
OUTSIDE THE THEATRE-BARN, HE FINDS--
AH! HERE IT IS! JUST AS I SUSPECTED- AN ODOR LIKE THAT OF BURNT ALMONDS! THIS MAN WAS MURDERED-- POISONED BY PRUSSIC ACID!


WITHOUT WARNING, AN OMINOUS FORM HURTLES TOWARDS THE UNSUSPECTING BATMAN!
NOW TO ---- UGH!

A SHARP EXCHANGE OF BLOWS FOLLOWS-- BUT THE KNEELING BATMAN IS AT A DISADVANTAGE...

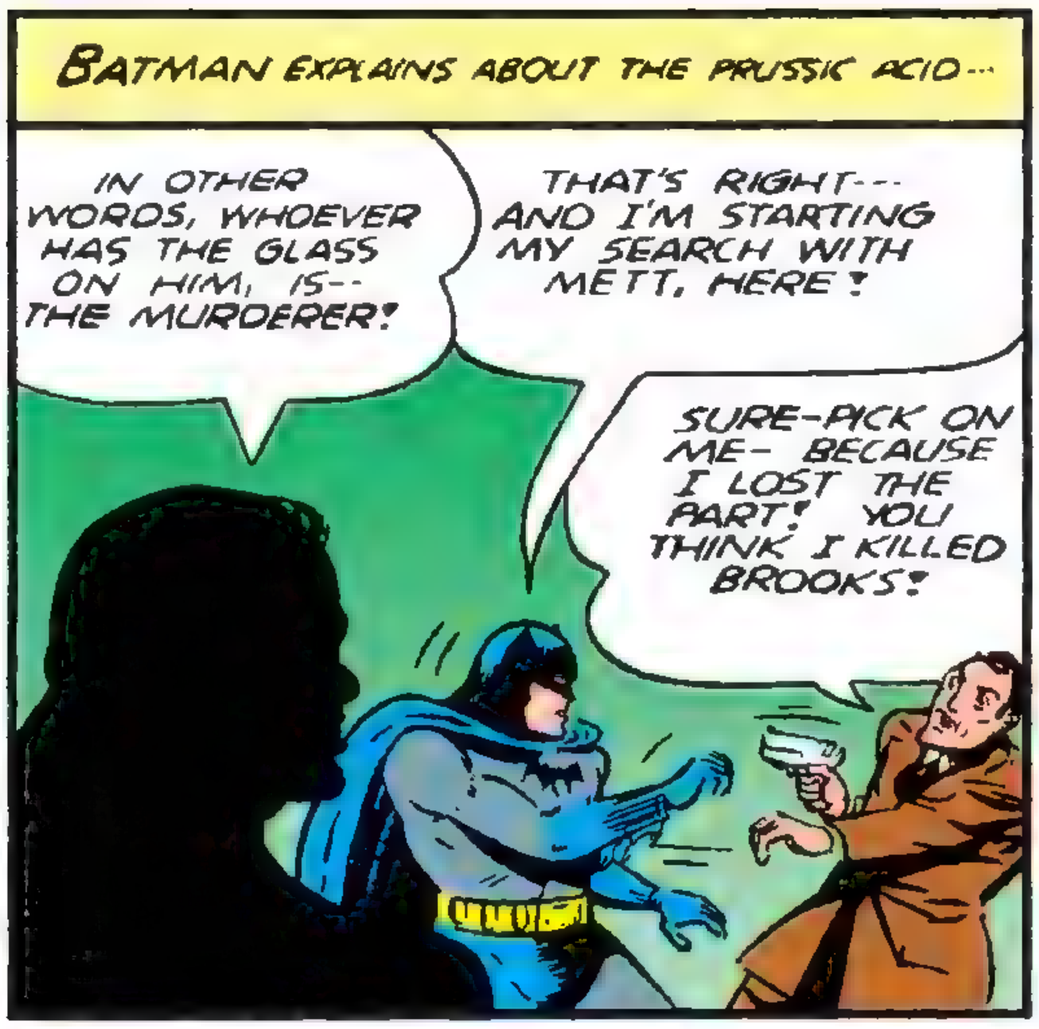

A GLOVED HAND SNATCHES UP THE ALL-IMPORTANT GLASS--AND THEN THE UNKNOWN ASSAILANT FLEES INTO THE DARKNESS!
HE TOOK THE GLASS! GOT TO CATCH HIM!

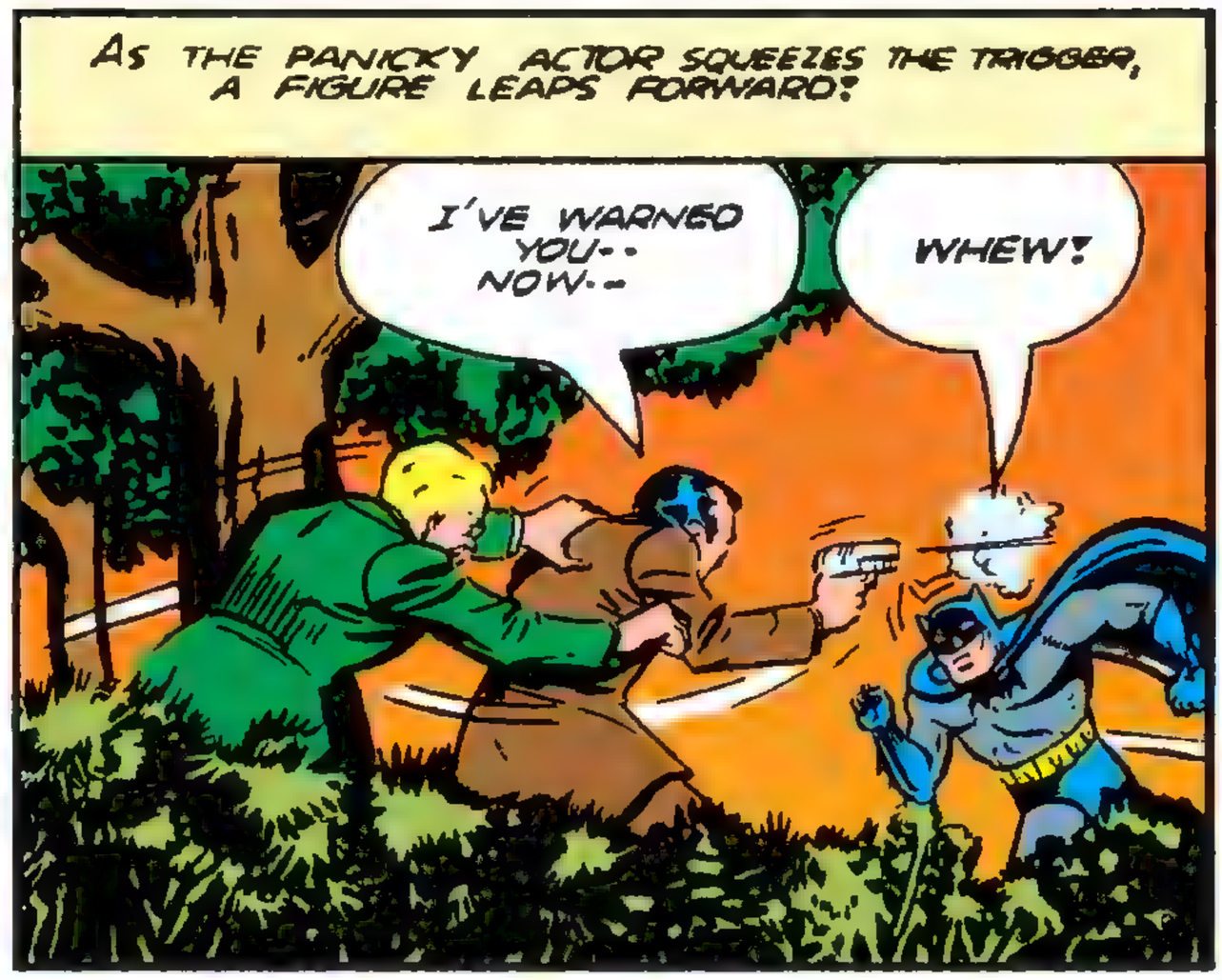

THE CHARGING BATMAN SPIES ANOTHER MOVING FIGURE
THERE HE GOES! AND HERE COMES MORE COMPANY!


A TREMENDOUS LEAP, AND THE BATMAN'S STEEL-LIKE HANDS REACH FOR HIS NEW QUARRY!

BATMAN WHIPS OFF HIS FOE'S HAT AND UNDER THE MOON'S LIGHT IS REVEALED--
NOW, MR. MURDERER, LET'S SEE WHO-- SAY--WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DARE YOU? YOU CLOAKED BANDIT!

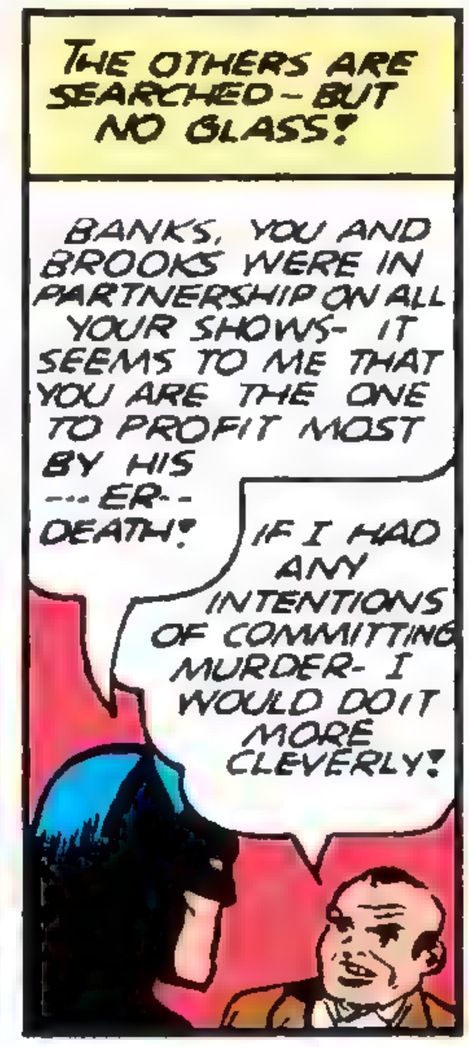
THE NOISE OF THE SCUFFLE AWAKENS THE MEMBERS OF THE STOCK COMPANY--
HOW THRILLING! IT'S THE FAMOUS BATMAN- WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS! CAN ANYBODY IDENTIFY THIS MAN?
OF COURSE! HE'S PAUL METT, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PLAYED THE LEAD IN MY PLAY, BUT-- FRANKLY, HE DRANK HIMSELF OUT OF THE PART- WE HAD TO LET HIM GO!

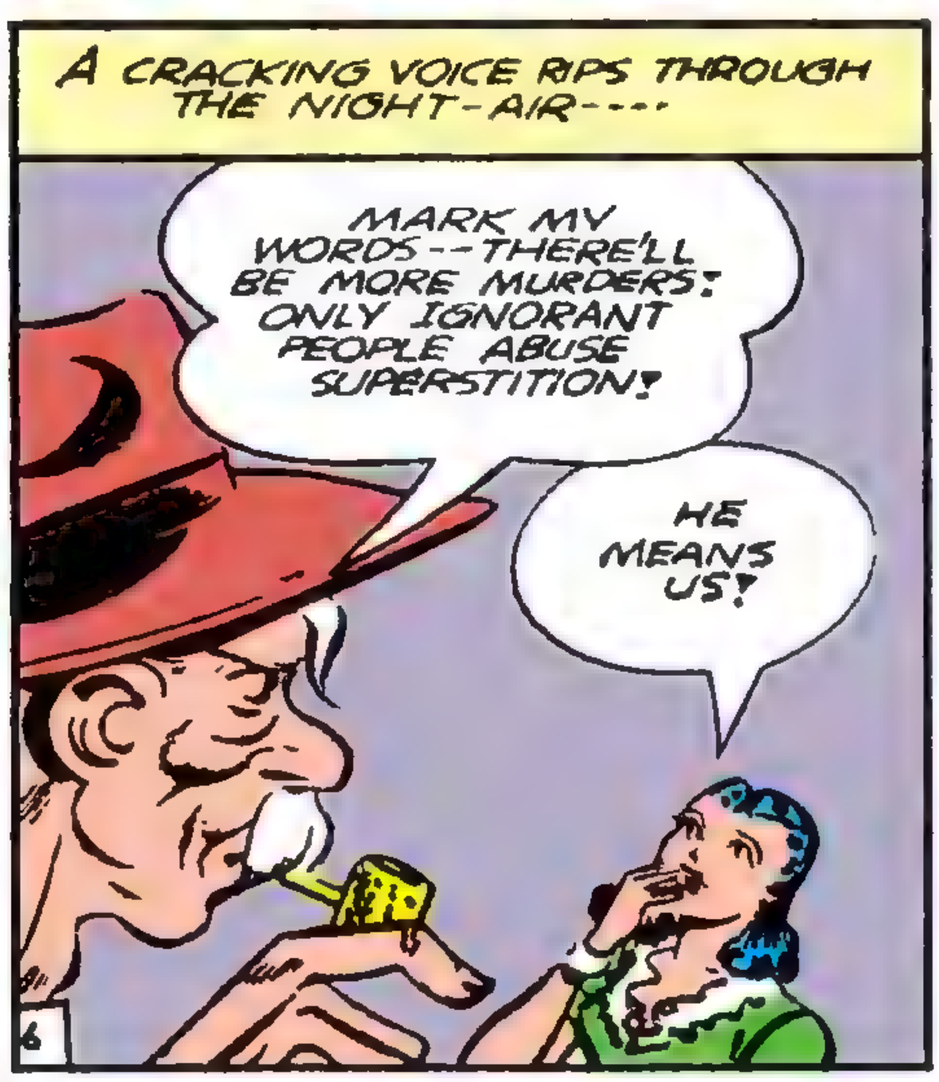

BATMAN EXPLAINS ABOUT THE PRUSSIC ACID...
IN OTHER WORDS, WHOEVER HAS THE GLASS ON HIM, IS-- THE MURDERER!
THAT'S RIGHT--- AND I'M STARTING MY SEARCH WITH METT, HERE!
SURE-PICK ON ME- BECAUSE I LOST THE PART! YOU THINK I KILLED BROOKS!


AS THE PANICKY ACTOR SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER, A FIGURE LEAPS FORWARD!
I'VE WARNED YOU-- NOW--
WHEW!

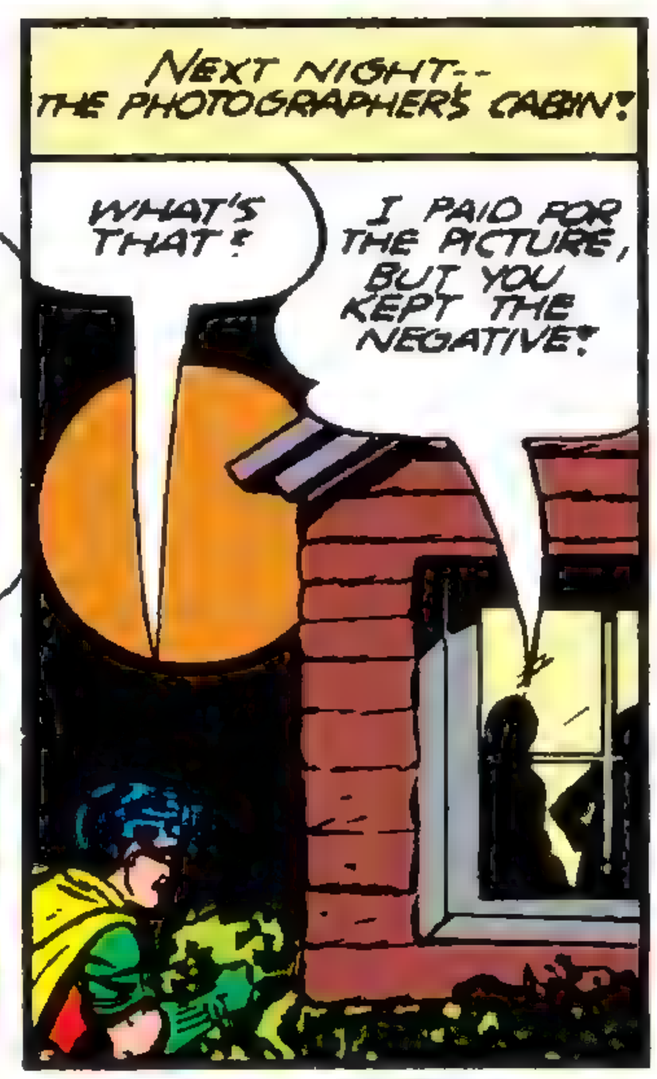
WHILE BATMAN SEARCHES METT, ONE OF THE TROUPE PHONES THE POLICE--
THANKS- YOU SAVED MY LIFE! I WANT TO SEE WHAT THIS CHAP IS CONCEALING- WHAT'S THIS? DRAMATIC WRITE-UPS OF PAUL METT! BUT NO GLASS!
DRAMATIC CLIPPINGS! MORE PRECIOUS TO AN ACTOR THAN HIS FOOD- TOO BAD... BUT THE PATH TO OBLIVION IS GREASED!

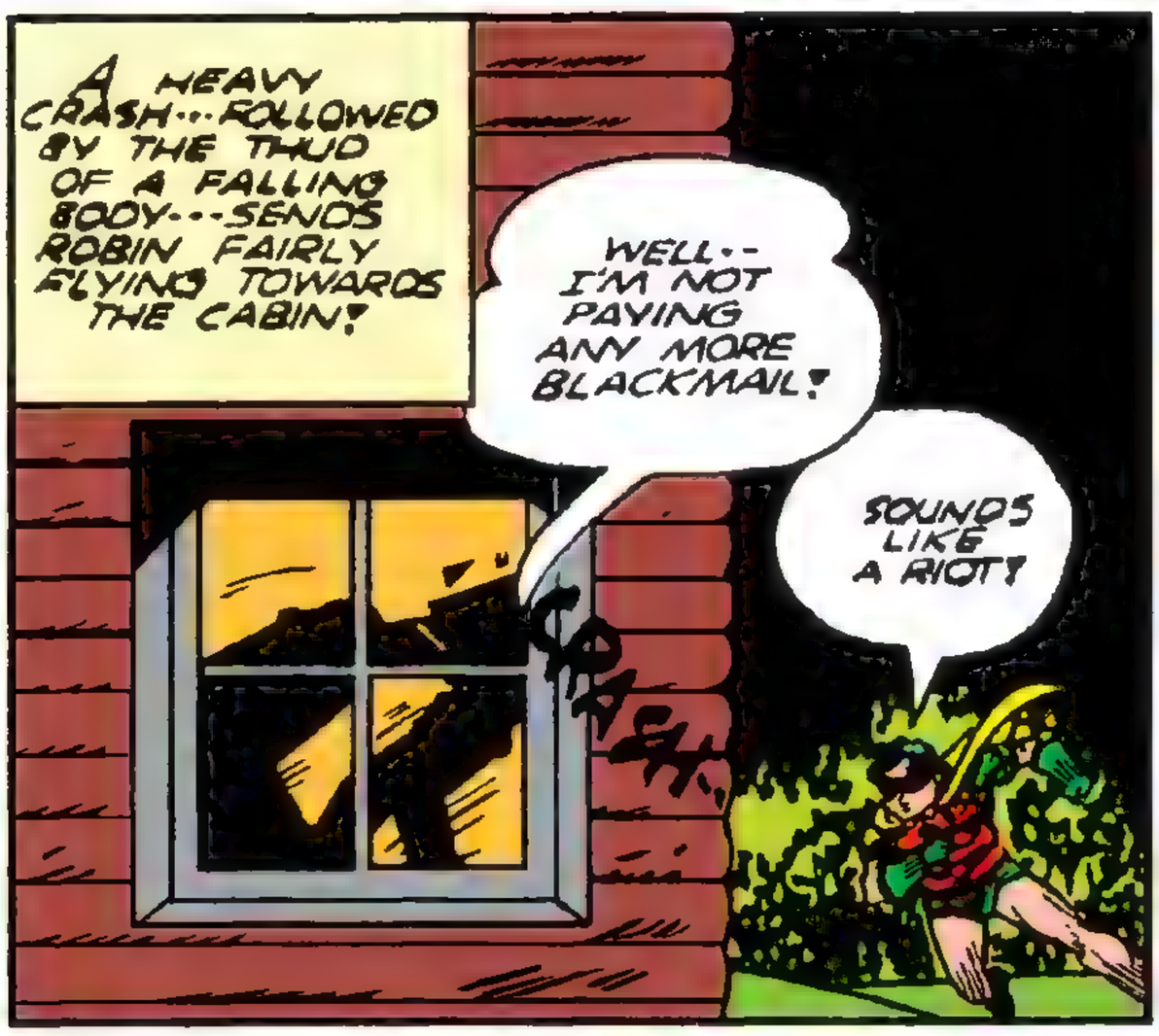
UPON ARRIVING, THE POLICE GREET BATMAN-
BY GINGER, IT'S THE BATMAN!
FRED BROOKS WAS MURDERED, AND I'M CHECKING ON THIS MAN FOR A CLUE!
SORRY, MISTER BATMAN, BUT ONLY TEN MINUTES AGO WE LET HIM OUT OF THE HOOSEGOW WHERE HE WAS CONFINED FER DRUNKENNESS!

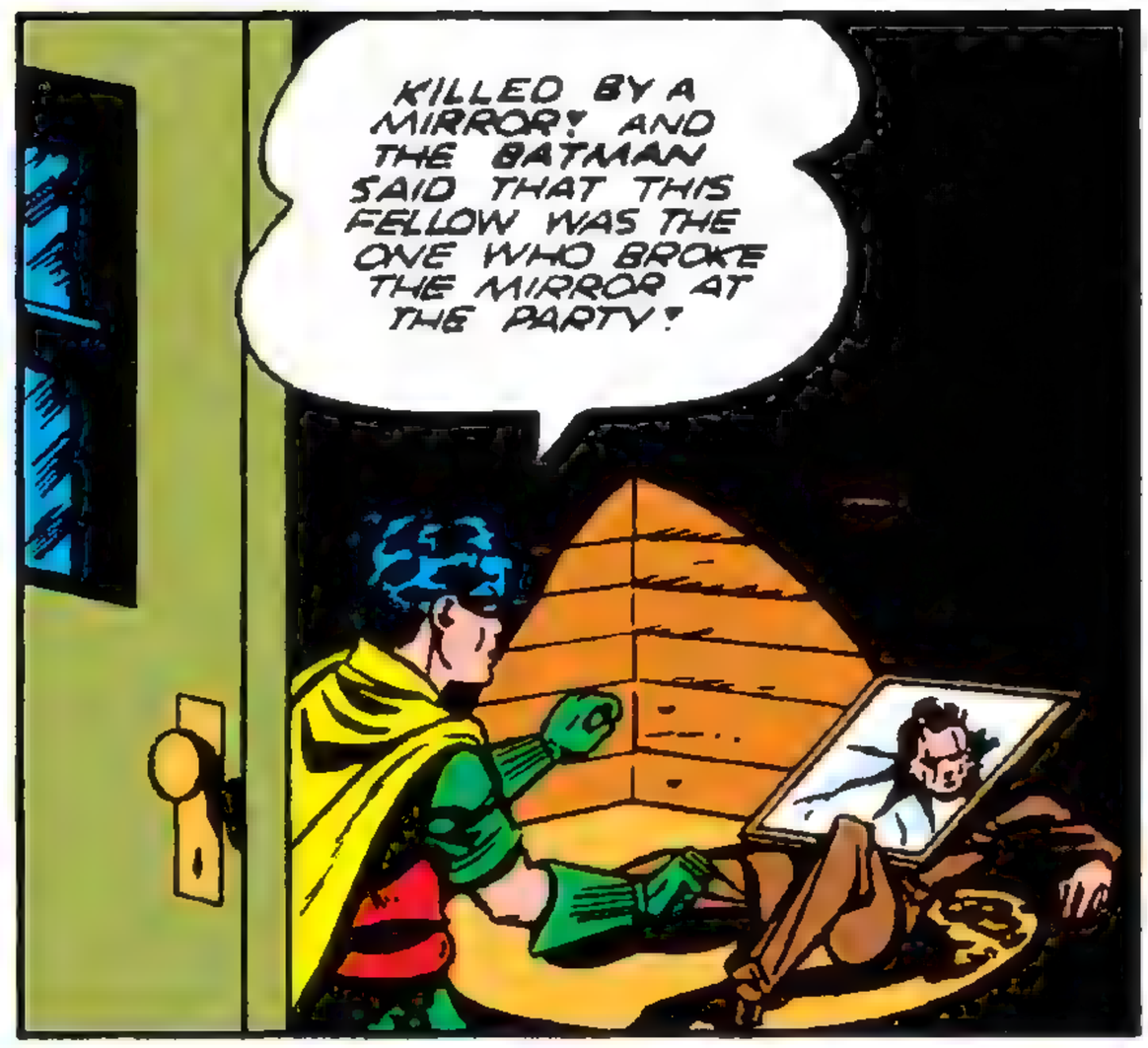

THE OTHERS ARE SEARCHED- BUT NO GLASS!
BANKS, YOU AND BROOKS WERE IN PARTNERSHIP ON ALL YOUR SHOWS- IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU ARE THE ONE TO PROFIT MOST BY HIS ---ER-- DEATH!
IF I HAD ANY INTENTIONS OF COMMITTING MURDER- I WOULD DO IT MORE CLEVERLY!

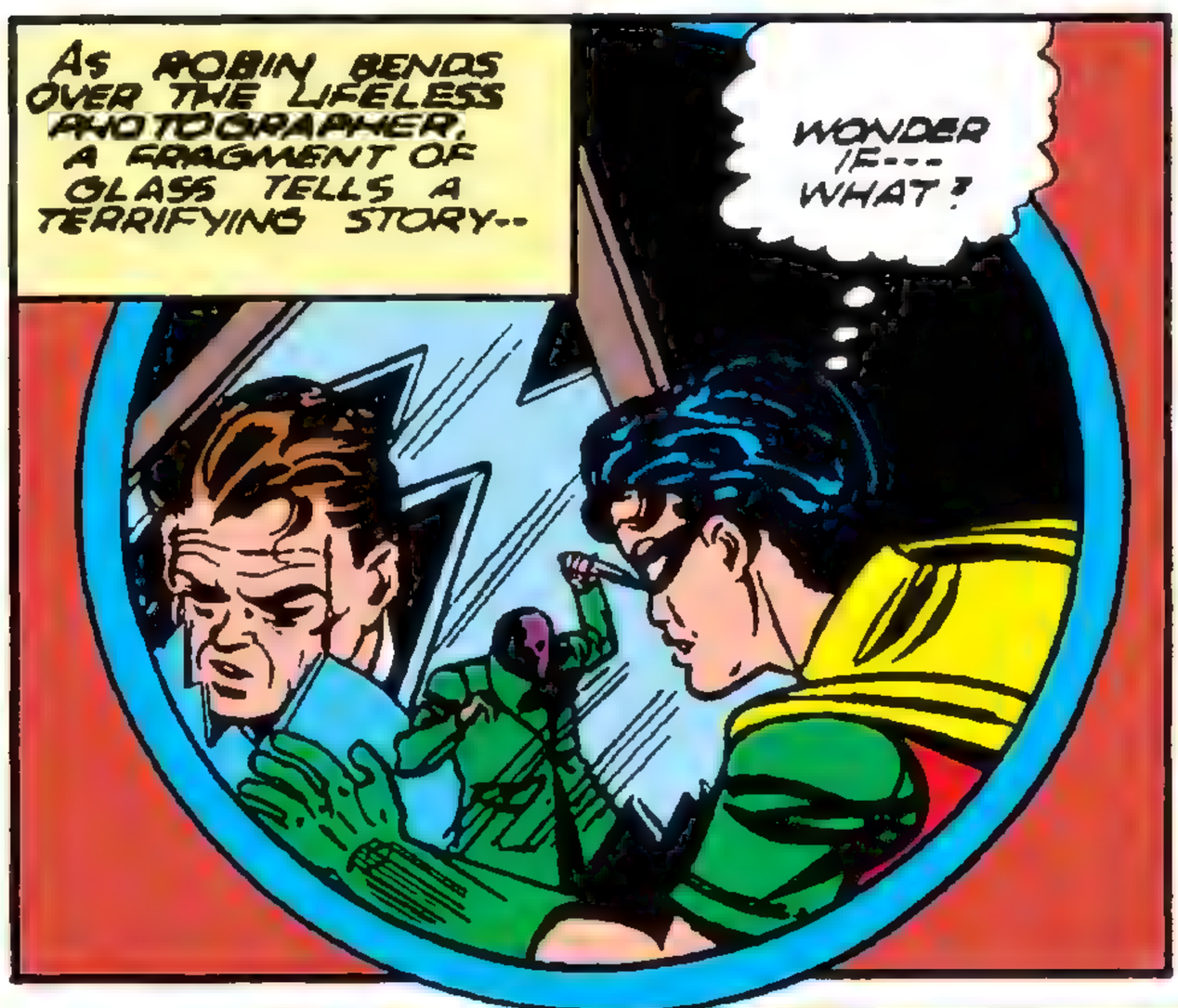

A CRACKING VOICE RIPS THROUGH THE NIGHT-AIR----
MARK MY WORDS--THERE'LL BE MORE MURDERS! ONLY IGNORANT PEOPLE ABUSE SUPERSTITION!
HE MEANS US!

LATER---
--YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST TO PREVENT MORE MURDERS!
THAT GLASS WAS MY ONLY CLUE AND IT'S GONE- I WONDER IF THE PHOTOGRAPHER WOULD--SAY- I'VE GOT IT! TOMORROW NIGHT, I WANT YOU TO SEE THE PHOTOGRAPHER LOOK AT THE PICTURES HE SNAPPED- ONE OF THEM MAY CONTAIN A CLUE!
SNAP!


NEXT NIGHT-- THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S CABIN!
WHAT'S THAT!
I PAID FOR THE PICTURE, BUT YOU KEPT THE NEGATIVE!

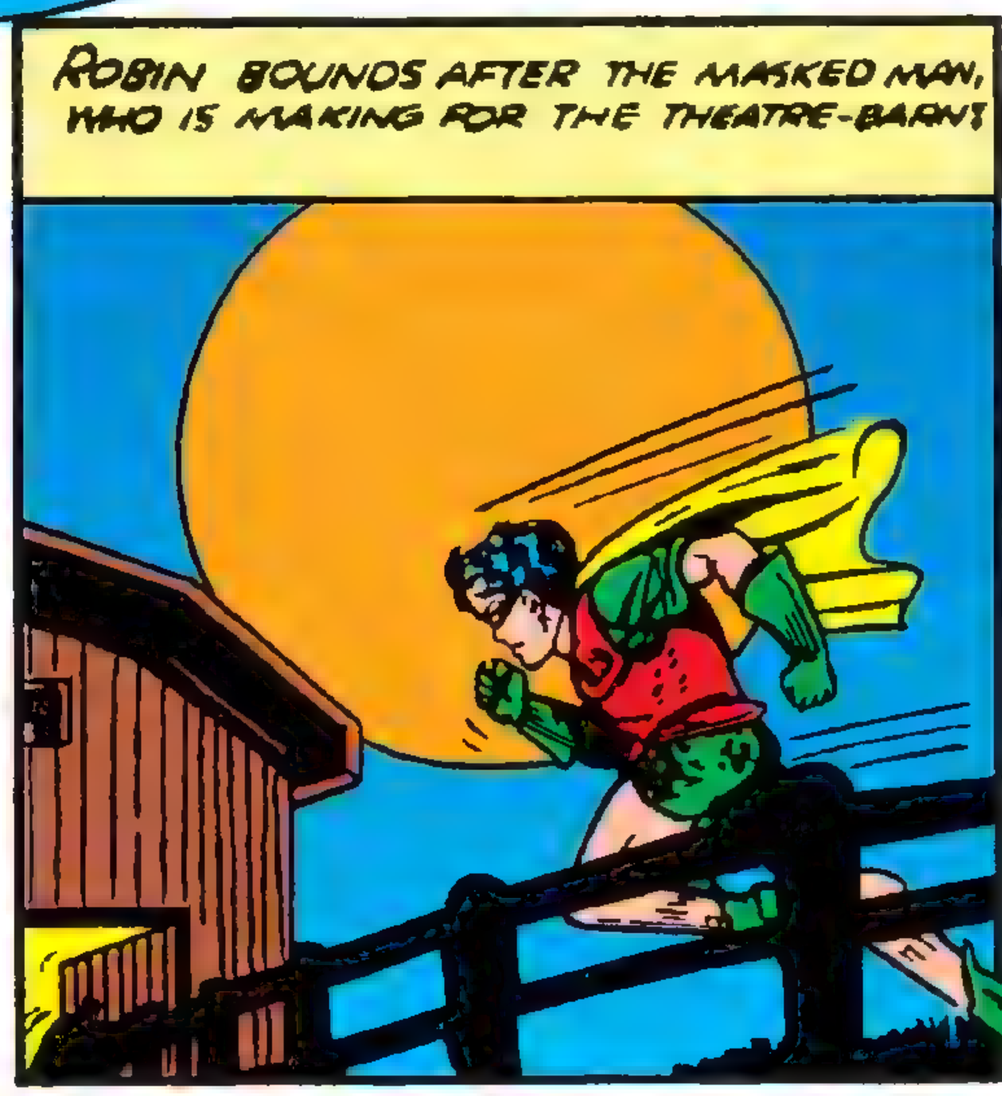

A HEAVY CRASH...FOLLOWED BY THE THUD OF A FALLING BODY...SENDS ROBIN FAIRLY FLYING TOWARDS THE CABIN!
WELL.. I'M NOT PAYING ANY MORE BLACKMAIL!
SOUNDS LIKE A RIOT!

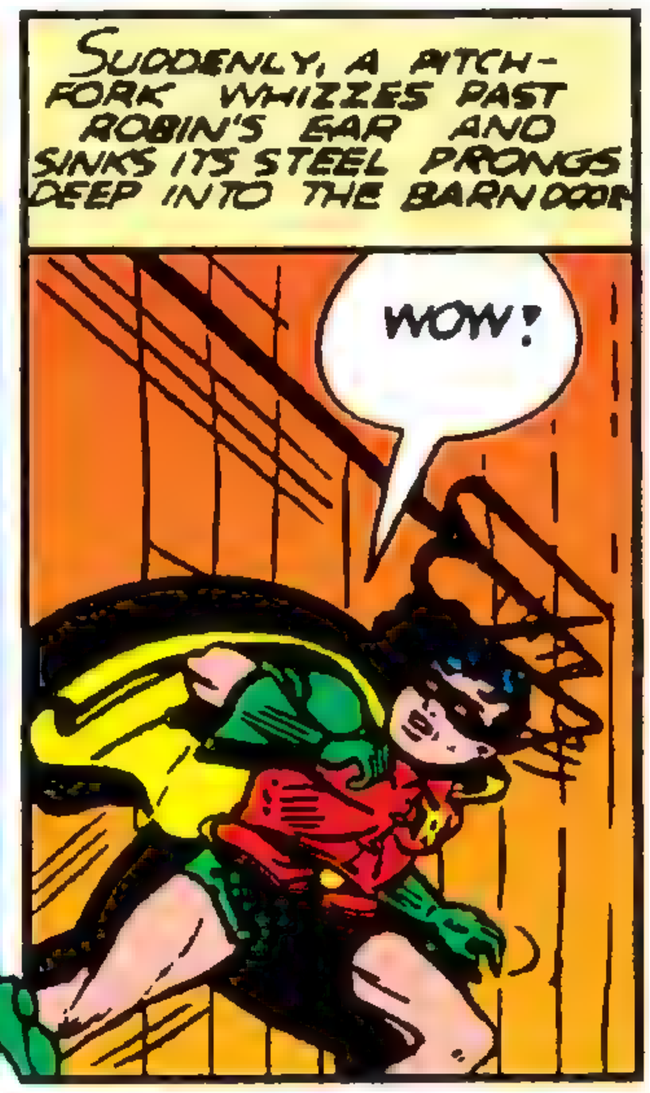

KILLED BY A MIRROR! AND THE BATMAN SAID THAT THIS FELLOW WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE THE MIRROR AT THE PARTY!

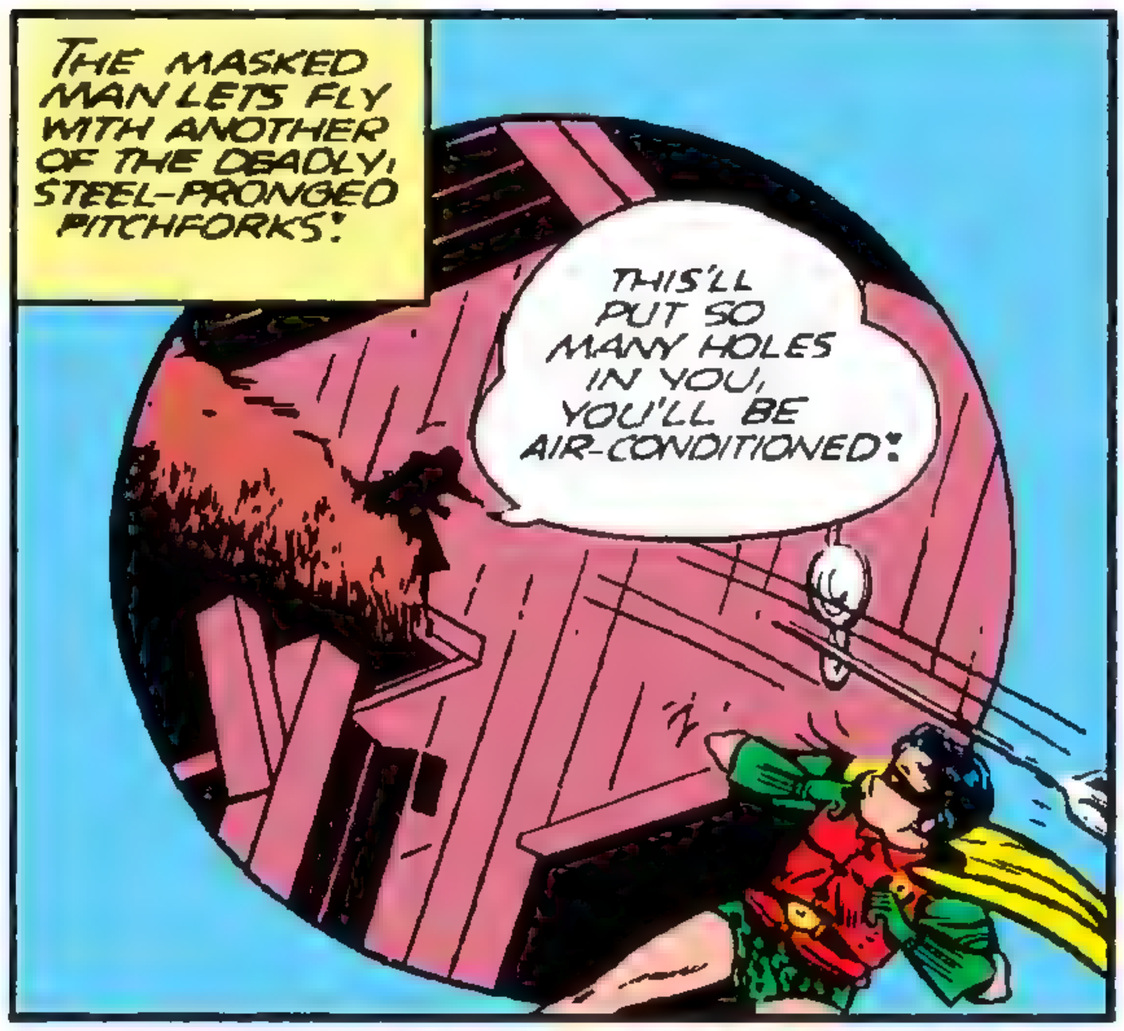

AS ROBIN BENDS OVER THE LIFELESS PHOTOGRAPHER, A FRAGMENT OF GLASS TELLS A TERRIFYING STORY--
WONDER IF--- WHAT?

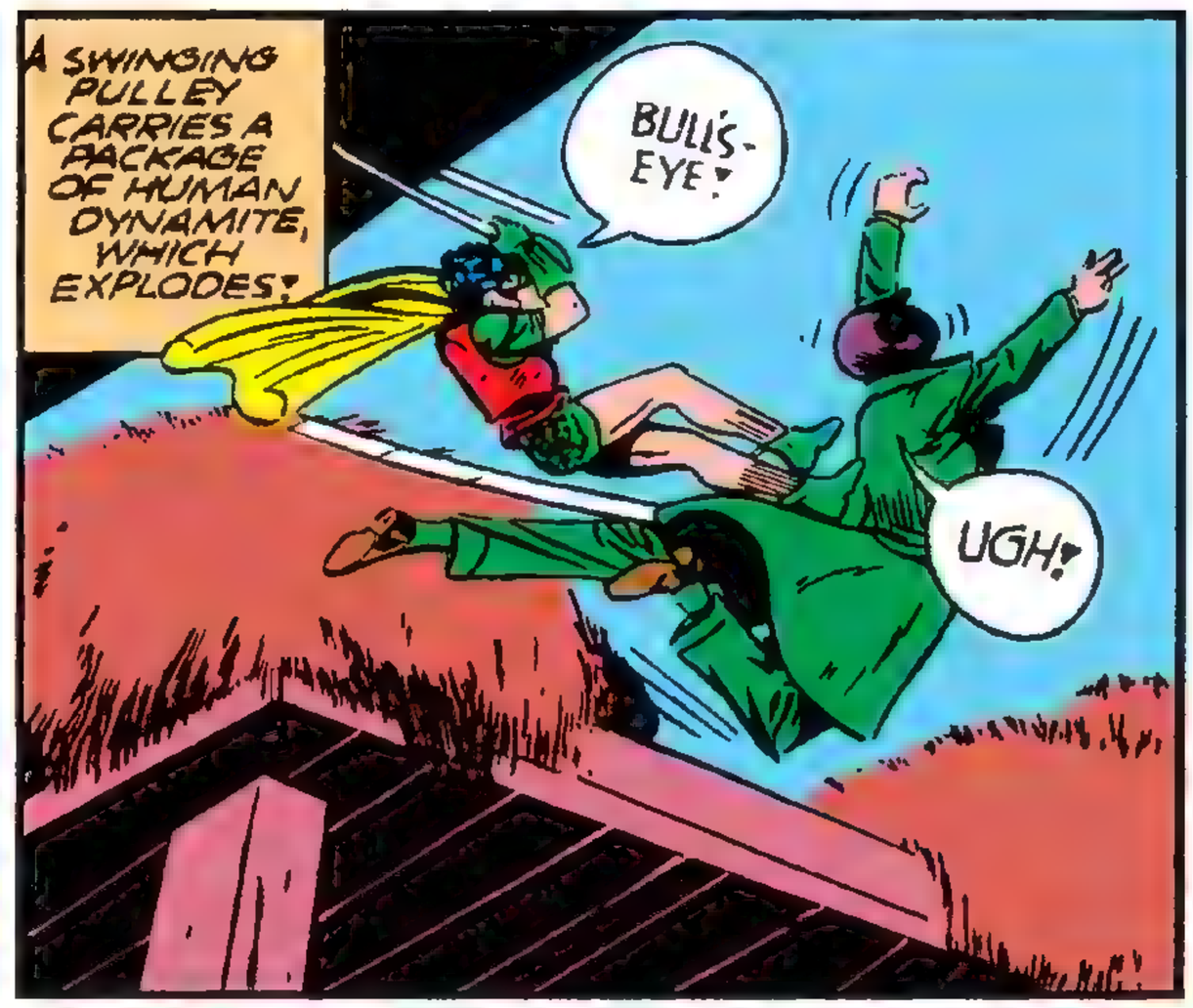
ROBIN WHIPS ABOUT---
BIG STRONG MAN WOULDN'T KILL A LITTLE BOY-- --- OR WOULD HE?
WHY, YOU...

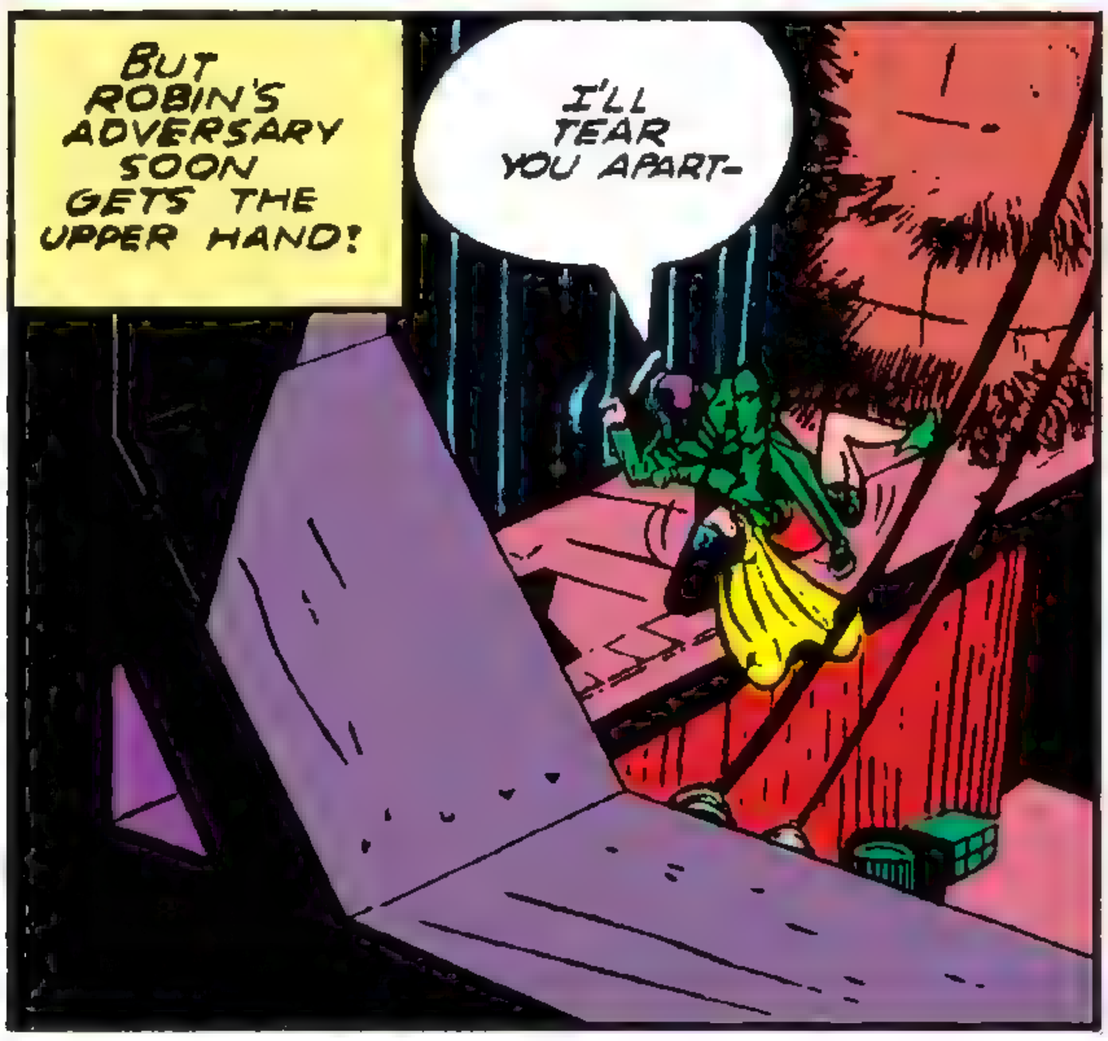
GASPING AN OATH--THE MASKED MAN JUST BEATS ROBIN TO THE DOOR--
DROPPED MY KNIFE- GOT TO GET AWAY!
WAIT FOR BABY --UGH!
SLAM

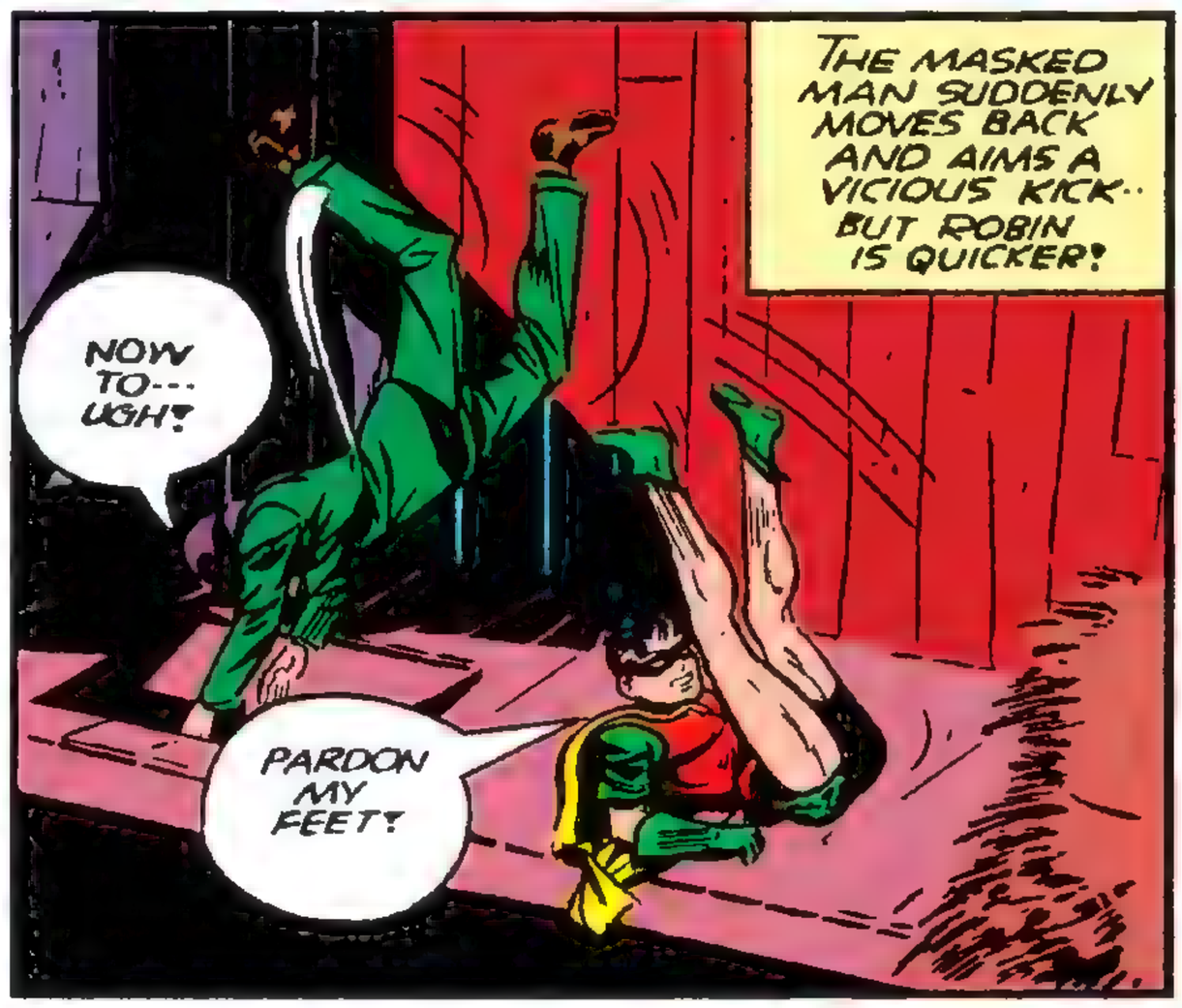

ROBIN BOUNDS AFTER THE MASKED MAN, WHO IS MAKING FOR THE THEATRE-BARN!


SUDDENLY, A PITCH-FORK WHIZZES PAST ROBIN'S EAR AND SINKS ITS STEEL PRONGS DEEP INTO THE BARN DOOR
WOW!

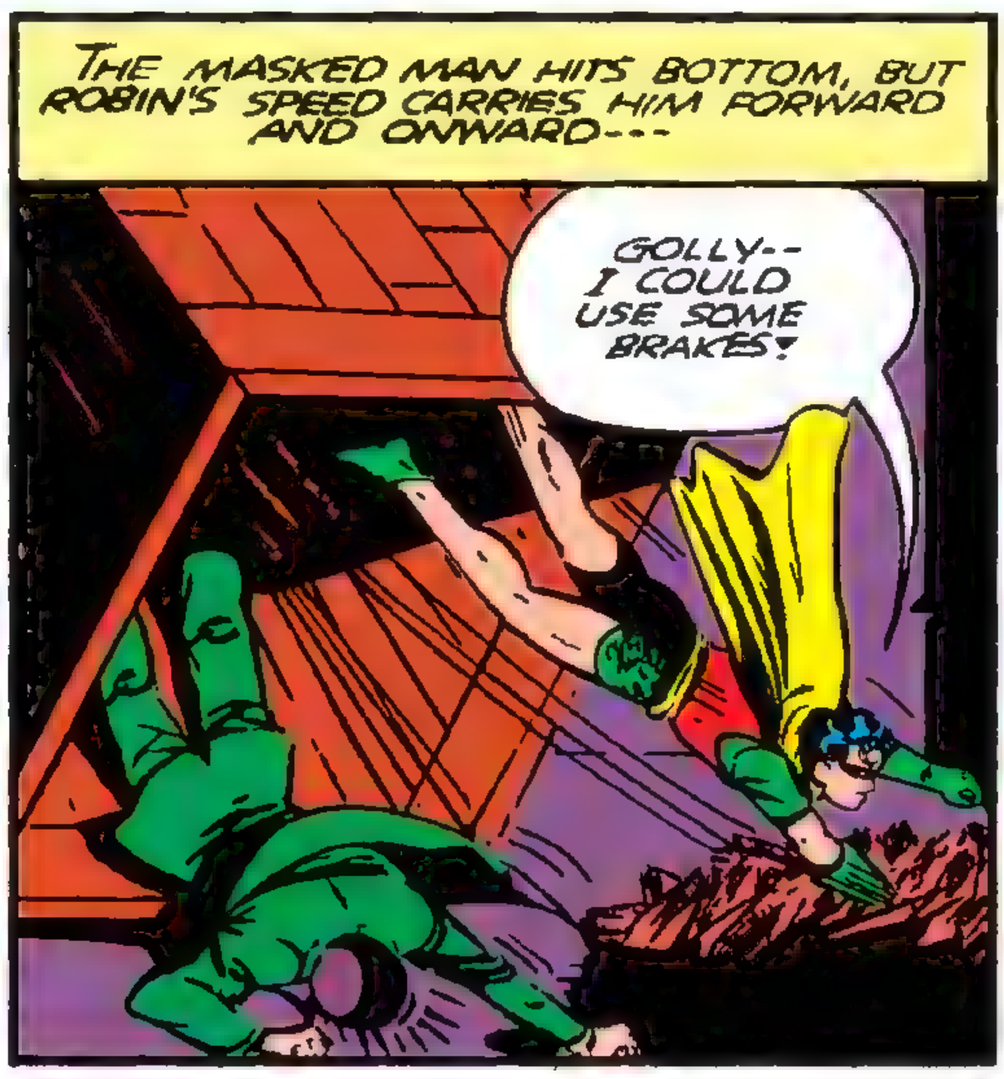

THE MASKED MAN LETS FLY WITH ANOTHER OF THE DEADLY, STEEL-PRONGED PITCHFORKS!
THIS'LL PUT SO MANY HOLES IN YOU, YOU'LL BE AIR-CONDITIONED!

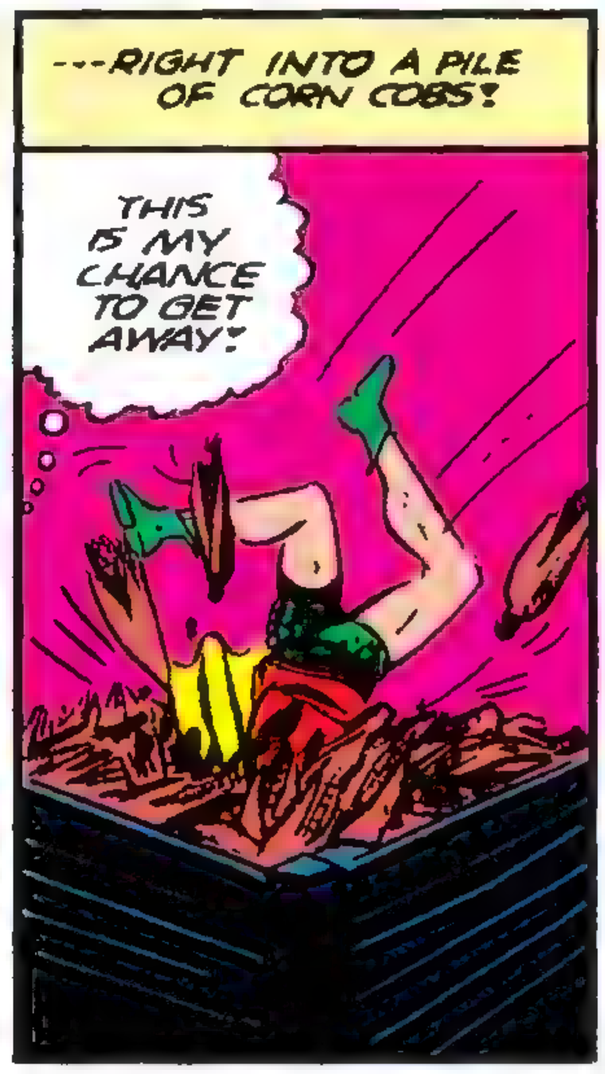

A SWINGING PULLEY CARRIES A PACKAGE OF HUMAN DYNAMITE, WHICH EXPLODES!
BULL'S-EYE!
UGH!


BUT ROBIN'S ADVERSARY SOON GETS THE UPPER HAND!
I'LL TEAR YOU APART-


THE MASKED MAN SUDDENLY MOVES BACK AND AIMS A VICIOUS KICK.. BUT ROBIN IS QUICKER!
NOW TO--- UGH!
PARDON MY FEET!

LOSING HIS BALANCE-- THE MASKED MAN TOPPLES INTO THE CORN CHUTE-- ROBIN DIVING AFTER IN PURSUIT!


THE MASKED MAN HITS BOTTOM, BUT ROBIN'S SPEED CARRIES HIM FORWARD AND ONWARD---
GOLLY-- I COULD USE SOME BRAKES!

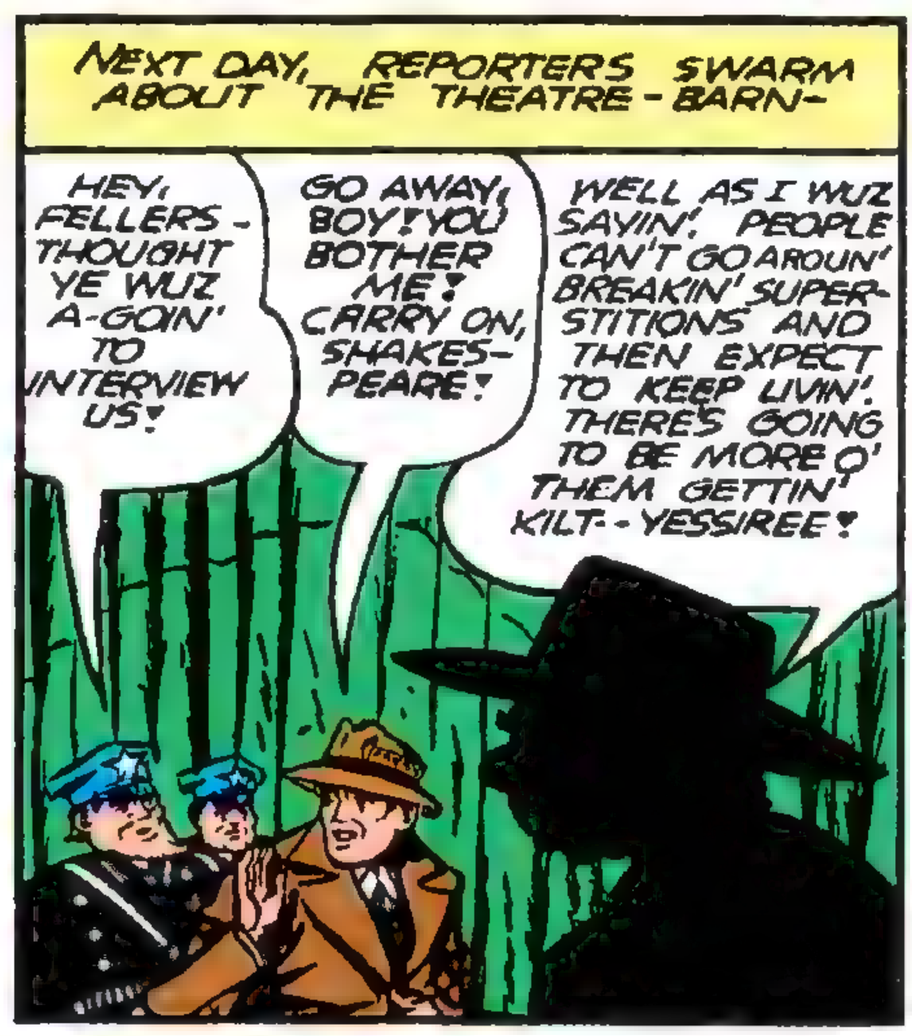

---RIGHT INTO A PILE OF CORN COBS!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY!

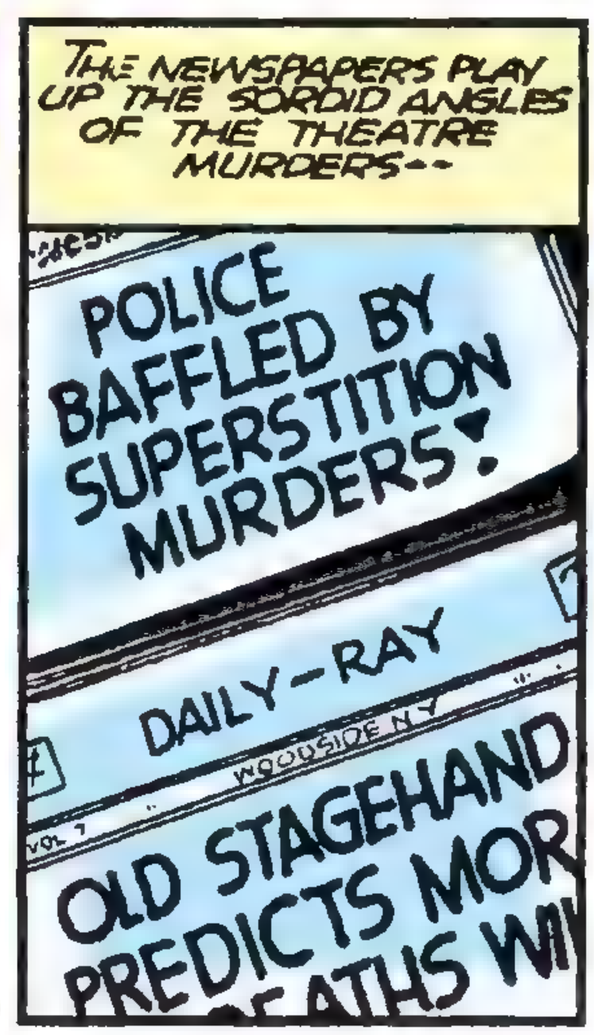
LOOKS LIKE MY MASKED PAL GOT AWAY! AND SO HELP ME, IF ANYBODY EVER MENTIONS CORN TO ME-- I'LL--I'LL--

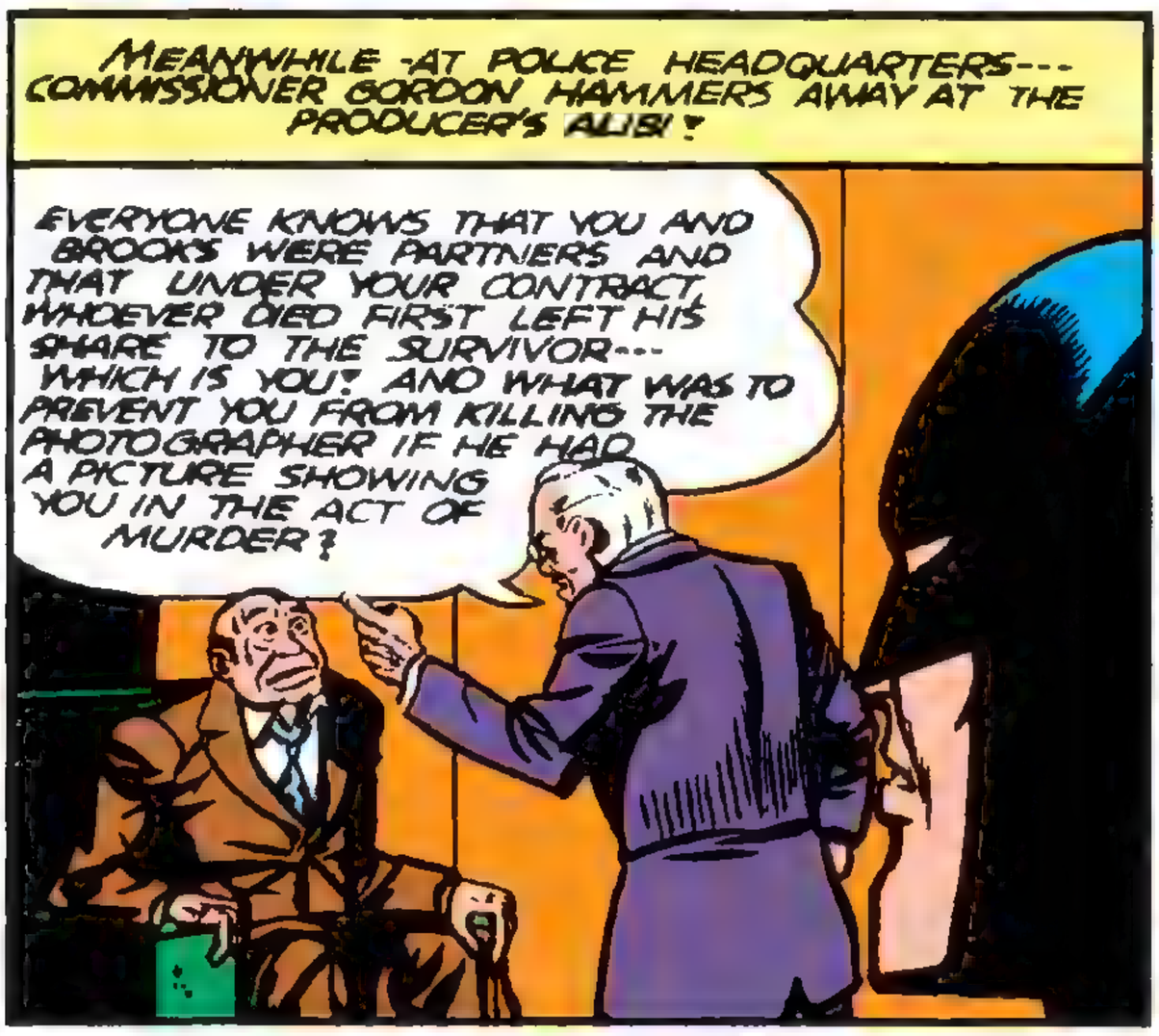
LATER, WHEN ROBIN REPORTS BACK TO THE BATMAN...
--AND AFTER HE GOT AWAY, I SEARCHED THE GROUNDS FOR A CLUE-- AND FOUND THIS!
"LARRY PAINE- ARGUS PICTURES HOLLYWOOD" WELL-IT LOOKS AS IF I HAVE TO MAKE A LONG DISTANCE CALL TO HOLLYWOOD AND LEARN A FEW THINGS!

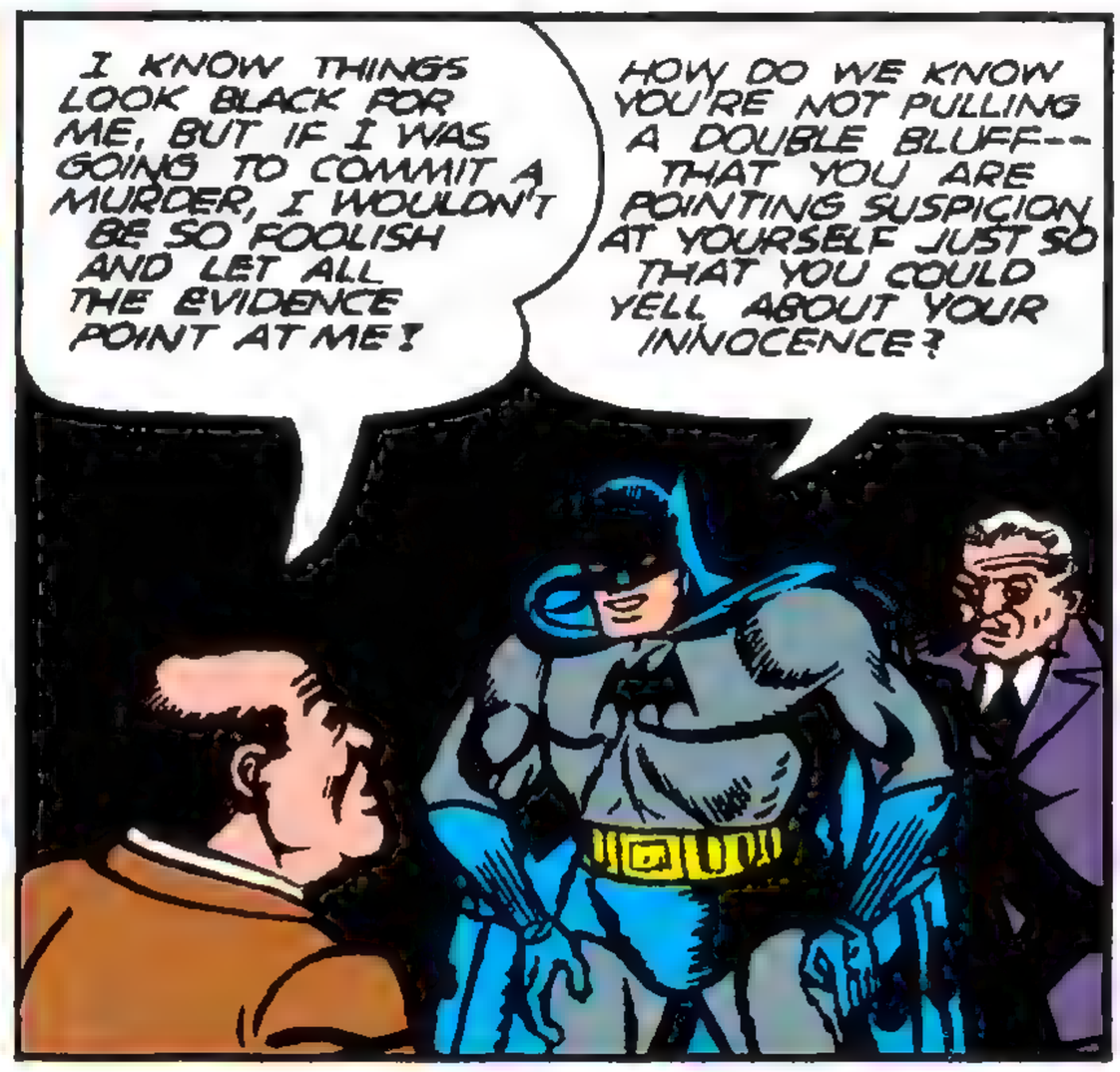
I WISH I KNEW WHO OUR MURDERER WAS!
SO DO I! IT CERTAINLY ISN'T JOHNNY GLIM. THE AUTHOR, HE SAVED MY LIFE WHEN PAUL METT TRIED TO KILL ME! HE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T SAVE THE LIFE OF THE DETECTIVE IF HE WERE GUILTY!

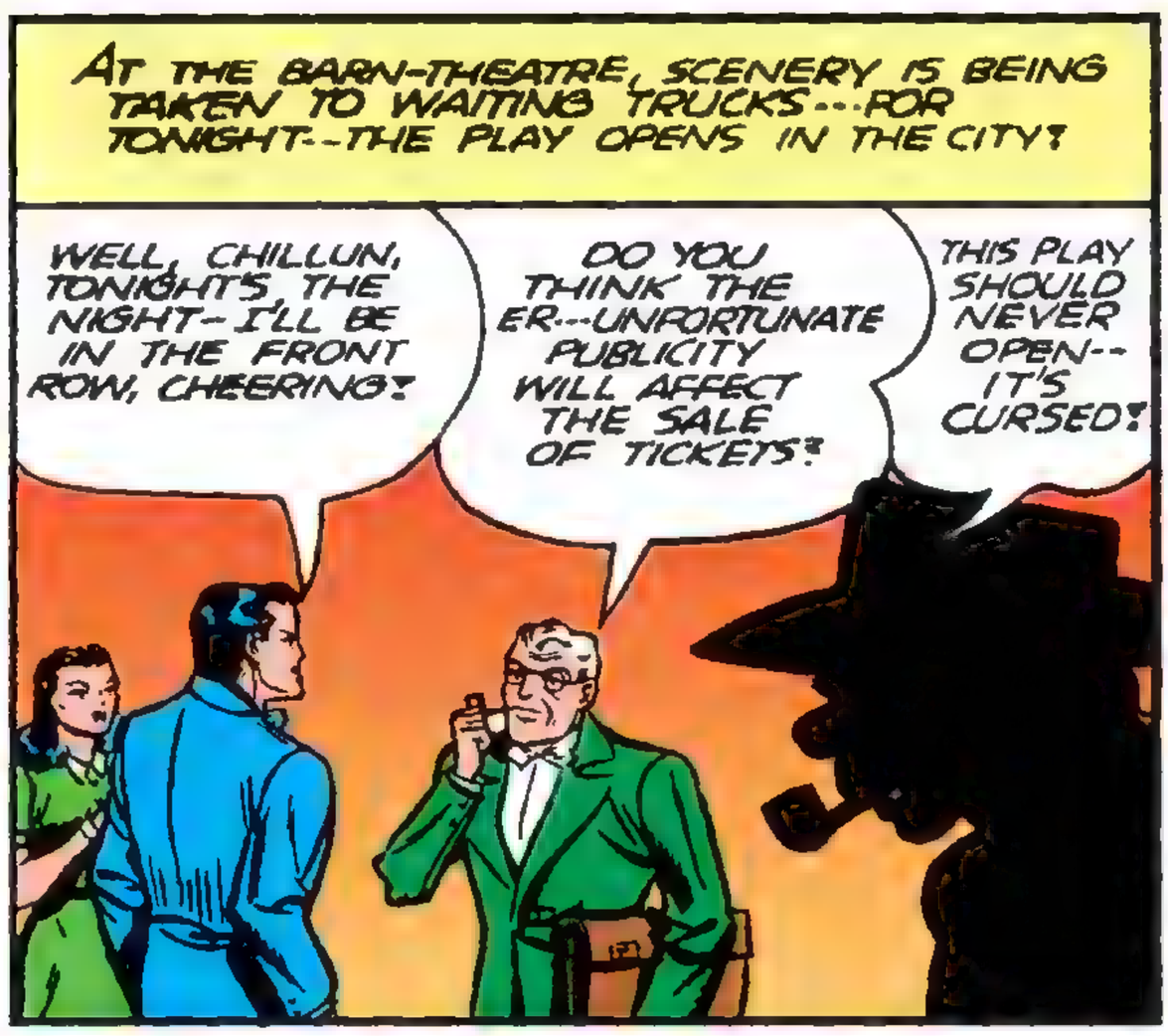
IT MIGHT BE THAT STAGE-HAND--HE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE SUPERSTITION MURDERS--BUT MY ONE REAL SUSPECT IS BANKS, THE PRODUCER. HE STANDS TO PROFIT A FORTUNE FROM BROOK'S' DEATH--- YES--I THINK BANKS IS MY MAN!

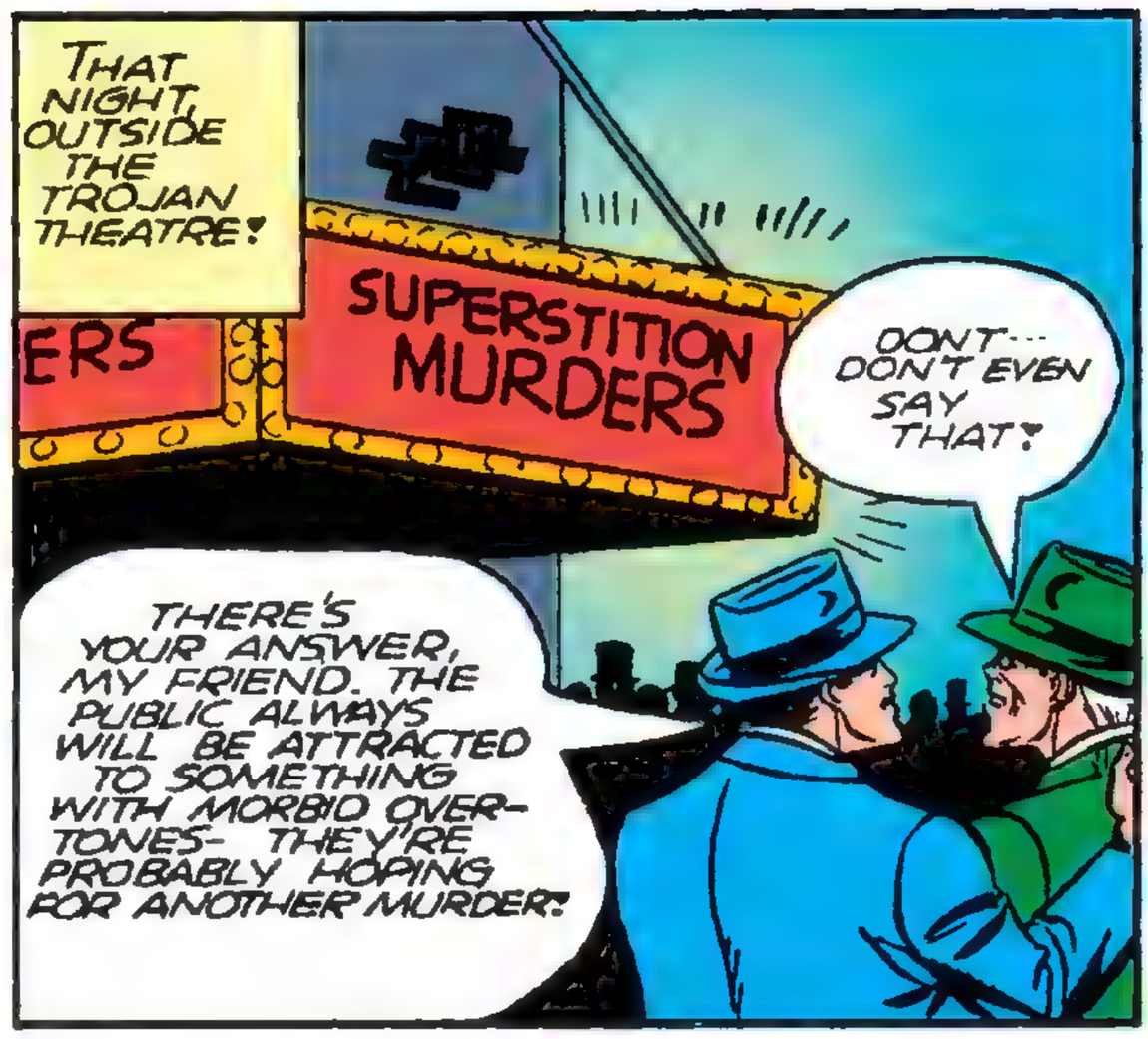

NEXT DAY, REPORTERS SWARM ABOUT THE THEATRE-BARN-
HEY, FELLERS- THOUGHT YE WUZ A-GOIN' TO INTERVIEW US!
GO AWAY, BOY! YOU BOTHER ME! CARRY ON, SHAKES-PEARE!
WELL AS I WUZ SAYIN', PEOPLE CAN'T GO AROUN' BREAKIN' SUPER-STITIONS AND THEN EXPECT TO KEEP LIVIN'. THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE O' THEM GETTIN' KILT--YESSIREE!

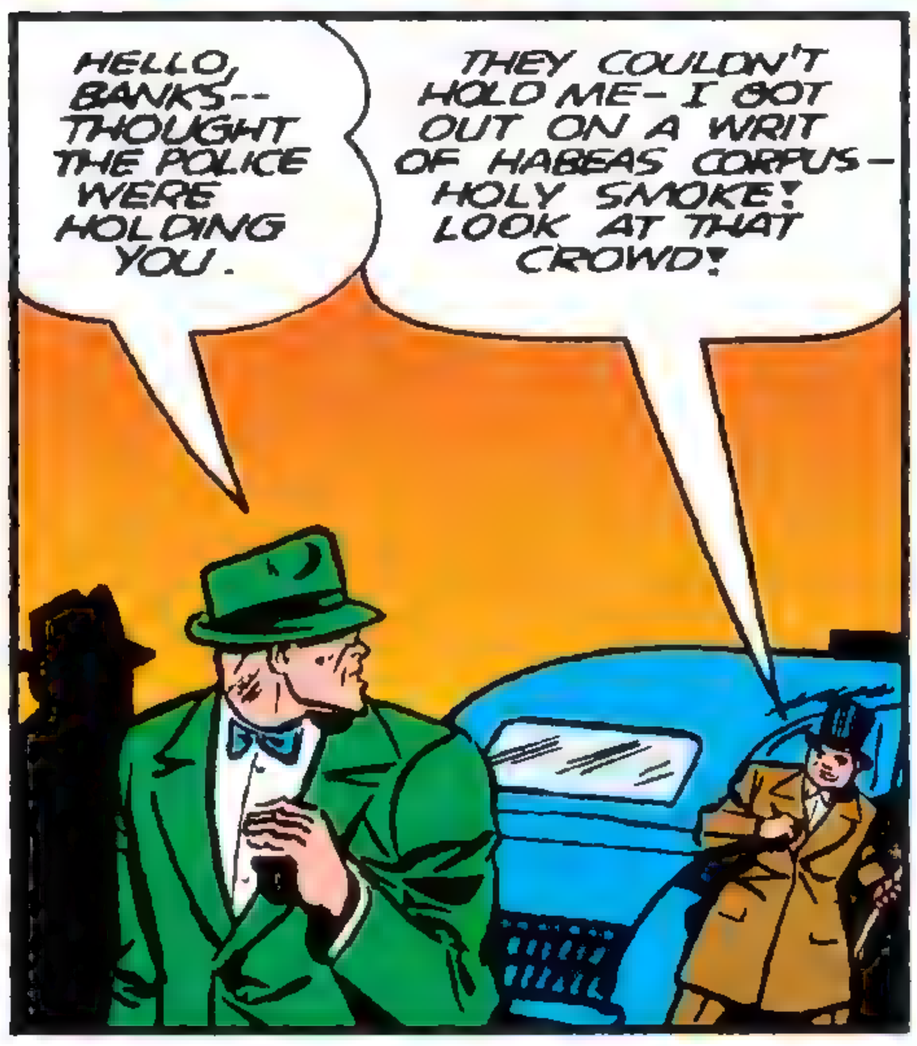

THE NEWSPAPERS PLAY UP THE SORDID ANGLES OF THE THEATRE MURDERS--
POLICE BAFFLED BY SUPERSTITION MURDERS!
DAILY-RAY
OLD STAGEHAND PREDICTS MOR


MEANWHILE -AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS--- COMMISSIONER GORDON HAMMERS AWAY AT THE PRODUCER'S ALIBI!
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOU AND BROOK'S WERE PARTNERS AND THAT UNDER YOUR CONTRACT, WHOEVER DIED FIRST LEFT HIS SHARE TO THE SURVIVOR--- WHICH IS YOU! AND WHAT WAS TO PREVENT YOU FROM KILLING THE PHOTOGRAPHER IF HE HAD A PICTURE SHOWING YOU IN THE ACT OF MURDER?


I KNOW THINGS LOOK BLACK FOR ME, BUT IF I WAS GOING TO COMMIT A MURDER, I WOULDN'T BE SO FOOLISH AND LET ALL THE EVIDENCE POINT AT ME!
HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT PULLING A DOUBLE BLUFF-- THAT YOU ARE POINTING SUSPICION AT YOURSELF JUST SO THAT YOU COULD YELL ABOUT YOUR INNOCENCE?


AT THE BARN-THEATRE, SCENERY IS BEING TAKEN TO WAITING TRUCKS...FOR TONIGHT--THE PLAY OPENS IN THE CITY!
WELL, CHILLUN, TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT- I'LL BE IN THE FRONT ROW, CHEERING!
DO YOU THINK THE ER--UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY WILL AFFECT THE SALE OF TICKETS?
THIS PLAY SHOULD NEVER OPEN-- IT'S CURSED!


THAT NIGHT, OUTSIDE THE TROJAN THEATRE!
ERS
SUPERSTITION MURDERS
DONT... DON'T EVEN SAY THAT!
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, MY FRIEND. THE PUBLIC ALWAYS WILL BE ATTRACTED TO SOMETHING WITH MORBID OVER-TONES- THEY'RE PROBABLY HOPING FOR ANOTHER MURDER!


HELLO, BANKS-- THOUGHT THE POLICE WERE HOLDING YOU.
THEY COULDN'T HOLD ME- I GOT OUT ON A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS- HOLY SMOKE! LOOK AT THAT CROWD!

AS THE CURTAIN RISES, AN ODD SCENE TAKES PLACE IN ONE OF THE DRESSING ROOMS
MEEOWRRR--
QUIET--SOON YOU WILL BE PLAYING A STARRING ROLE!
POISON XXX

IN THE WINGS--AS THE INGENUE AWAITS HER CUE---
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN YOUR SHOES-- HAVING TO CARRY A BLACK CAT ON THE STAGE!
DON'T BE SILLY! THEY ARE MY FAVORITES.

AT THAT MOMENT, A DART STREAKS FROM A BLOW-TUBE--

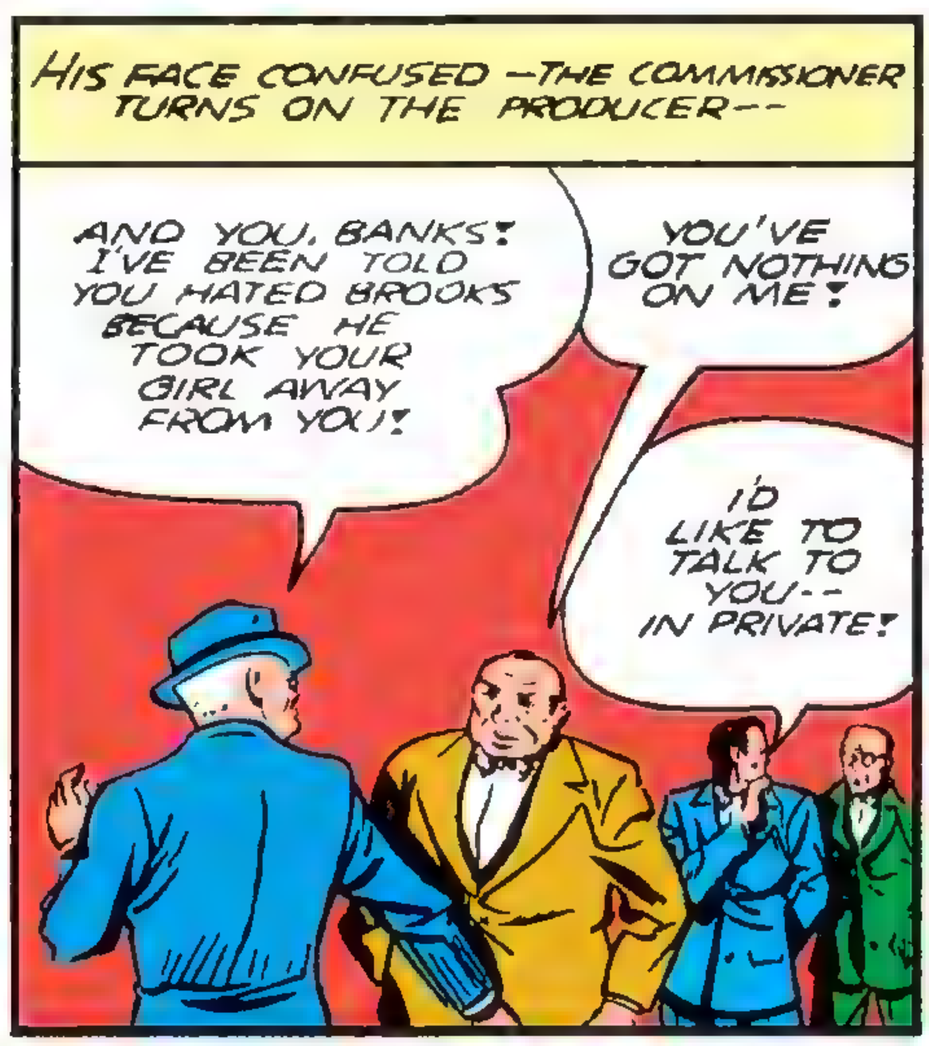
...AND IMBEDS ITS NEEDLE-POINT INTO THE BLACK CAT'S HIDE--
I LOVE CATS-- AAA!!!!!...
GOOD HEAVENS!

THE BODY TOPPLES TO THE STAGE IN FULL VIEW OF THE AUDIENCE---
SHE'S-- SHES DEAD
ONCE AGAIN, A VIOLATED SUPER-STITION WREAKS VENGEANCE UPON THE PERSON WHO DARED TO BREAK IT!

A FRENZIED PHONE CALL BRINGS THE POLICE AND CORONER BUSTLING TO THE SCENE!
THIS GIRL WAS POISONED!
YEAH! THERE'S ENOUGH POISON TO KILL A REGIMENT ON THIS CAT'S CLAWS!

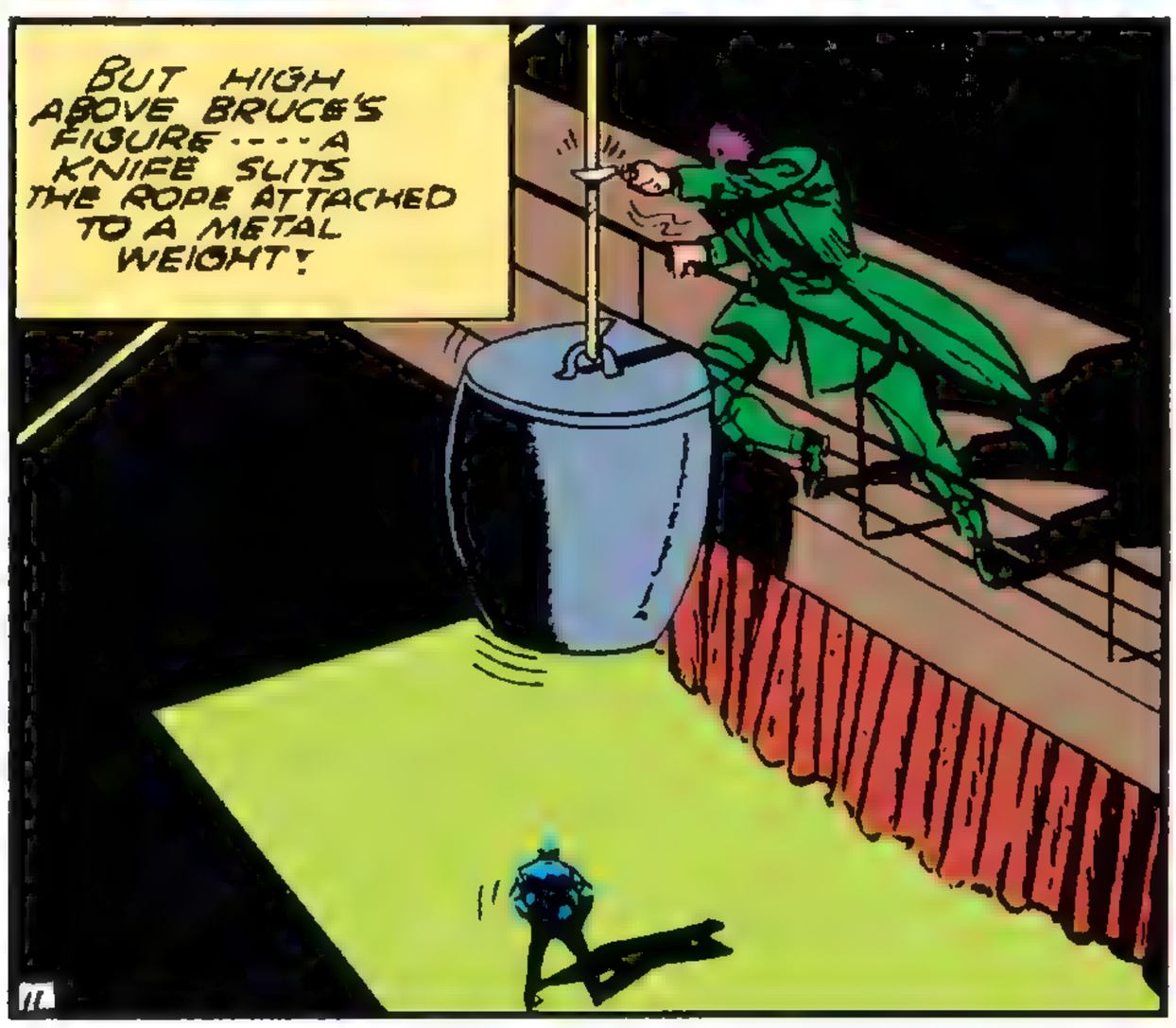
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU GOT THE GATE FOR HITTING THE BOTTLE?
THEY NEEDED SOMEONE FOR THE PART-AND I WAS GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE!

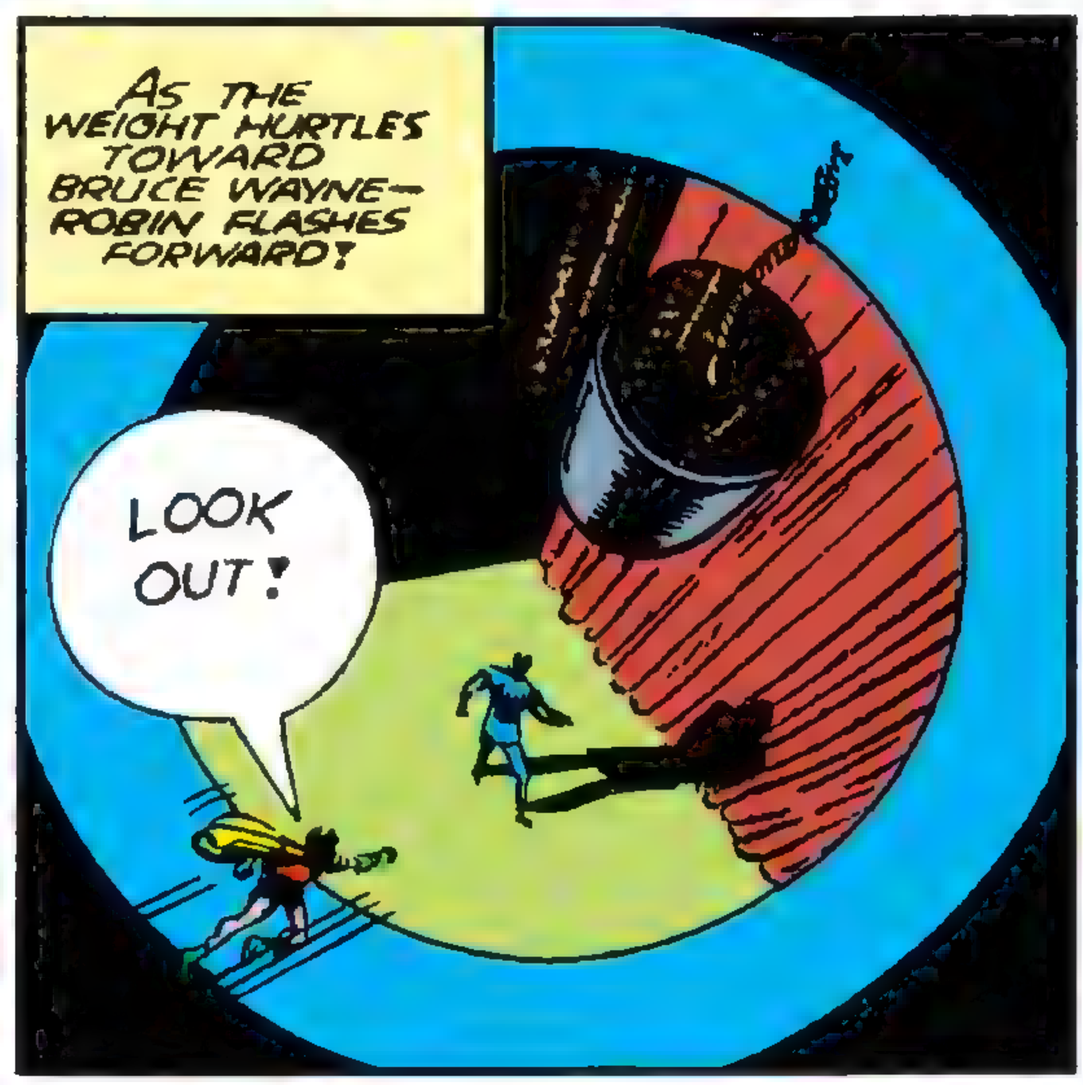
THAT'S IT! YOU KILLED THE FIRST GUY TO GET HIS PART IN THE PLAY!
VERY CLEVER! AND TELL ME- DID I KILL THE INGENUE TO GET HER PART?

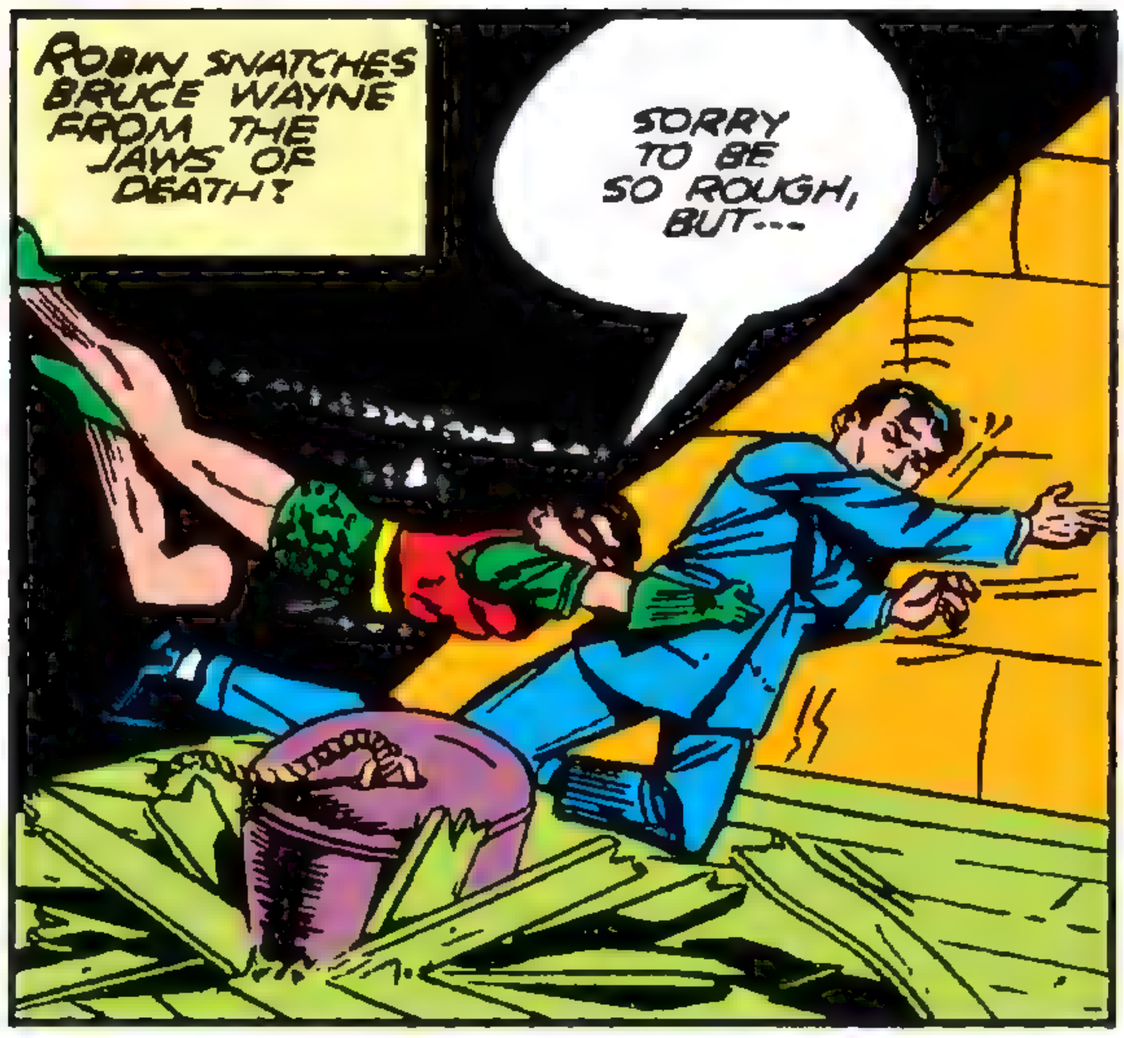

HIS FACE CONFUSED —THE COMMISSIONER TURNS ON THE PRODUCER--
AND YOU, BANKS! I'VE BEEN TOLD YOU HATED BROOKS BECAUSE HE TOOK YOUR GIRL AWAY FROM YOU!
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ON ME!
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU-- IN PRIVATE!

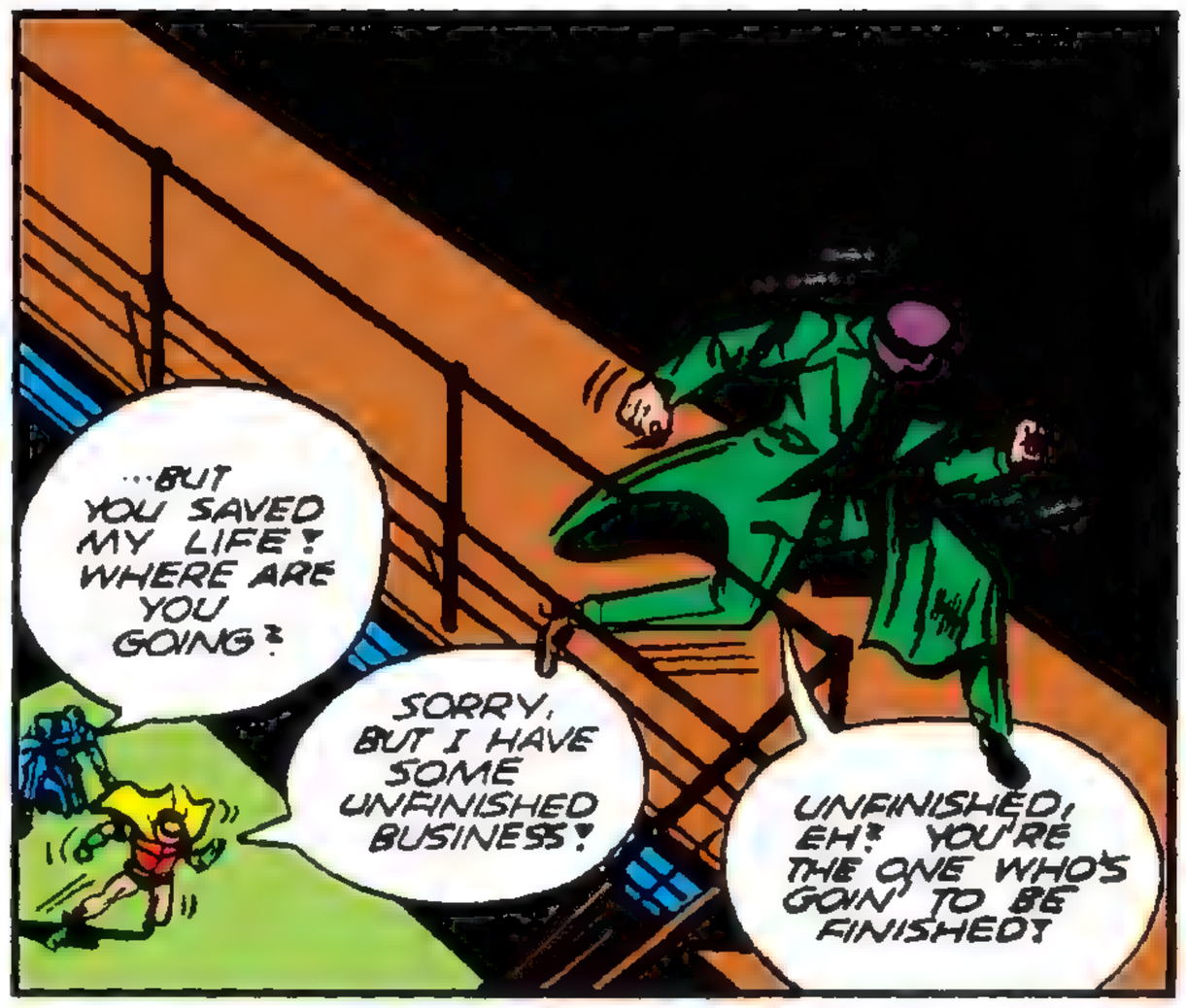
...I FOUND A CLUE BACKSTAGE, AND I'M COMING BACK LATER, AFTER EVERYONE'S GONE- AND I KNOW I'LL FIND ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT THE MURDERER!

LATER THAT NIGHT, BRUCE FINDS HIS WAY BACKSTAGE OF THE DESERTED THEATRE!
I HOPE MY PLANS WORK... IF I'M TO CATCH THE GUILTY FIEND!


BUT HIGH ABOVE BRUCE'S FIGURE.... A KNIFE SLITS THE ROPE ATTACHED TO A METAL WEIGHT!

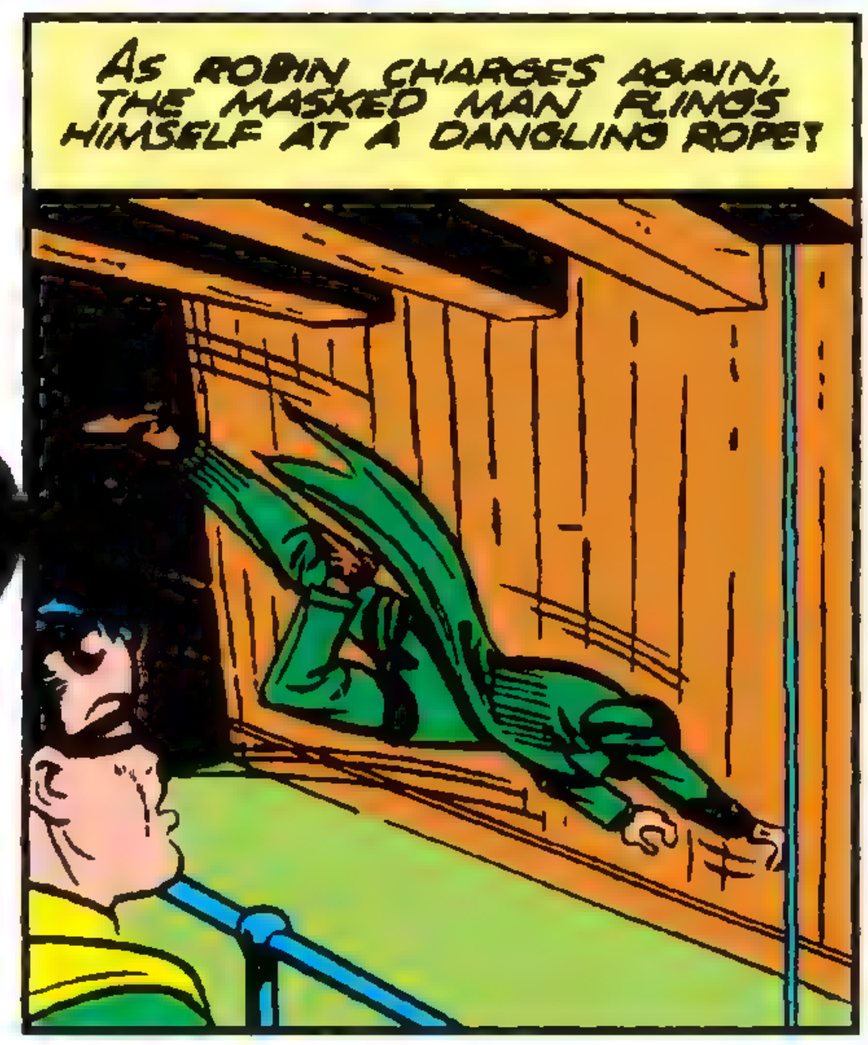

AS THE WEIGHT HURTLES TOWARD BRUCE WAYNE— ROBIN FLASHES FORWARD!
LOOK OUT!

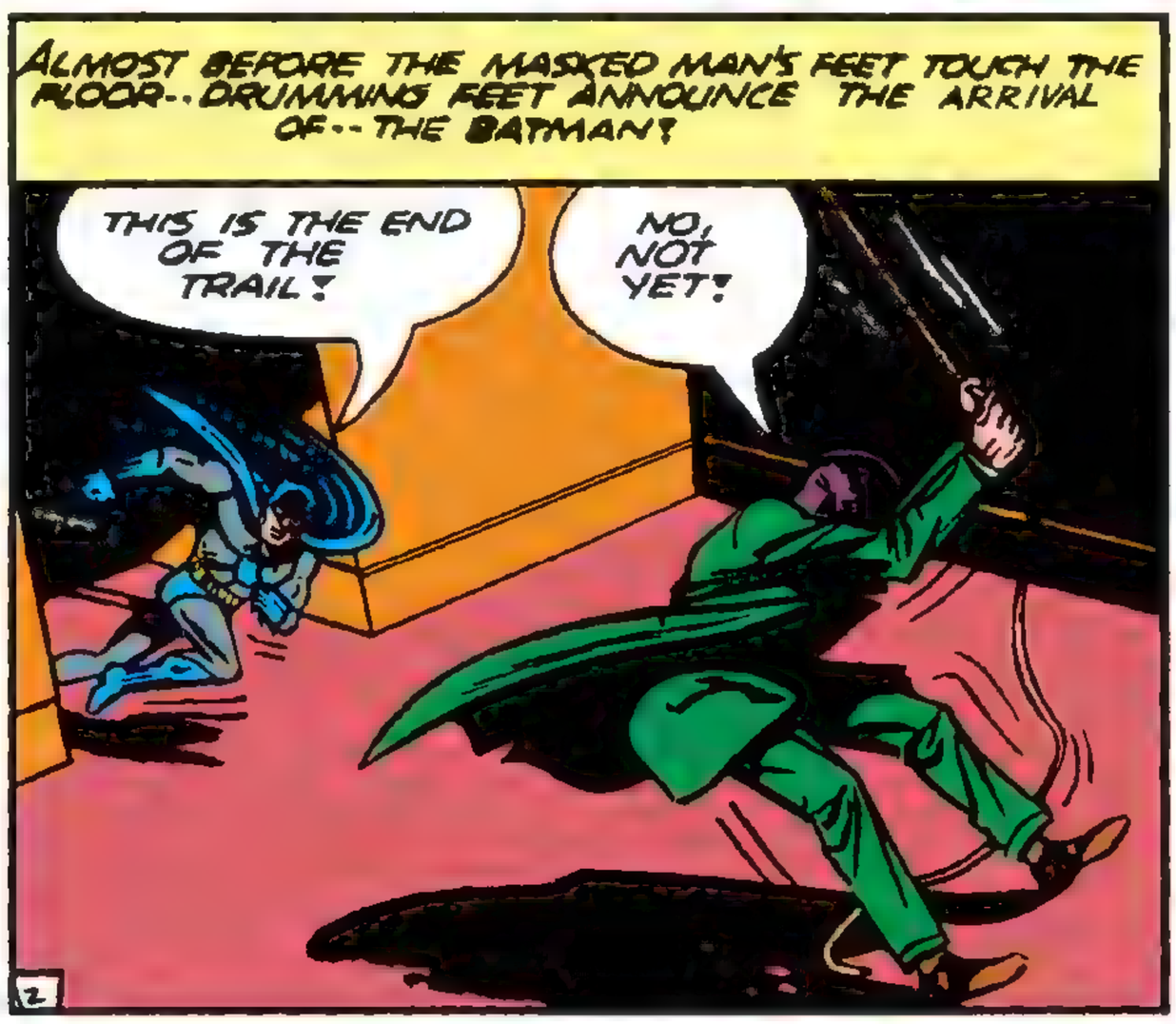

ROBIN SNATCHES BRUCE WAYNE FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH!
SORRY TO BE SO ROUGH, BUT...

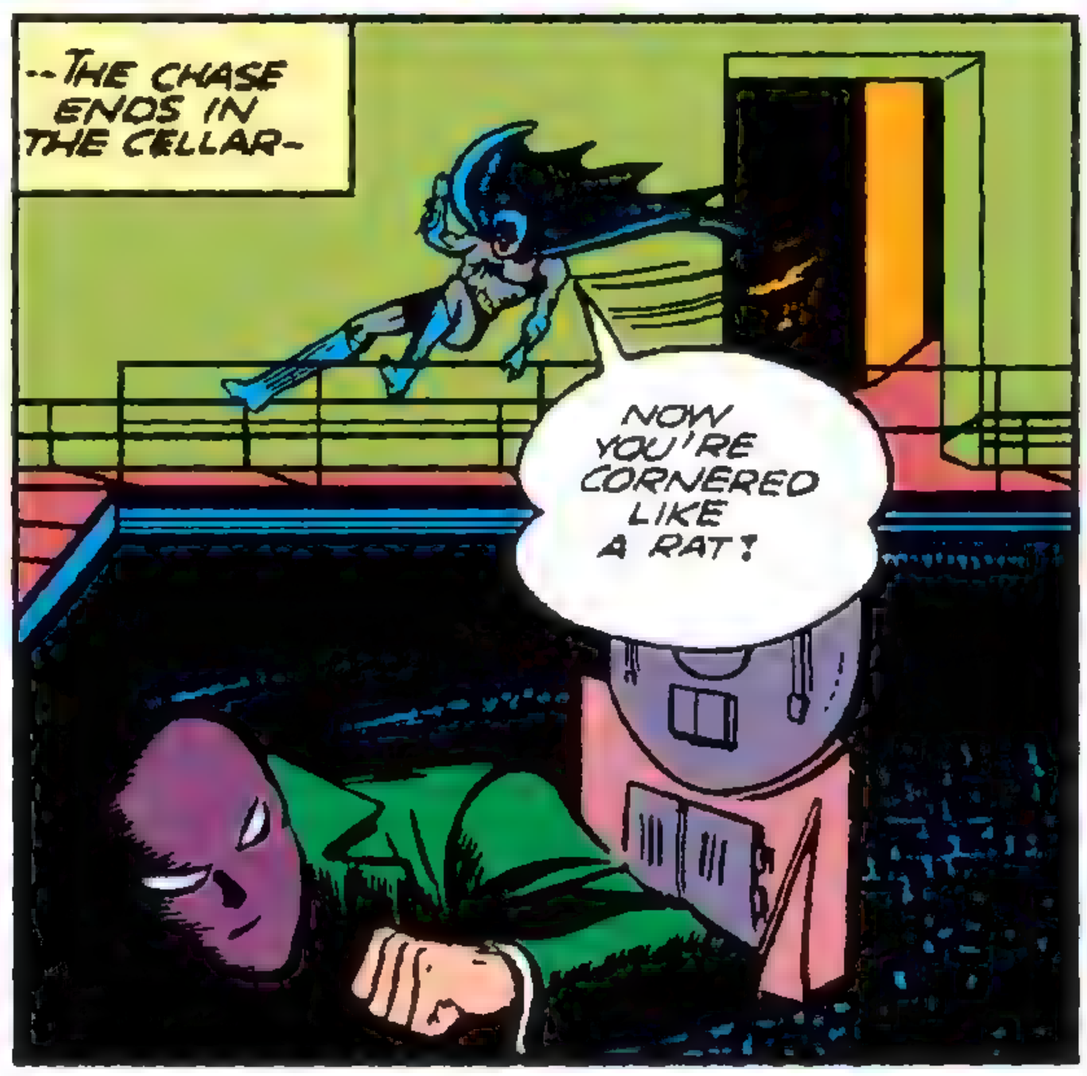

...BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SORRY, BUT I HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
UNFINISHED, EH? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOIN' TO BE FINISHED!

AT THE TOP OF THE LADDER, ROBIN DUCKS A MURDEROUS BLOW!
TAKE THIS-- PHFTT...
SUPPOSE YOU TAKE THIS!

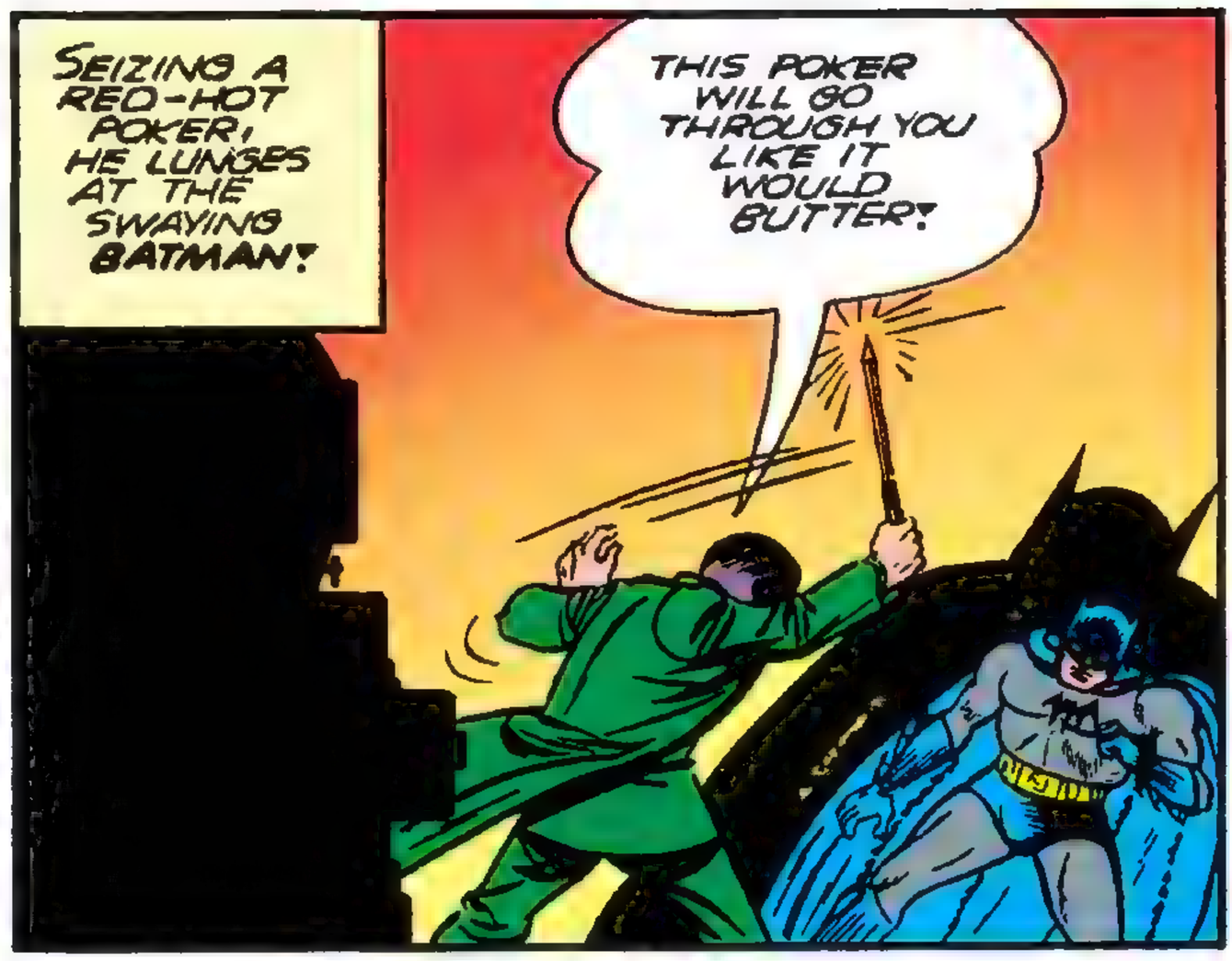
AND HERE ARE SOME KNUCKLES I DON'T NEED AT THE MOMENT!

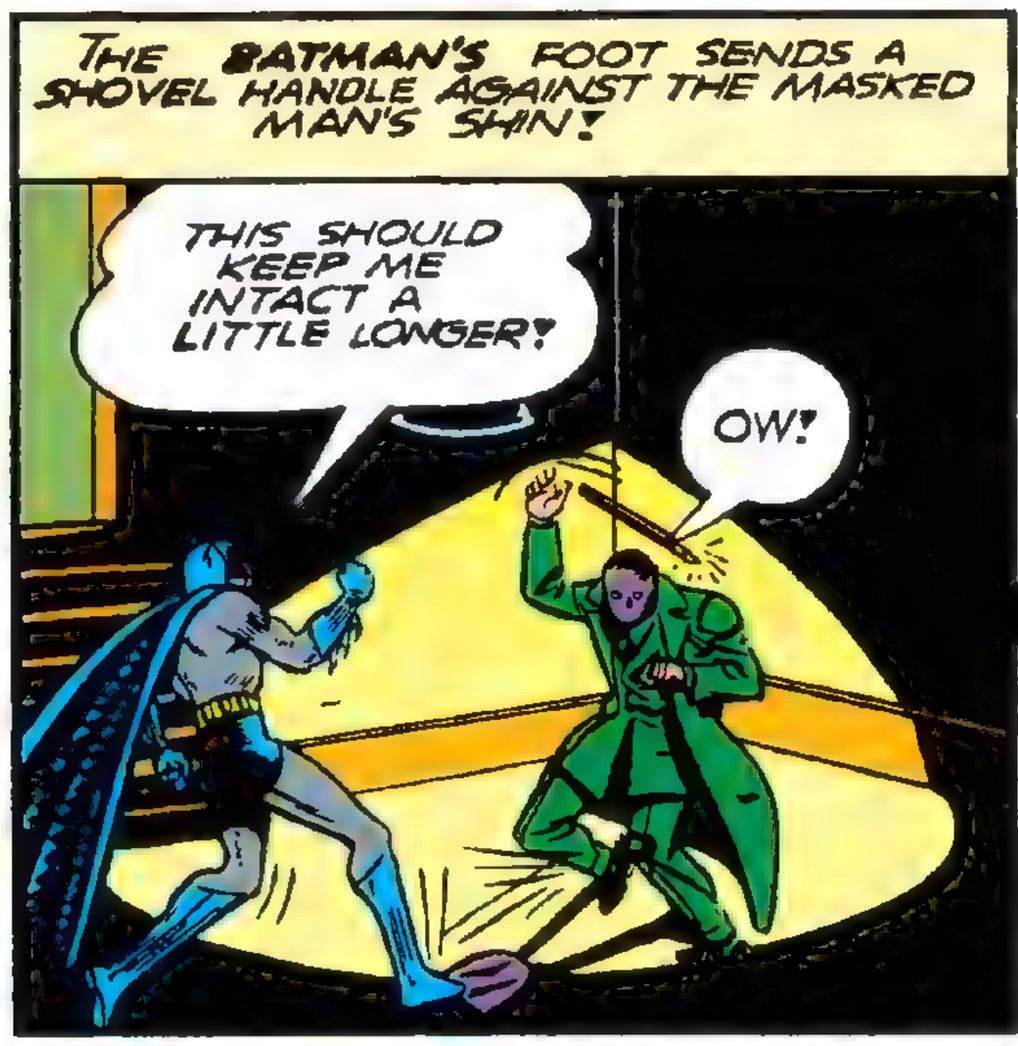

AS ROBIN CHARGES AGAIN, THE MASKED MAN FLINGS HIMSELF AT A DANGLING ROPE!


ALMOST BEFORE THE MASKED MAN'S FEET TOUCH THE FLOOR--DRUMMING FEET ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF--THE BATMAN!
THIS IS THE END OF THE TRAIL!
NO, NOT YET!


--THE CHASE ENDS IN THE CELLAR--
NOW YOU'RE CORNERED LIKE A RAT!

HA! NOW FOR THE FINAL TOUCH---
BUT THE FLEEING FIEND SUDDENLY WHIRLS ABOUT AND MEETS THE ONRUSHING BATMAN!

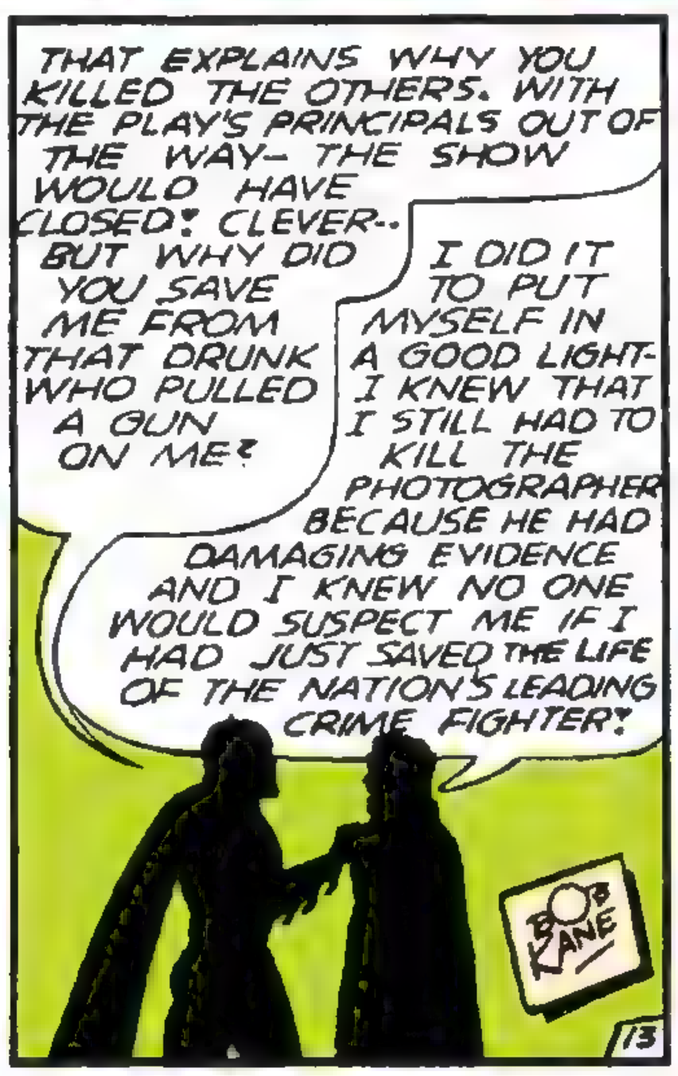

SEIZING A RED-HOT POKER, HE LUNGES AT THE SWAYING BATMAN!
THIS POKER WILL GO THROUGH YOU LIKE IT WOULD BUTTER!


THE BATMAN'S FOOT SENDS A SHOVEL HANDLE AGAINST THE MASKED MAN'S SHIN!
THIS SHOULD KEEP ME INTACT A LITTLE LONGER!
OW!

NOW...TO UNMASK YOU!

YOU--THE AUTHOR! I THOUGHT SO! I TOLD BRUCE WAYNE HOW TO TRAP YOU---YOU MAY AS WELL ADMIT YOUR MOTIVE--THAT YOU WERE AFTER THE MOVIE RIGHTS TO YOUR PLAY!
YES--I WAS DEPENDING ON THE CLAUSE IN MY CONTRACT, WHICH RULES IF THE PLAY DIDN'T LAST TWO WEEKS, ALL RIGHTS REVERTED TO ME, THE AUTHOR

I SPOTTED YOU WHEN I LEARNED THAT HOLLYWOOD OFFERED YOU AN ENORMOUS SUM FOR YOUR PLAY-
BLAST YOU! I ALMOST WON, BUT FOR YOU! I SOLD BANKS MY PLAY FOR A SONG--LATER, A PRODUCER OFFERED ME A FORTUNE FOR THE MOVIE RIGHTS. I HAD TO GET THOSE RIGHTS BACK--AND I THOUGHT I WOULD, BY MAKING IT SEEM AS IF FATE WERE EXECUTING ALL THOSE WHO HAD BROKEN SUPER-STITIONS. I HAD TO MAKE THE PLAY CLOSE TO GET BACK MY RIGHTS!

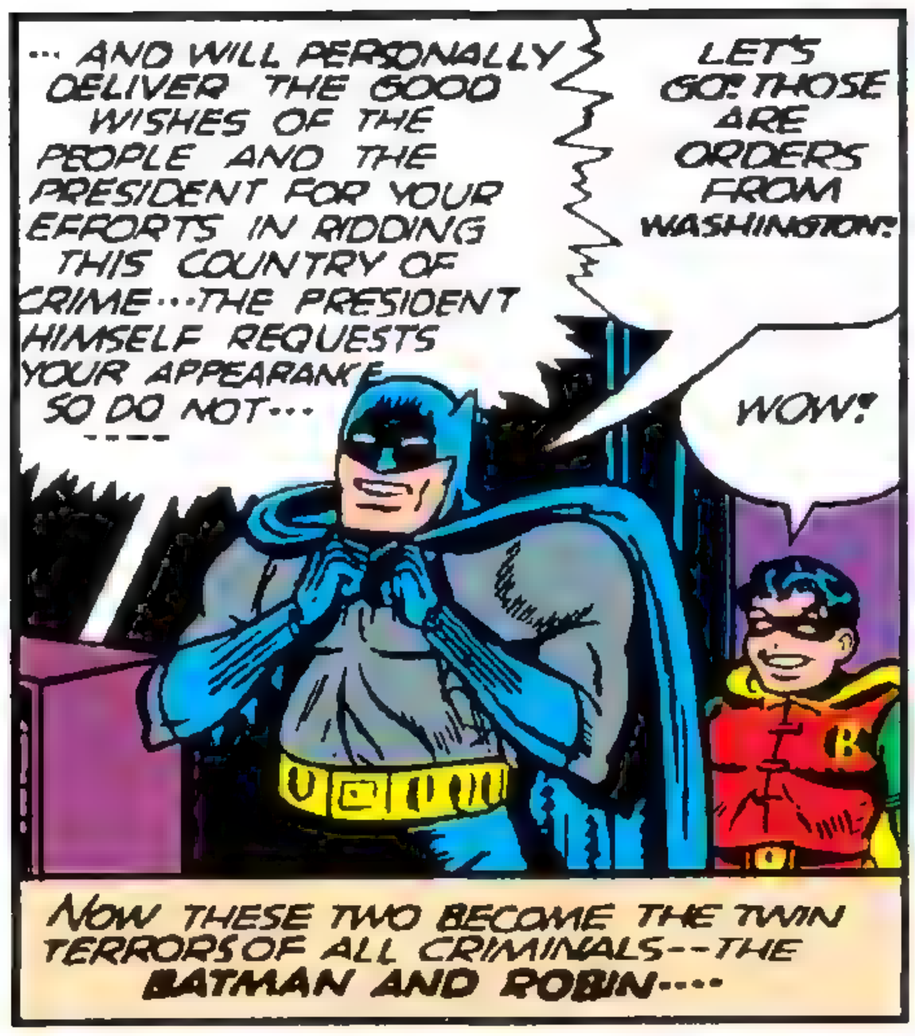

THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU KILLED THE OTHERS. WITH THE PLAY'S PRINCIPALS OUT OF THE WAY- THE SHOW WOULD HAVE CLOSED! CLEVER-- BUT WHY DID YOU SAVE ME FROM THAT DRUNK WHO PULLED A GUN ON ME?
I DID IT TO PUT MYSELF IN A GOOD LIGHT- I KNEW THAT I STILL HAD TO KILL THE PHOTOGRAPHER BECAUSE HE HAD DAMAGING EVIDENCE AND I KNEW NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT ME IF I HAD JUST SAVED THE LIFE OF THE NATION'S LEADING CRIME FIGHTER!
BOB KANE
13

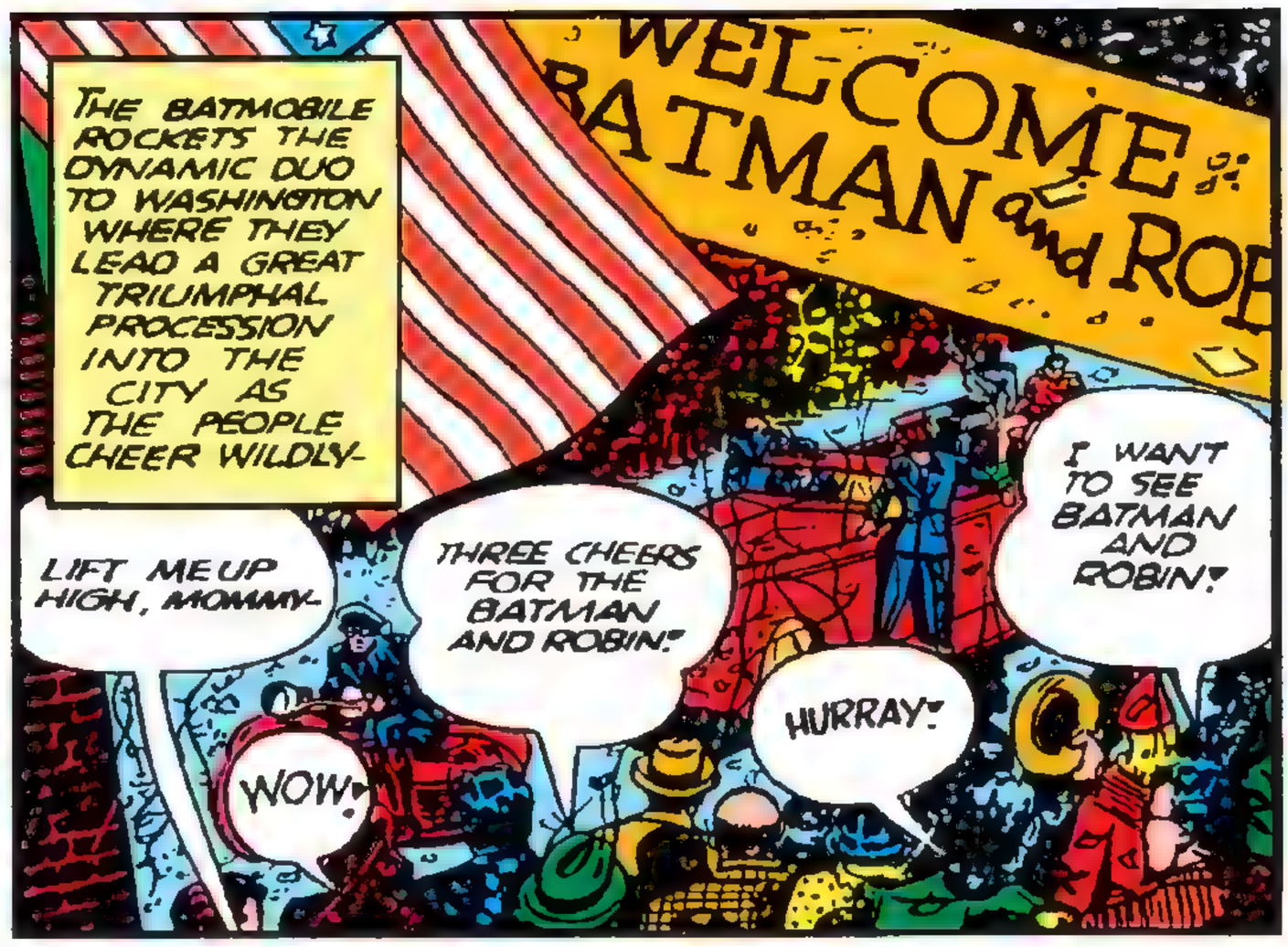
POLICE, SUMMONED BY ROBIN, COME IN AS THE AUTHOR ENDS HIS CONFESSION!
--AND I KNEW THAT ALL SUSPICION WOULD FALL UPON THE PRODUCER, BECAUSE HE STOOD TO GAIN THE MOST FROM THE DEATH OF HIS PARTNER-
COMMISSIONER, THE CURTAIN IS FALLING ON THE LAST ACT OF THE SUPERSTITION MURDERS!

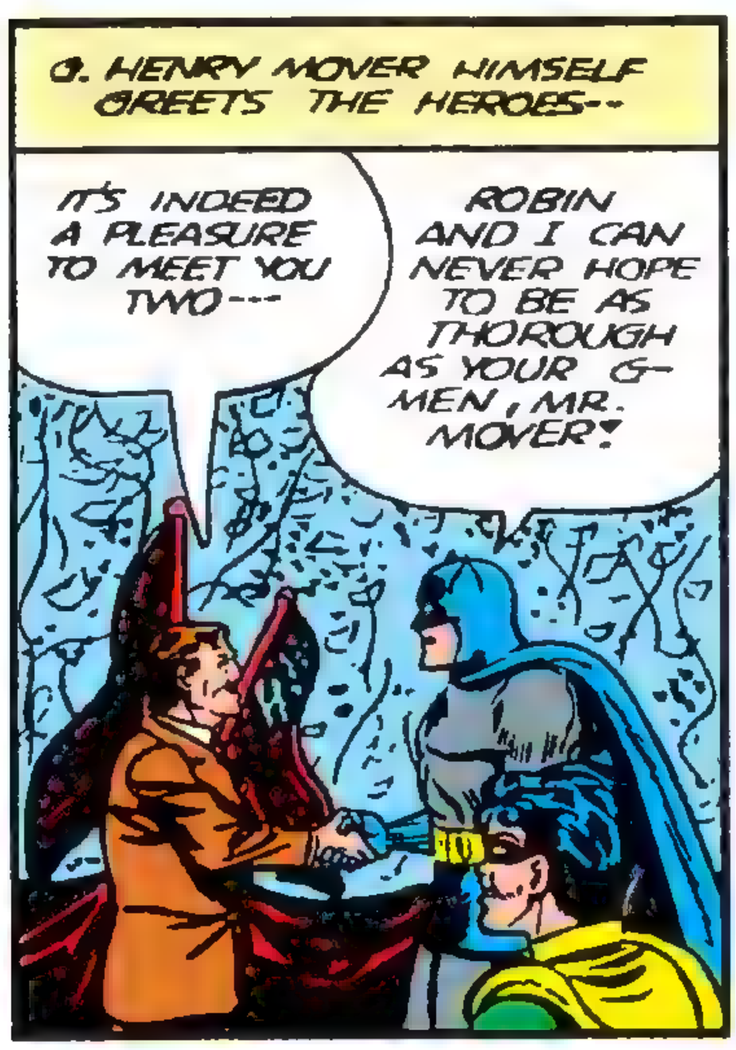
BATMAN WITH ROBIN

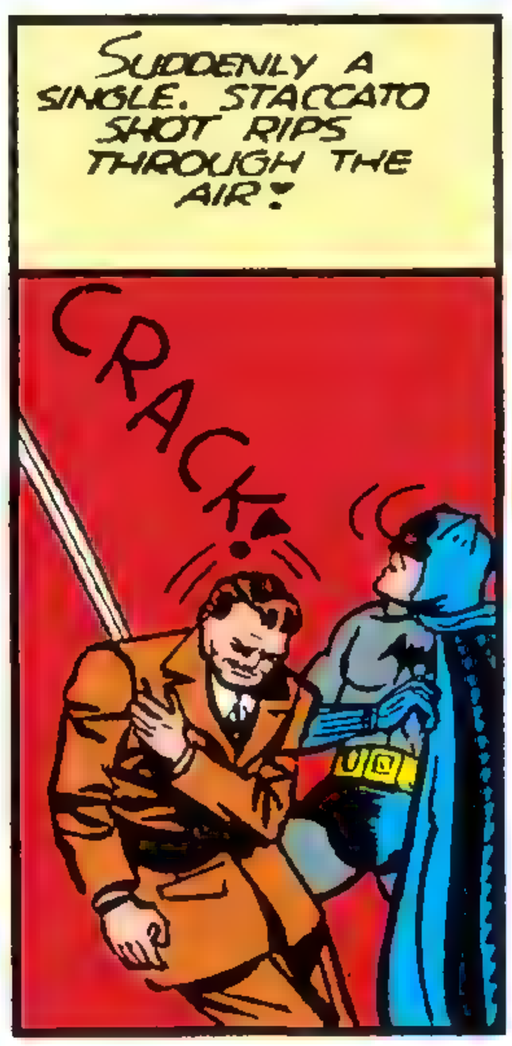
- THE BOY WONDER -

THE JOKER-GRIM JESTER, ARCH-CRIMINAL, MASTER FIEND--BRINGS DOWN ON HIS HEAD THE WRATH OF A NATION WHEN HE ATTEMPTS A CRIME SO TERRIBLE IT ANGERS EVEN THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF! A SHARP COMMAND, AND THE GREATEST MANHUNT OF ALL TIMES IS ON--FOR THE JOKER MUST BE CAUGHT! BUT IT IS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN WHO WRITE THE AMAZING AND NERVE-TINGLING FINISH TO THE JOKER'S MAD FLIGHT, AND TO HIS "THE CROSS COUNTRY CRIMES!"

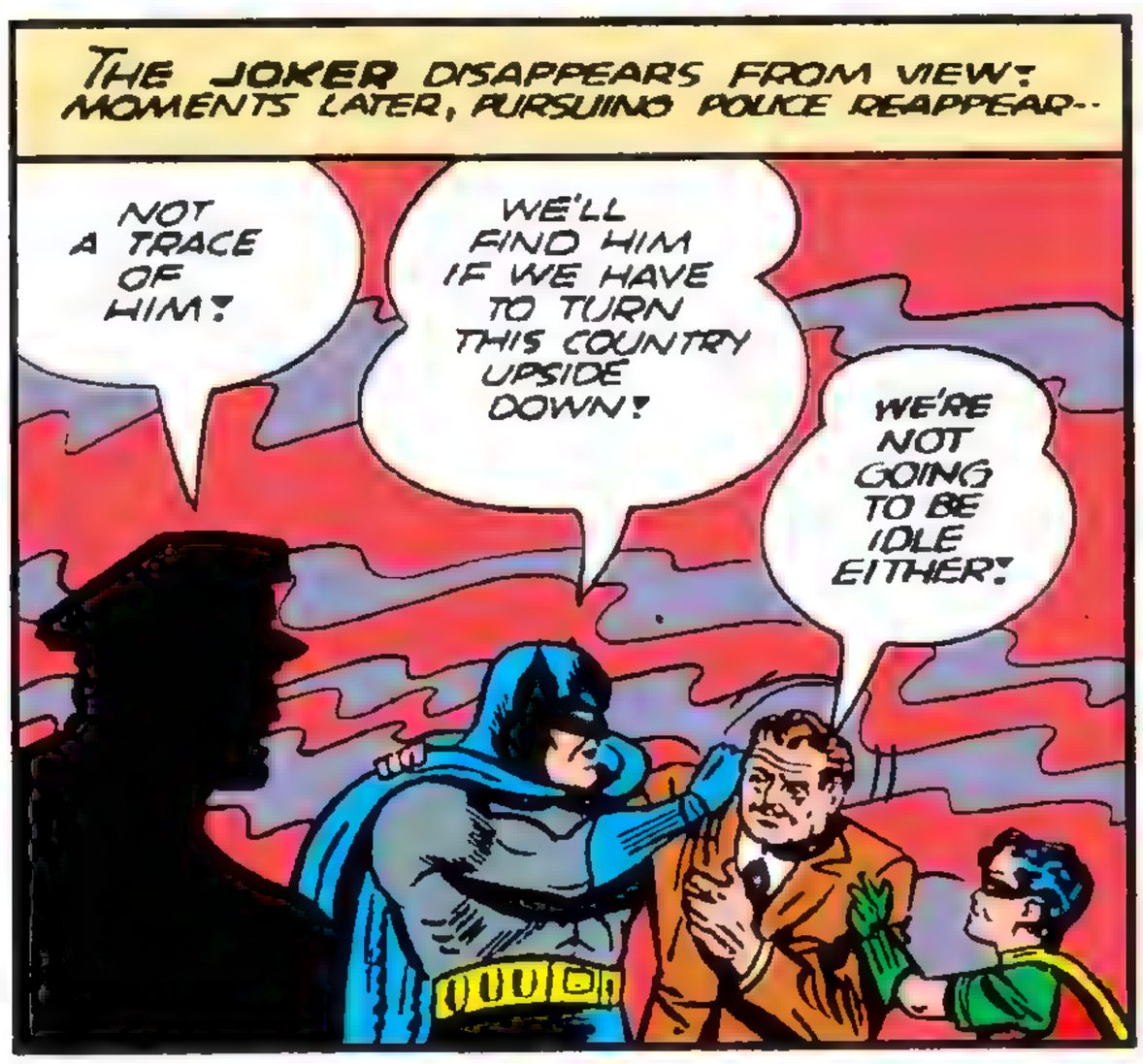

... AND WILL PERSONALLY DELIVER THE GOOD WISHES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESIDENT FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN RIDDING THIS COUNTRY OF CRIME...THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF REQUESTS YOUR APPEARANCE SO DO NOT...
LET'S GO! THOSE ARE ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON!
WOW!
NOW THESE TWO BECOME THE TWIN TERRORS OF ALL CRIMINALS--THE BATMAN AND ROBIN....

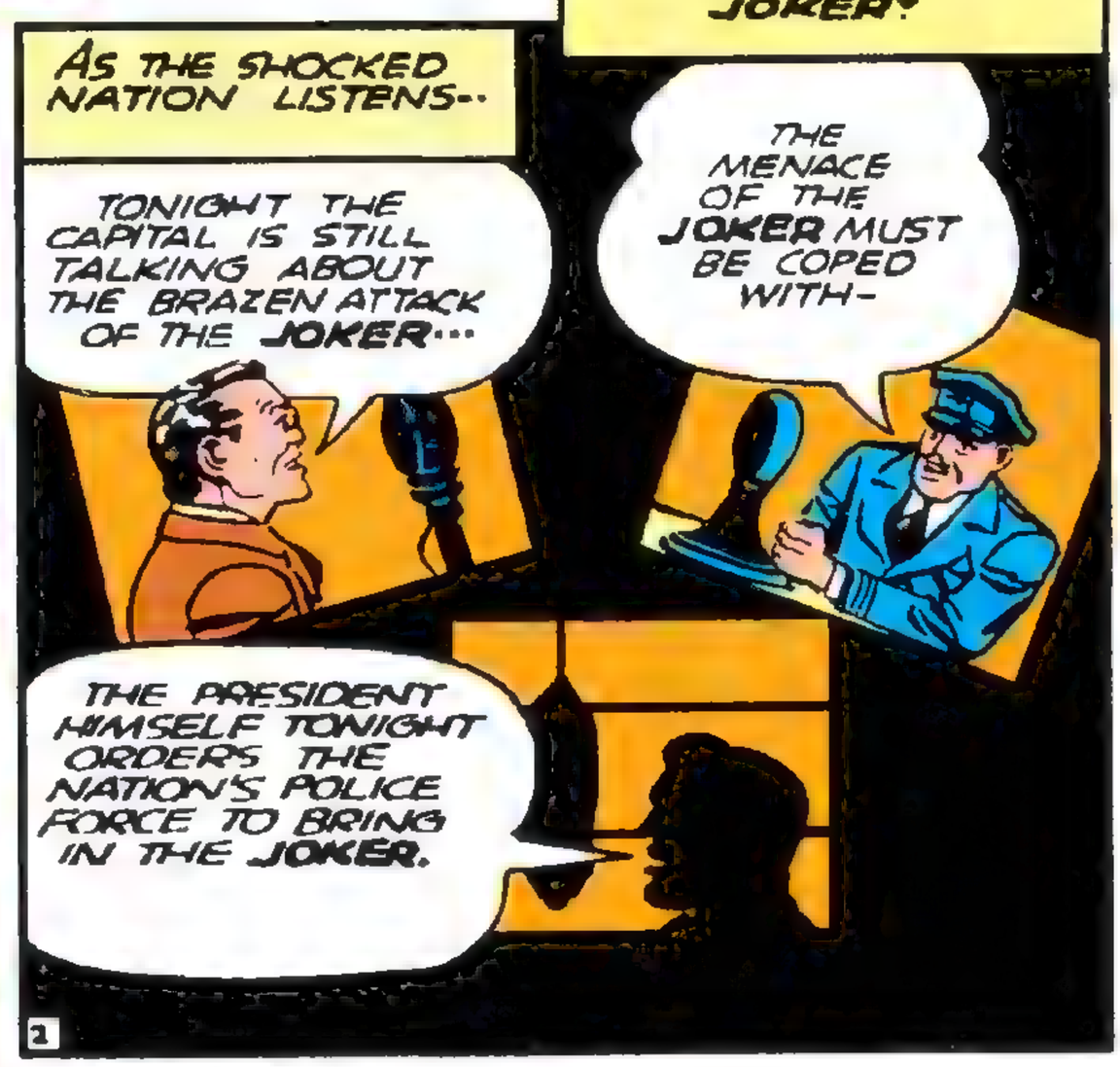

WELCOME BATMAN and ROB
THE BATMOBILE ROCKETS THE DYNAMIC DUO TO WASHINGTON WHERE THEY LEAD A GREAT TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION INTO THE CITY AS THE PEOPLE CHEER WILDLY-
LIFT ME UP HIGH, MOMMY-
THREE CHEERS FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
I WANT TO SEE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WOW!
HURRAY!

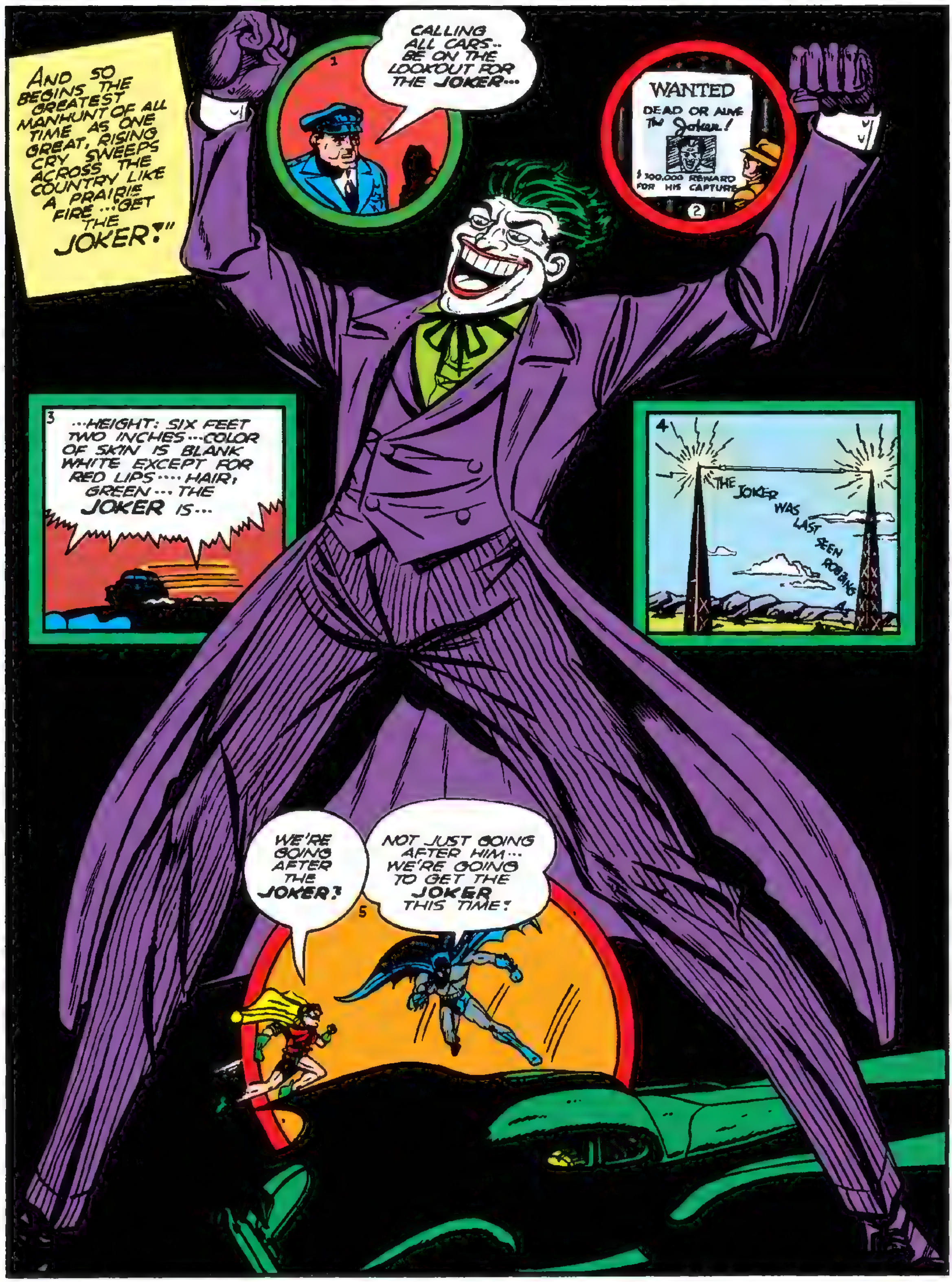

G. HENRY MOVER HIMSELF GREETS THE HEROES--
IT'S INDEED A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU TWO---
ROBIN AND I CAN NEVER HOPE TO BE AS THOROUGH AS YOUR G-MEN, MR. MOVER!

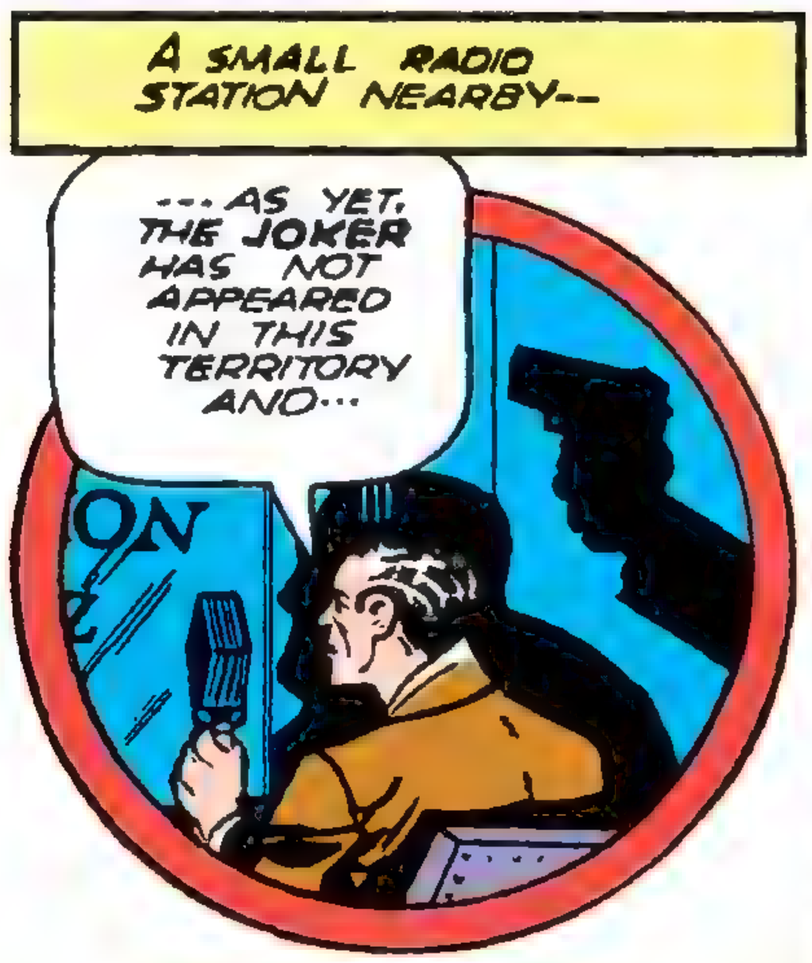

SUDDENLY A SINGLE, STACCATO SHOT RIPS THROUGH THE AIR!
CRACK!

I MISSED YOU, BATMAN! BUT I'LL GET YOU AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME! HA! HA!
WHO IS THIS TERRIBLE, MENACING FIGURE? CAN IT BE..... YES, IT IS---THE JOKER!

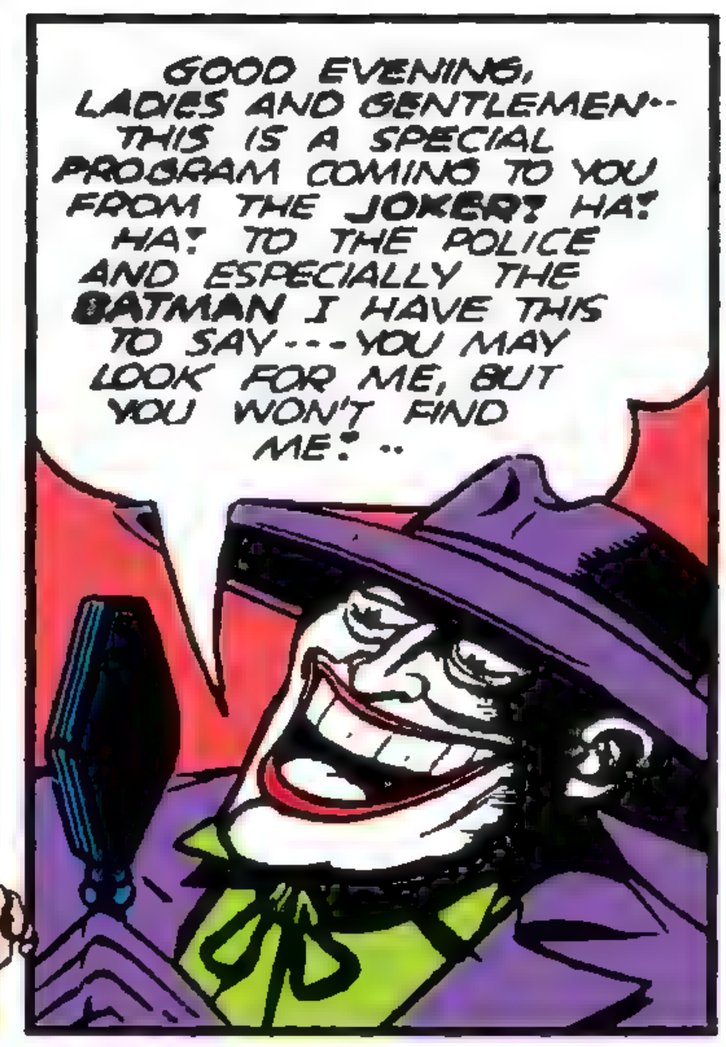

THE JOKER DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW: MOMENTS LATER, PURSUING POLICE REAPPEAR--
NOT A TRACE OF HIM!
WE'LL FIND HIM IF WE HAVE TO TURN THIS COUNTRY UPSIDE DOWN!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE IDLE EITHER!

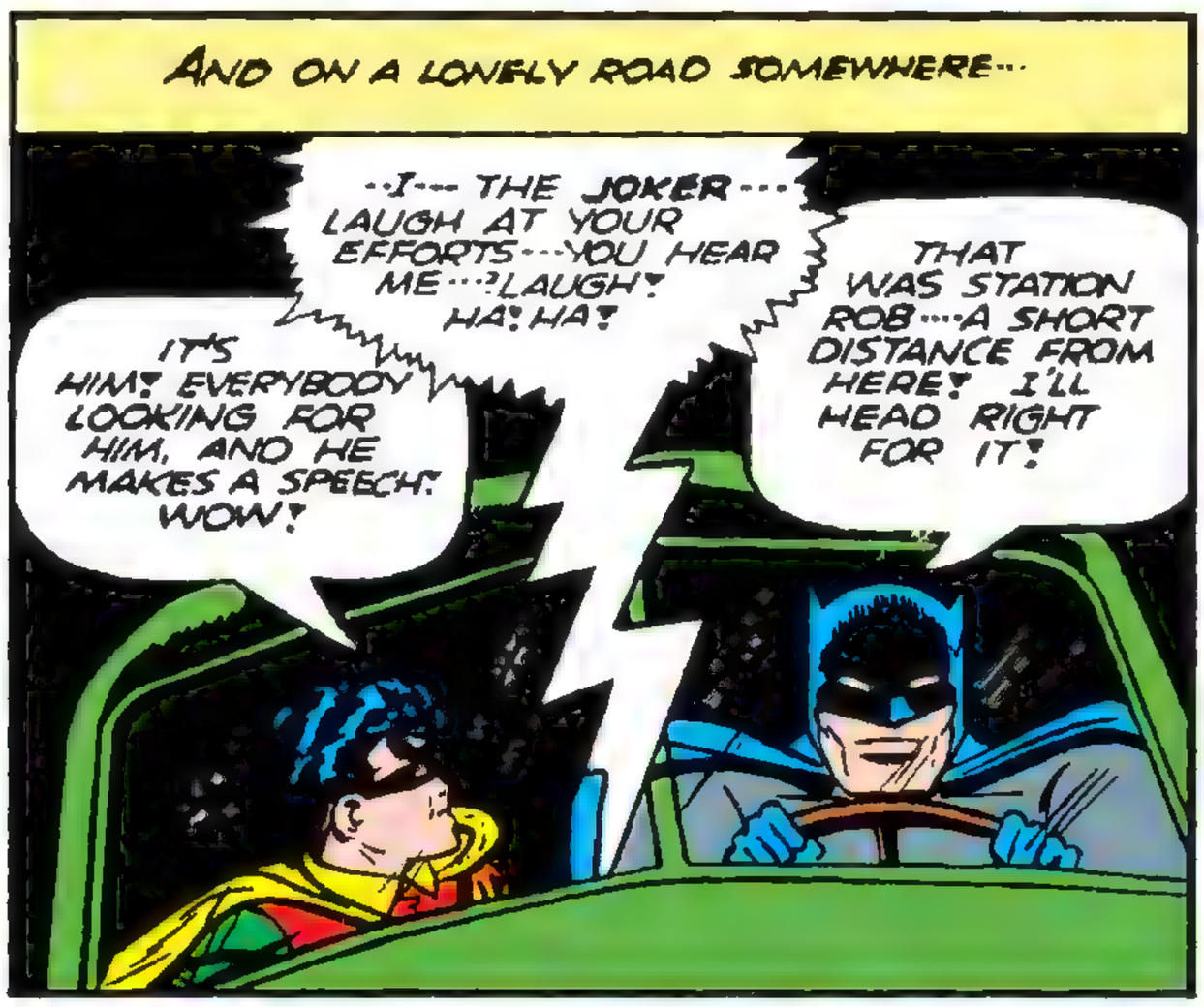

AS THE SHOCKED NATION LISTENS--
TONIGHT THE CAPITAL IS STILL TALKING ABOUT THE BRAZEN ATTACK OF THE JOKER...
THE MENACE OF THE JOKER MUST BE COPED WITH-
THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF TONIGHT ORDERS THE NATION'S POLICE FORCE TO BRING IN THE JOKER.

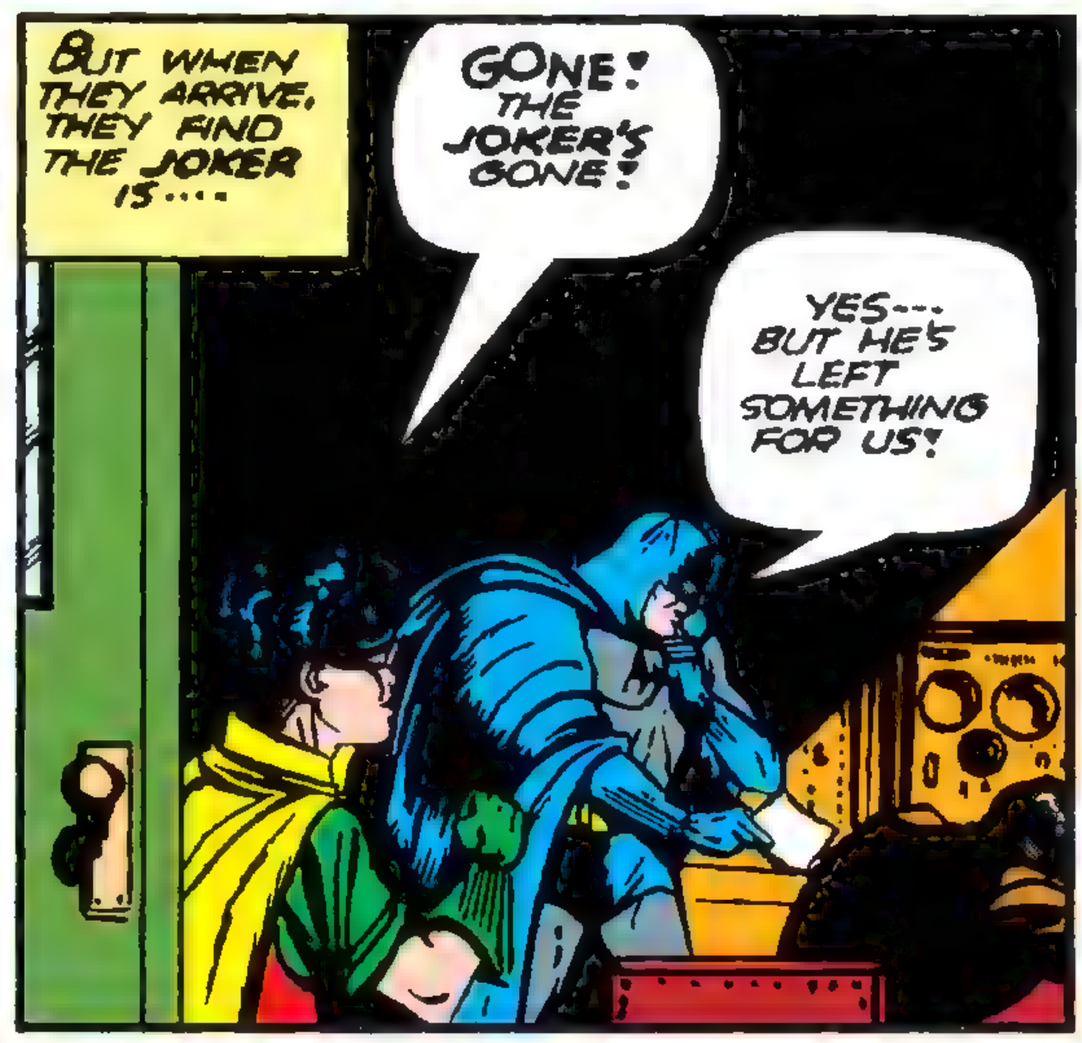

AND SO BEGINS THE GREATEST MANHUNT OF ALL TIME AS ONE GREAT, RISING CRY SWEEPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY LIKE A PRAIRIE FIRE ...GET THE JOKER!"
1
CALLING ALL CARS.. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE JOKER...
WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
The Joker!
$100,000 REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE
2
3
...HEIGHT: SIX FEET TWO INCHES...COLOR OF SKIN IS BLANK WHITE EXCEPT FOR RED LIPS.... HAIR, GREEN... THE JOKER IS...
4
THE JOKER WAS LAST SEEN ROBBING A
WE'RE GOING AFTER THE JOKER?
NOT JUST GOING AFTER HIM... WE'RE GOING TO GET THE JOKER THIS TIME!
5


A SMALL RADIO STATION NEARBY--
---AS YET, THE JOKER HAS NOT APPEARED IN THIS TERRITORY AND---
ON

YOU SPEAK TOO SOON!

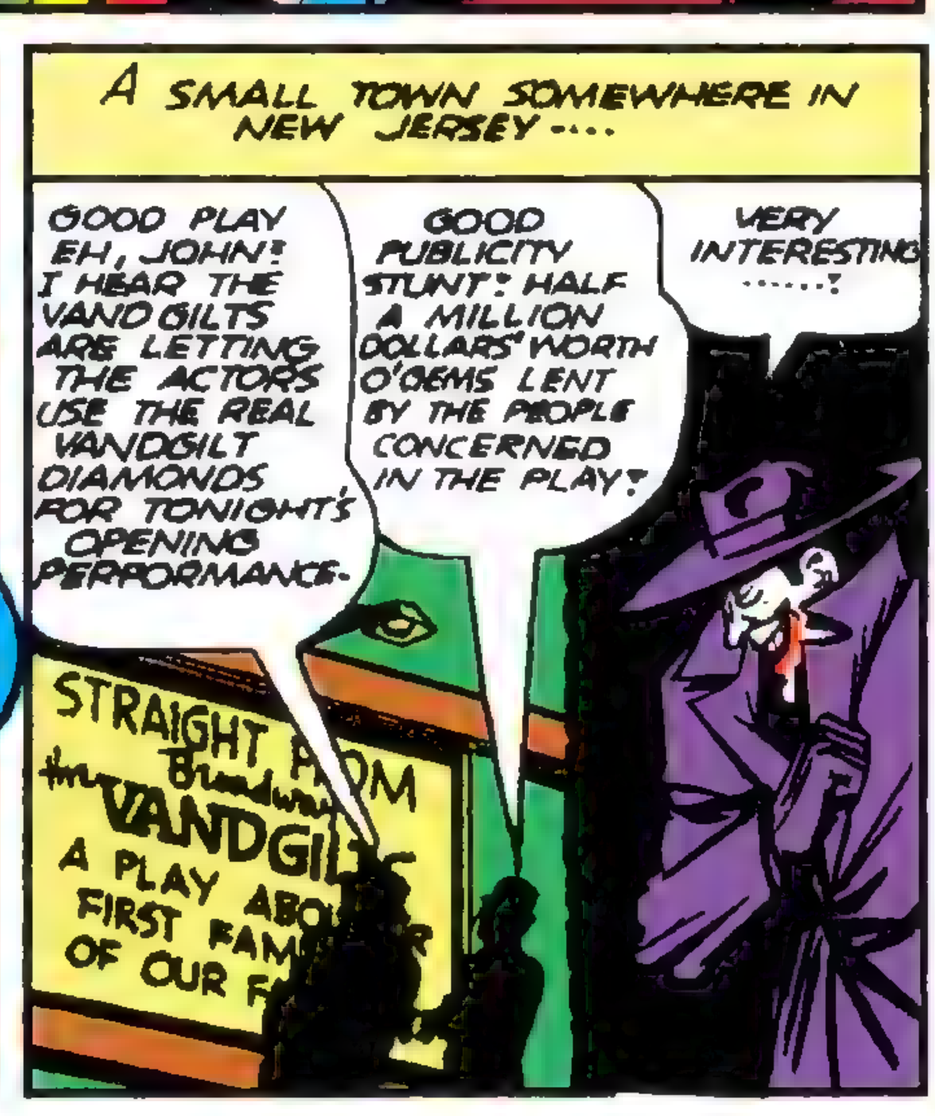

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- THIS IS A SPECIAL PROGRAM COMING TO YOU FROM THE JOKER! HA! HA! TO THE POLICE AND ESPECIALLY THE BATMAN I HAVE THIS TO SAY---YOU MAY LOOK FOR ME, BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME! ..


AND ON A LONELY ROAD SOMEWHERE---
--I--- THE JOKER--- LAUGH AT YOUR EFFORTS---YOU HEAR ME---?LAUGH! HA! HA!
IT'S HIM! EVERYBODY LOOKING FOR HIM, AND HE MAKES A SPEECH! WOW!
THAT WAS STATION ROB---A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE! I'LL HEAD RIGHT FOR IT!

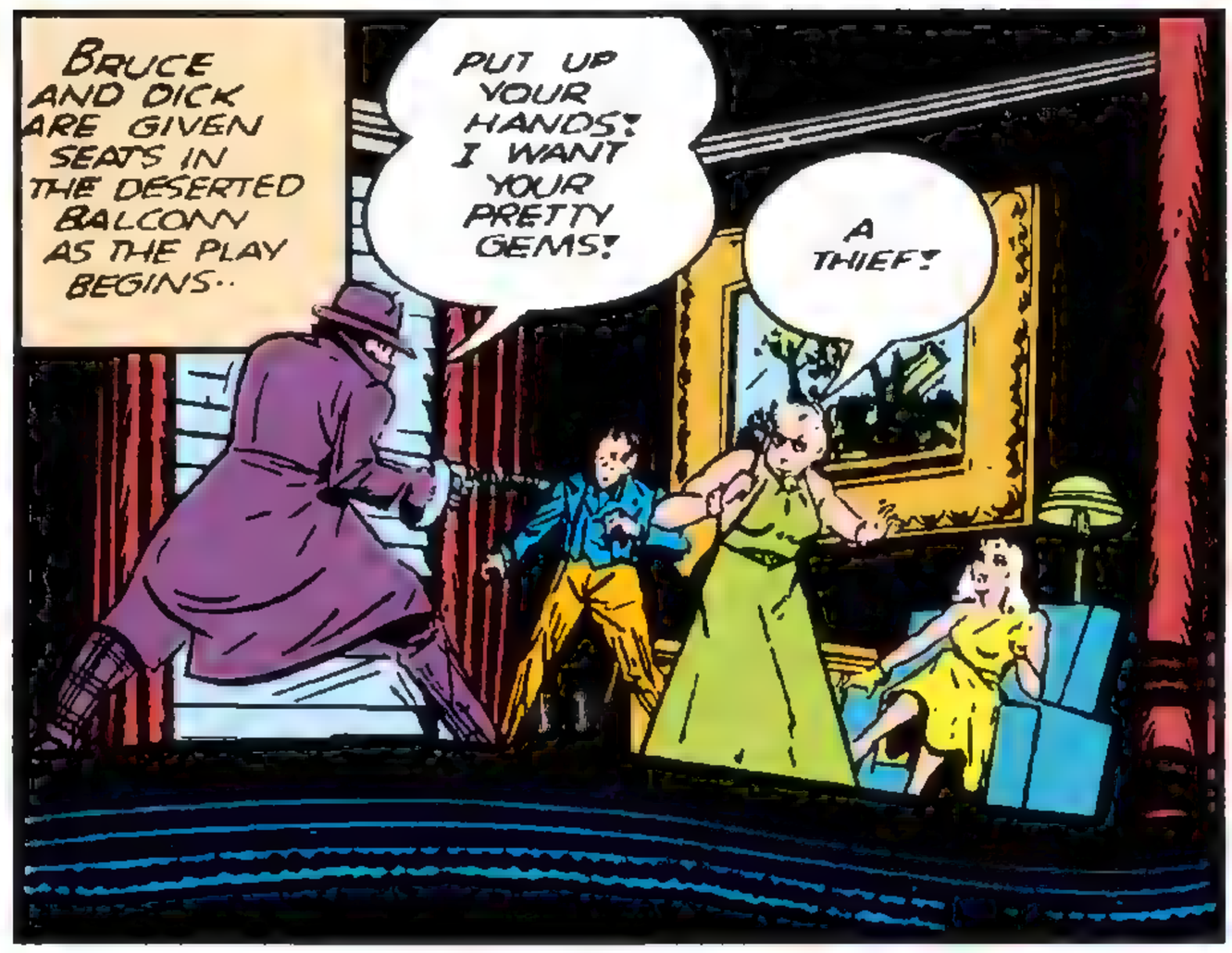

BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVE, THEY FIND THE JOKER IS....
GONE! THE JOKER'S GONE!
YES--- BUT HE'S LEFT SOMETHING FOR US!

THE FIRST CLUE!
GUESS WHERE I AM GOING NOW, BATMAN- HA! HA!
HA! HA!
JERSEY
POLICE

WHAT'S IT MEAN?
THE JOKER'S JUST TOLD US HE'S GONE TO NEW JERSEY- AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL PICK UP HIS TRAIL! C'MON!


A SMALL TOWN SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY....
GOOD PLAY EH, JOHN! I HEAR THE VANDGILTS ARE LETTING THE ACTORS USE THE REAL VANDGILT DIAMONDS FOR TONIGHT'S OPENING PERFORMANCE-
GOOD PUBLICITY STUNT! HALF A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH O'GEMS LENT BY THE PEOPLE CONCERNED IN THE PLAY!
VERY INTERESTING .....!
STRAIGHT FROM Broadway
VANDGIL
A PLAY ABO
FIRST FAM
OF OUR F

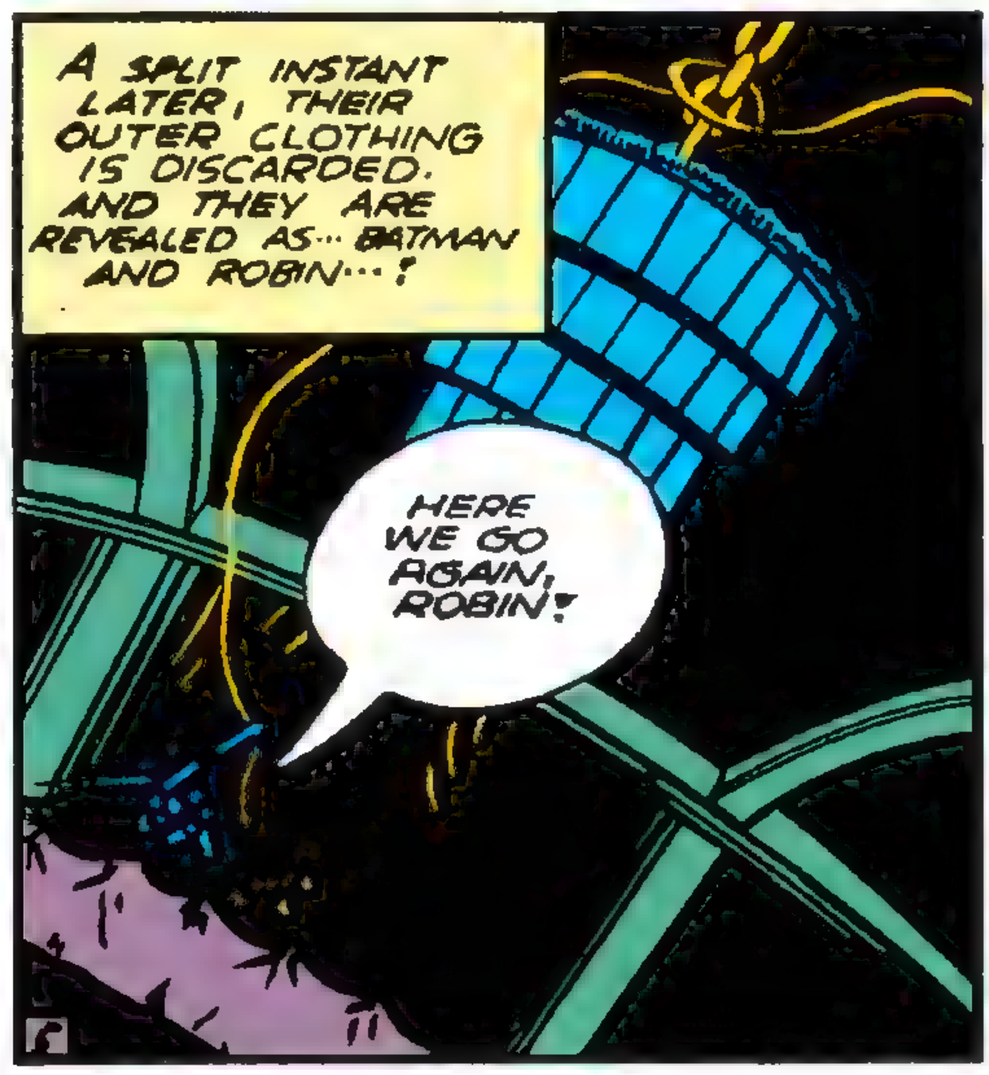
THAT NIGHT...TWO STRANGERS WALK THE STREETS OF THE TOWN—BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON!
VANDGIL
THE JOKER HAS CERTAINLY GIVEN US THE SLIP, HASN'T HE?
SORT OF! WELL TAKE THE CHASE UP AGAIN IN THE MORNING! MEANWHILE, WE CAN RELAX BY SEEING THAT PLAY!

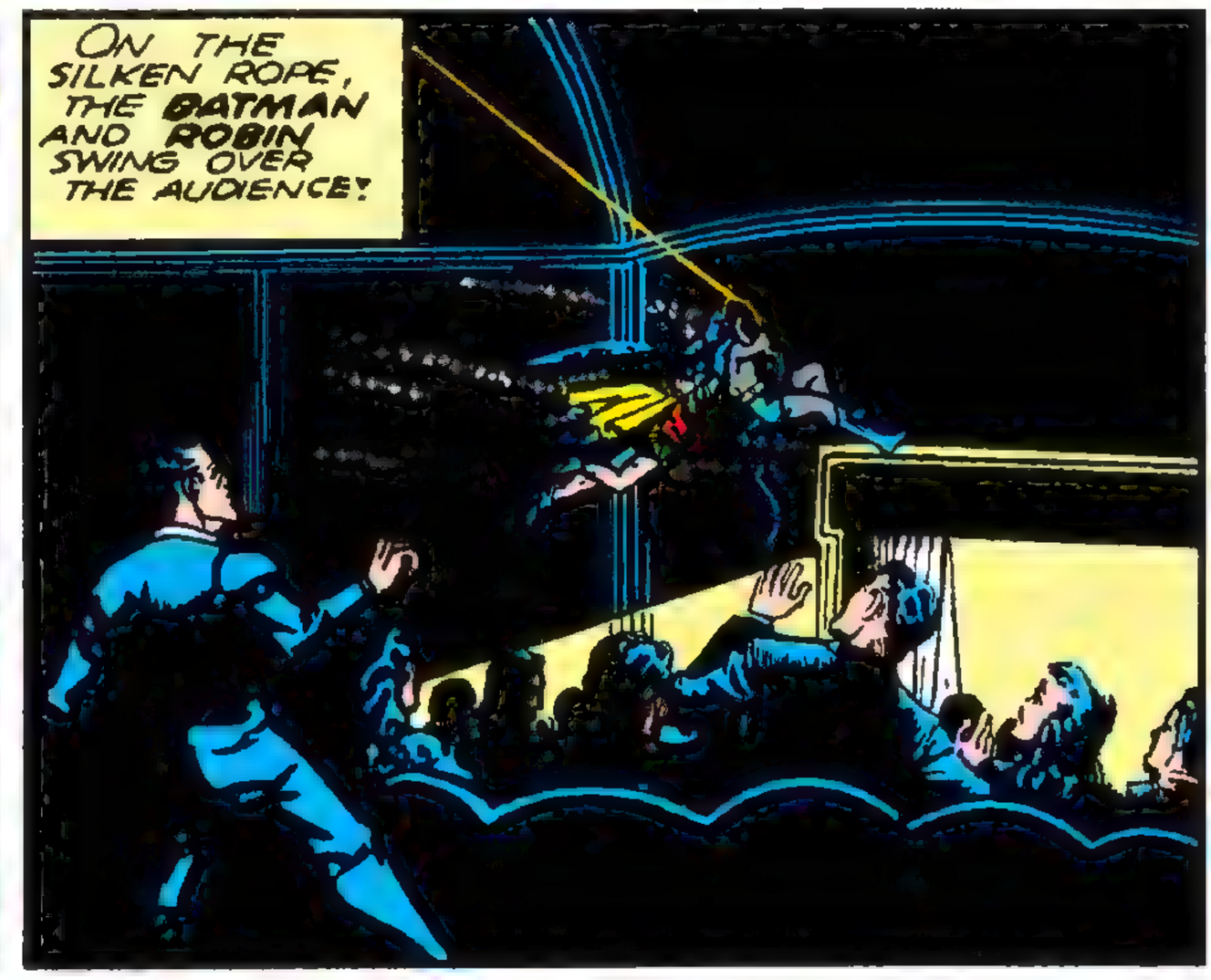

BRUCE AND DICK ARE GIVEN SEATS IN THE DESERTED BALCONY AS THE PLAY BEGINS..
PUT UP YOUR HANDS! I WANT YOUR PRETTY GEMS!
A THIEF!

HISST... THOSE AREN'T YOUR LINES... OOF--
SHUT UP! I'M AD-LIBBING! I'M ACTING OUT THIS PLAY IN MY WAY! NOW... THE GEMS, PLEASE!

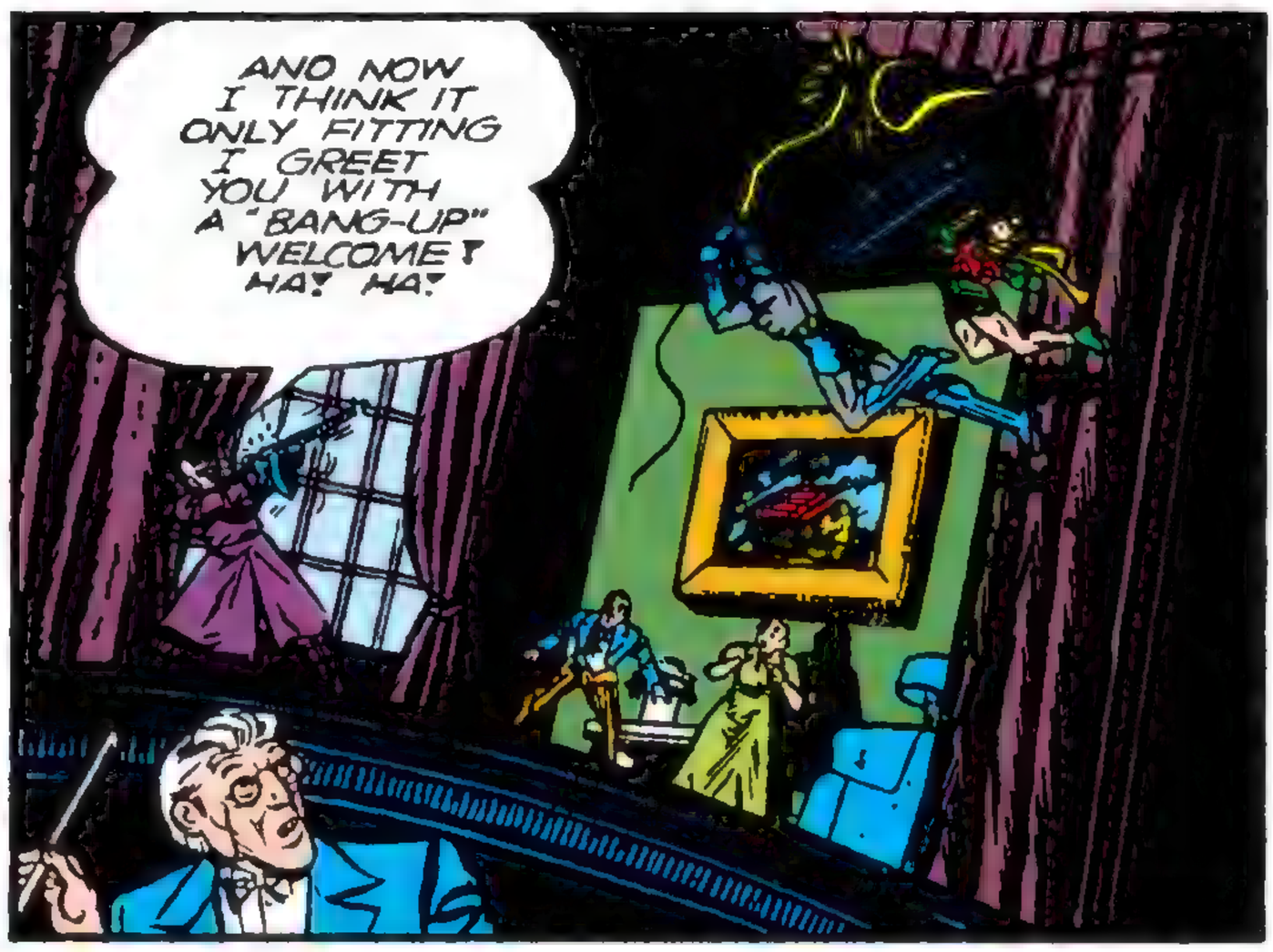
SUDDENLY, THE "GANGSTER" PAWS AT HIS FACE. UNDER CLEVER MAKEUP IS THE TAUNTING, GRINNING FACE OF... THE JOKER!
ONE FALSE MOVE AND I'LL SHOW YOU THIS IS NO PROP MACHINE GUN-- BUT A REAL ONE THAT SHOOTS REAL BULLETS!

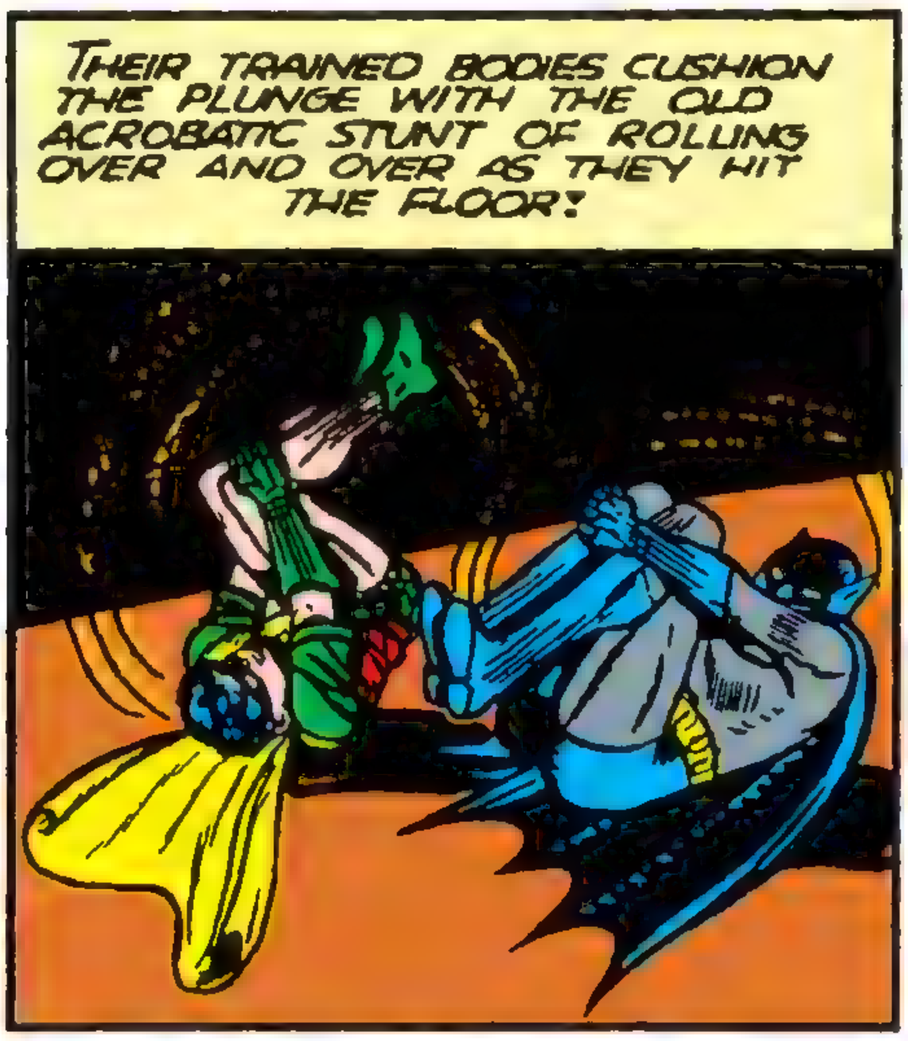
LOOK!
THE JOKER... HERE... C'MON--HE'S GOT A FORTUNE IN GEMS!


A SPLIT INSTANT LATER, THEIR OUTER CLOTHING IS DISCARDED. AND THEY ARE REVEALED AS... BATMAN AND ROBIN...!
HERE WE GO AGAIN, ROBIN!


ON THE SILKEN ROPE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SWING OVER THE AUDIENCE!

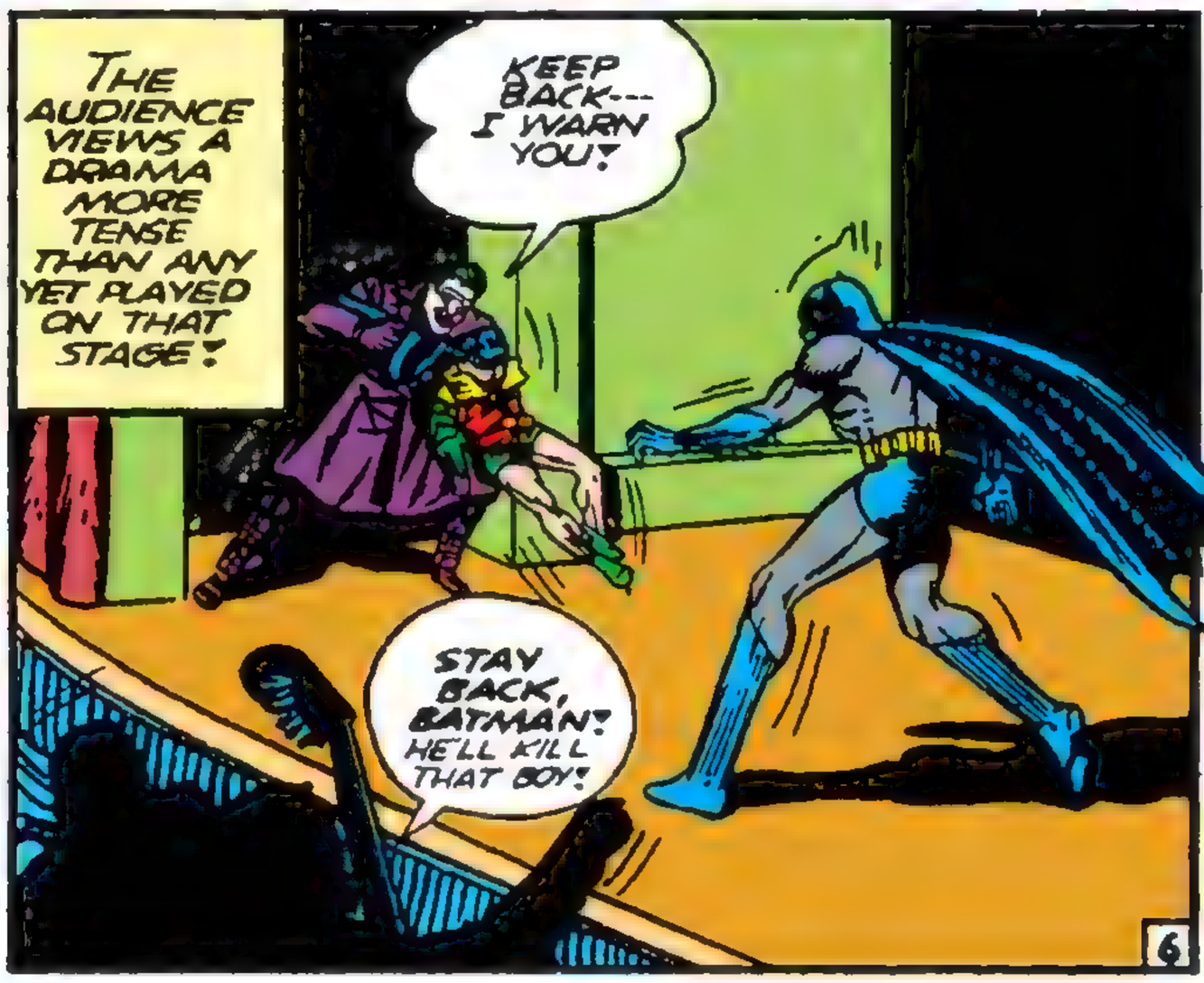
AH!... BATMAN AND ROBIN! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

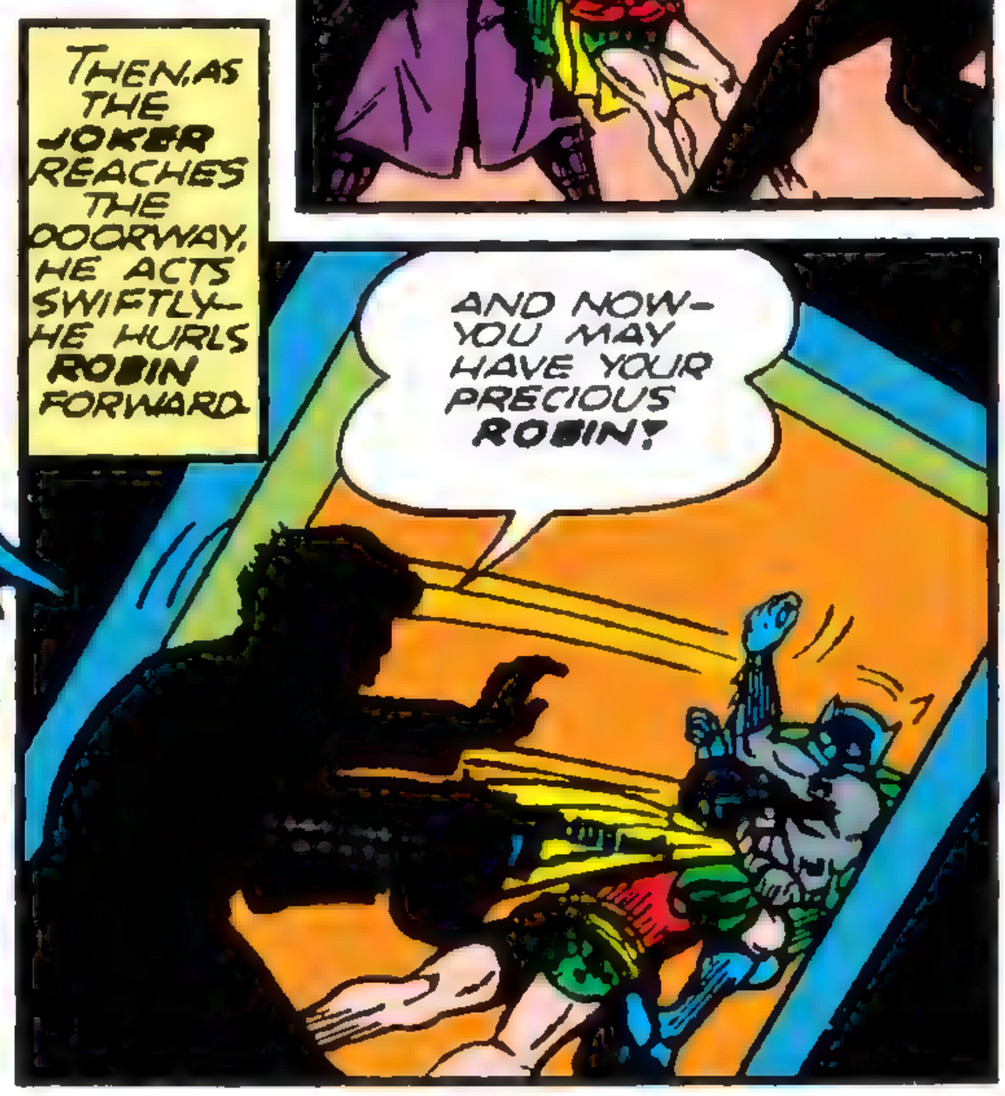

AND NOW I THINK IT ONLY FITTING I GREET YOU WITH A "BANG-UP" WELCOME! HA! HA!

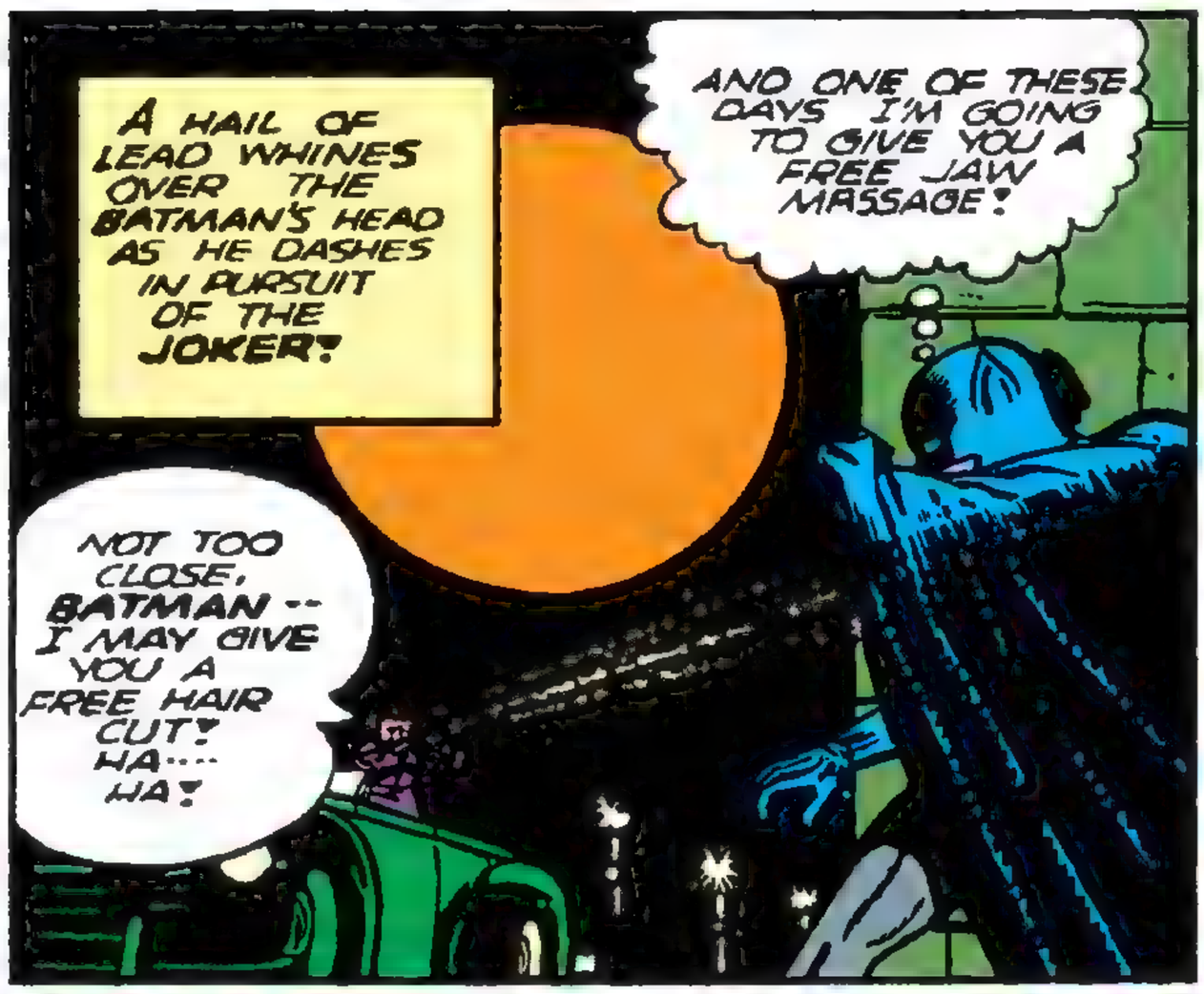

THEIR TRAINED BODIES CUSHION THE PLUNGE WITH THE OLD ACROBATIC STUNT OF ROLLING OVER AND OVER AS THEY HIT THE FLOOR!

EVEN AS ROBIN STARTS TO RISE, THE JOKER LEAPS FORWARD AND RAKES THE BOY'S HEAD WITH A SAVAGE BLOW!

AH--AH! STAY BACK, BATMAN! ONE FALSE MOVE FROM YOU OR ANYBODY HERE, AND THIS BOY DIES!
YOU!

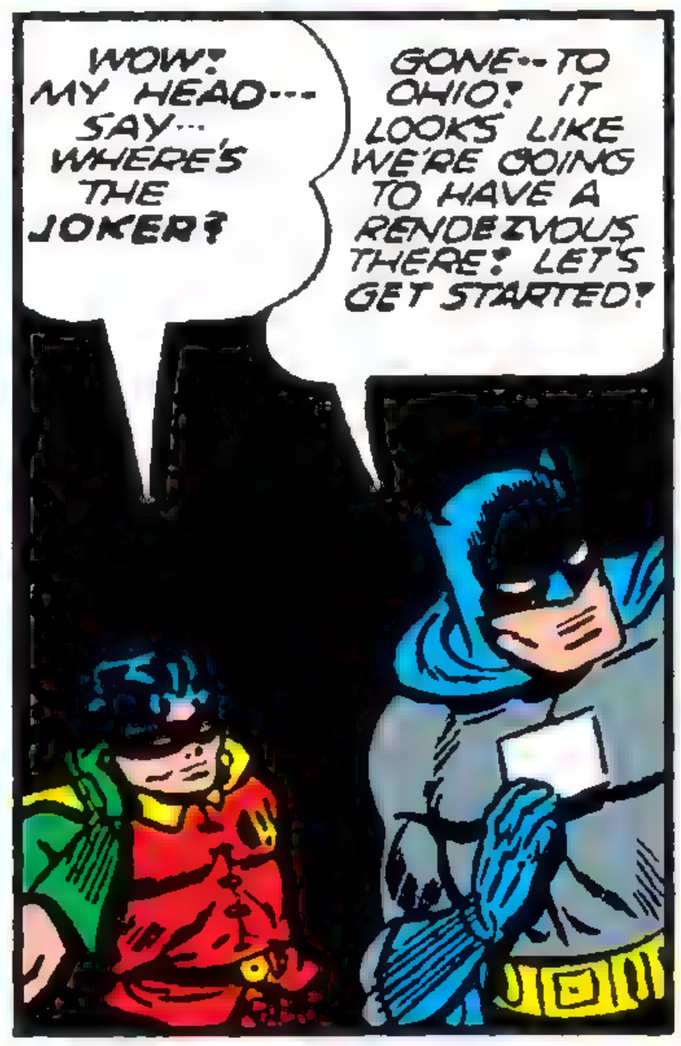

THE AUDIENCE VIEWS A DRAMA MORE TENSE THAN ANY YET PLAYED ON THAT STAGE!
KEEP BACK--- I WARN YOU!
STAY BACK, BATMAN! HE'LL KILL THAT BOY!
6


THEN, AS THE JOKER REACHES THE DOORWAY, HE ACTS SWIFTLY— HE HURLS ROBIN FORWARD.
AND NOW— YOU MAY HAVE YOUR PRECIOUS ROBIN!


A HAIL OF LEAD WHINES OVER THE BATMAN'S HEAD AS HE DASHES IN PURSUIT OF THE JOKER!
AND ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A FREE JAW MASSAGE!
NOT TOO CLOSE, BATMAN -- I MAY GIVE YOU A FREE HAIR CUT! HA.... HA!

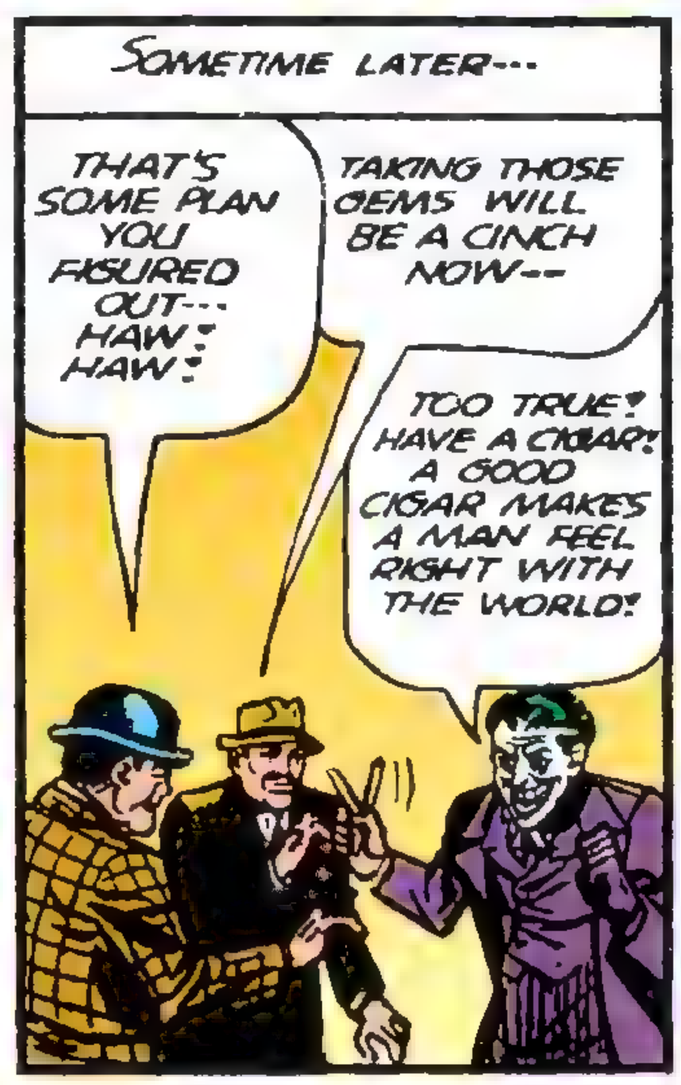
WITH A ROAR, THE CAR LEAPS AWAY--
ADIEU, BATMAN! HA! HA!
LAUGHING HYENA! WHAT'S THAT HE'S DROPPING, I WONDER?

THE SECOND CLUE!
JOKER
OHIO
JOKER


WOW! MY HEAD--- SAY... WHERE'S THE JOKER?
GONE--TO OHIO! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A RENDEZVOUS THERE! LET'S GET STARTED!

TWO DAYS LATER, IN OHIO, THE JOKER SEEKS OUT TWO OLD CRONIES--
I HOPE YOU GENTLEMEN ARE NOT TEMPTED TO TURN ME IN FOR THAT REWARD!
WE'RE OUT FOR BIGGER STAKES, JOKER... YOU'RE WORTH MILLIONS TO US....
...IF THAT BRAIN OF YOURS CAN WORK UP A GOOD IDEA!

AN IDEA... WORTH A MILLION DOLLARS! SPEAK ON, GENTLEMEN. YOU INTEREST ME....
THERE'S A JEWELERS' CONVENTION TO BE HELD ABOUT 200 MILES FROM HERE IN A BIG CITY--
A SPECIAL BUS IS TAKING ALL THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWELRY SHOPS THERE! THERE'LL BE COPS ON IT! WE MUST FIND A WAY TO GET THOSE JEWELS THOSE MEN WILL BE CARRYING!


SOMETIME LATER...
THAT'S SOME PLAN YOU FIGURED OUT... HAW! HAW!
TAKING THOSE GEMS WILL BE A CINCH NOW--
TOO TRUE! HAVE A CIGAR! A GOOD CIGAR MAKES A MAN FEEL RIGHT WITH THE WORLD!

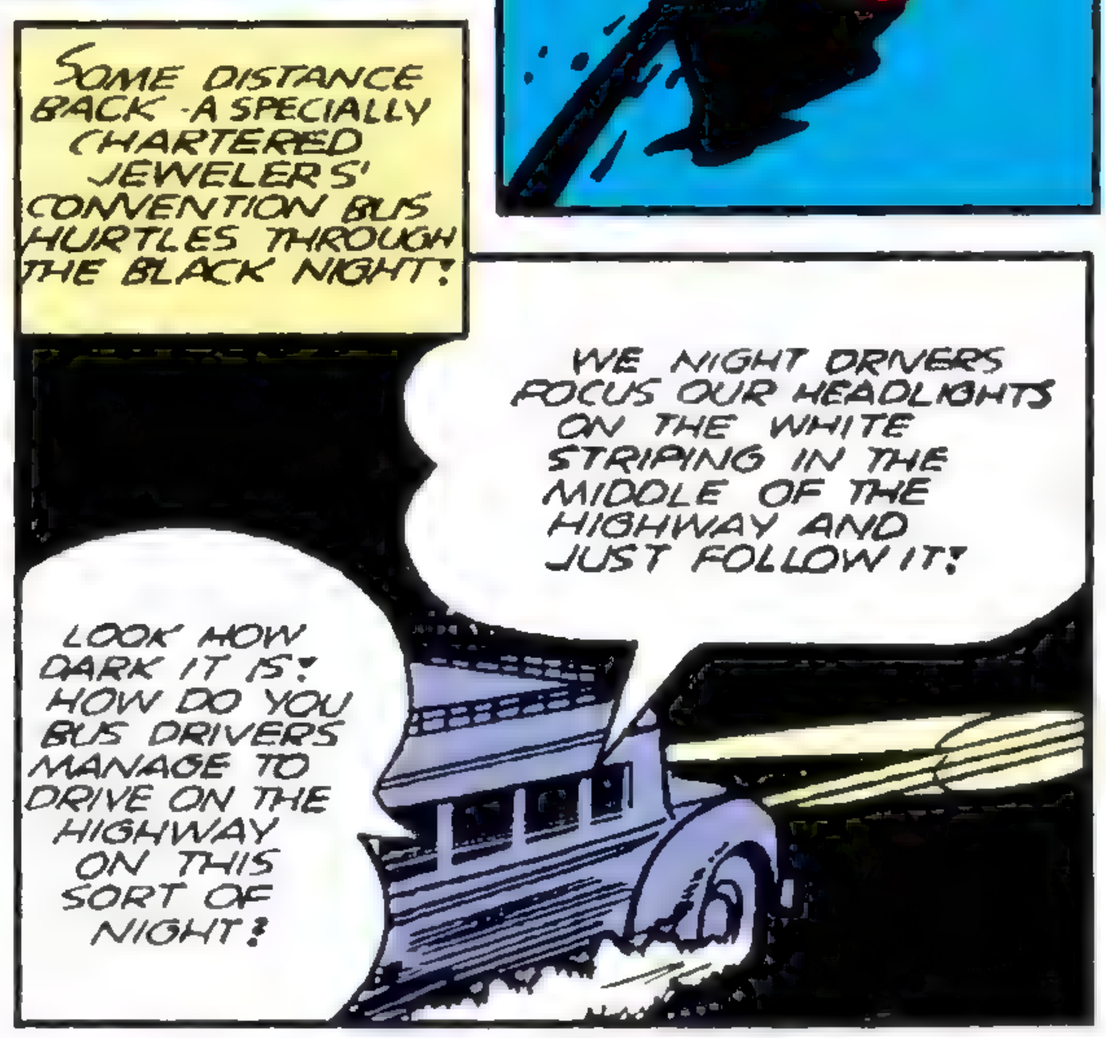
A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF GEMS... HA-HA.
ENJOYING YOURSELVES-- AREN'T YOU? HA HA!
YEAH! AIN'T IT A RIOT? HO! HO! HO!

WILDER AND STILL WILDER GROWS THE LAUGHTER SUDDENLY, ONE MAN GASPS CONVULSIVELY AND CLUTCHES AT HIS THROAT--
HA! HA HA HA HA HA HA! HA... AGGHHH...

HIS BODY SINKS TO THE FLOOR. LIPS FREEZING INTO A TERRIBLE JOKER'S GRIN!
YOU--- YOU GRINNING DEVIL--- YOU POISONED US! THOSE CIGARS!
YES, THEY CONTAINED AMMONIUM NITRATE. HEATED, IT FORMS LAUGHING GAS! TO IT, I ADDED MY SPECIAL JOKER SERUM! DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D LET YOU SHARE THOSE JEWELS WITH ME? ---HA HA!

AND THAT NIGHT---A MAN TOILS TIRELESSLY ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY---
FIRST I'LL BLACK OUT PART OF THE HIGHWAY STRIPE---

AND NOW TO CONTINUE THE STRIPE TILL HERE! HA--- HA---!


SOME DISTANCE BACK--A SPECIALLY CHARTERED JEWELER'S CONVENTION BUS HURTLES THROUGH THE BLACK NIGHT!
WE NIGHT DRIVERS FOCUS OUR HEADLIGHTS ON THE WHITE STRIPING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HIGHWAY AND JUST FOLLOW IT!
LOOK HOW DARK IT IS! HOW DO YOU BUS DRIVERS MANAGE TO DRIVE ON THE HIGHWAY ON THIS SORT OF NIGHT?

THAT'S INTERESTING--- LOOK OUT--!
HUH? WHA--?

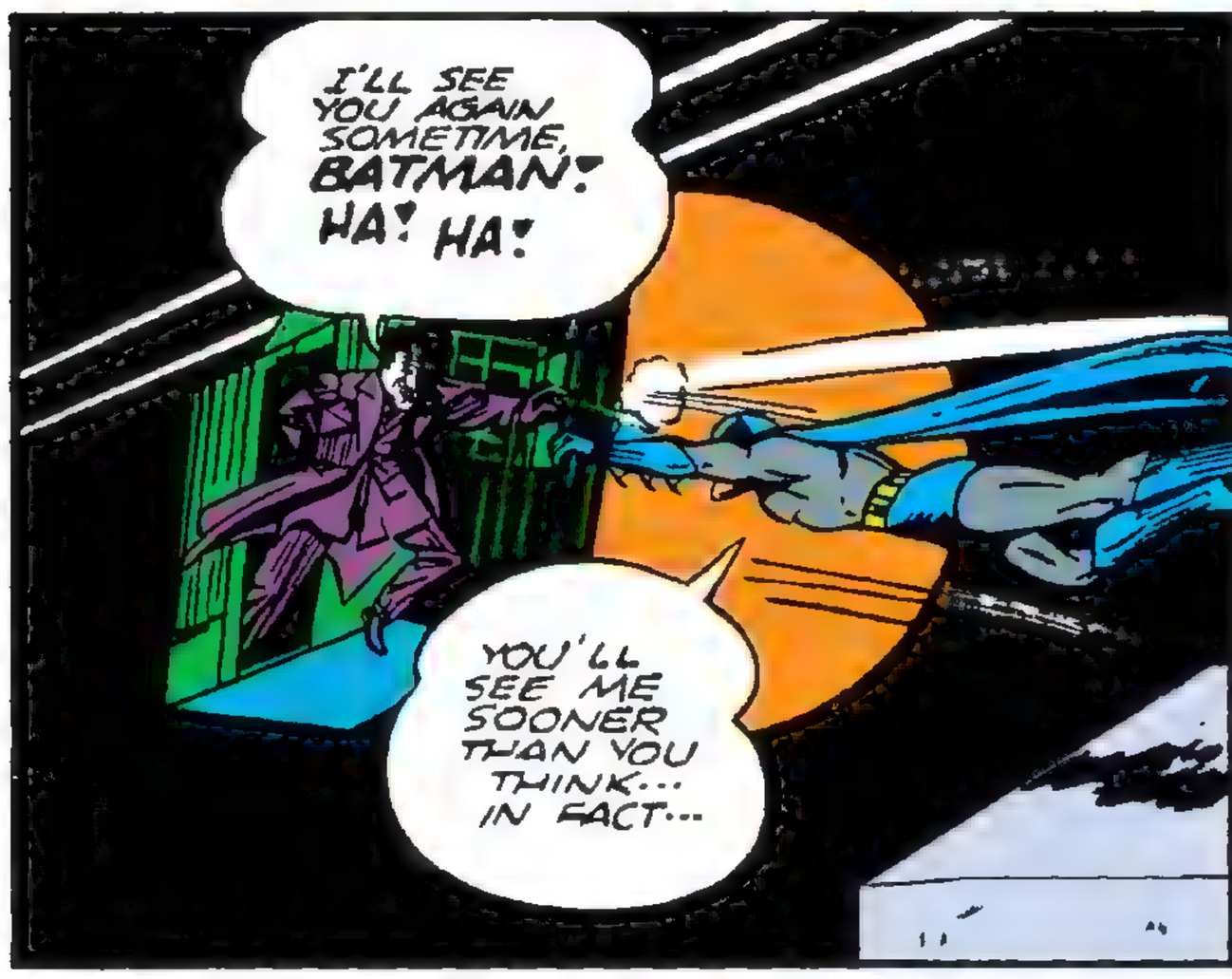
A REVERBERATING CRASH REACHES THE EARS OF THE TWO OCCUPANTS OF ANOTHER CAR ON THE SAME HIGHWAY!
WHAT WAS THAT?
SOUNDS LIKE A SMASHUP--AHEAD. WE'D BETTER STOP AND INVESTIGATE--
CRASH

TWO MANTLED SHAPES DROP DOWN TOWARD A MAN WHO BENDS OVER THE TWISTED WRECKAGE!
THIS HIGHWAY PROVED A PATH OF DESTRUCTION FOR THEM! HA-HA-WHA---?
YOU MURDERER!

A SWIFTLY-DRAWN GUN SPRAYS JOKER GAS AT THE CHARGING ROBIN!
YOU ARE MUCH TOO IMPETUOUS!
THIS GAS IS DILUTED AND ONLY RENDERS THE VICTIM UNCONSCIOUS FOR A FEW MOMENTS!

NOW-- IT'S YOUR TURN ... UGH!
NOTE QUITE, JOKER!

THE JOKER WHEELS AND FLEES, THE BATMAN IN FULL PURSUIT! THE CHASE TAKES THEM UP A MOUNTAIN SIDE--
A MONORAIL CAR! A PERFECT ESCAPE!


I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOMETIME, BATMAN! HA! HA!
YOU'LL SEE ME SOONER THAN YOU THINK... IN FACT...

...EVEN SOONER!

OH YEAH! HA! HA!
9

A UNEXPECTED VICIOUS KICK ALMOST SENDS THE BATMAN PLUNGING INTO YAWNING SPACE!
AH! THAT ONE MUST HAVE HURT--EH, BATMAN?

THEN--

WHAT...? THE CAR'S MOVING THE OTHER WAY-- BACK WHERE IT STARTED!

YOU'LL DROP RIGHT INTO MY HANDS NOW, JOKER!

THE ANSWER: ROBIN HAS RECOVERED FROM THE GAS AND PULLED THE SWITCH THAT WILL SEND THE CAR BACK--WITH THE JOKER IN IT!

BUT YOU FORGET I KNOW A TRICK OR TWO MYSELF--

SEE YOU AGAIN? HA HA!

BEFORE THE ASTOUNDED **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** CAN RECOVER FROM THIS UNEXPECTED MOVE, THE **JOKER** MAKES HIS ESCAPE!

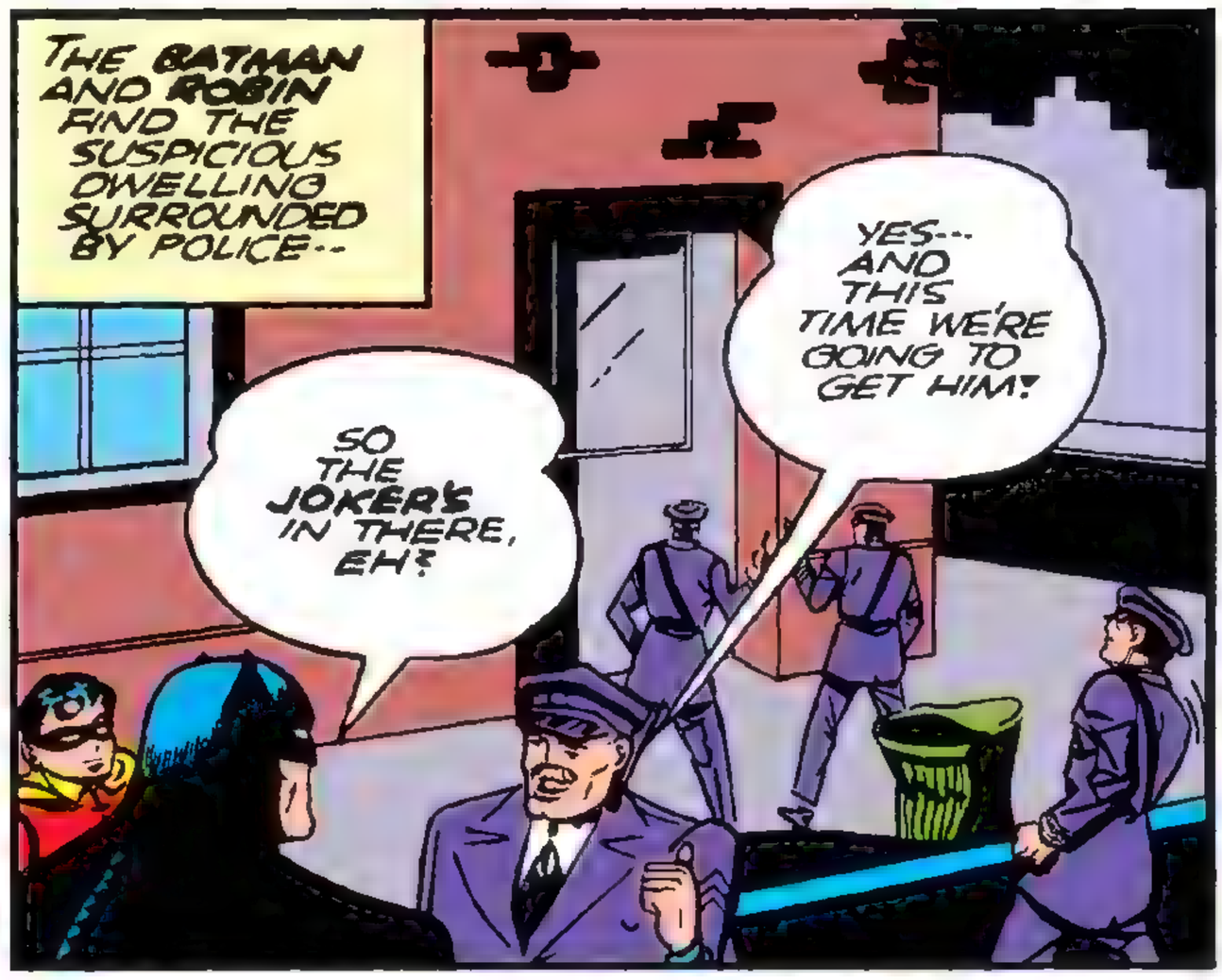
LATER--THEY FIND THE THIRD CLUE!

KANSAS, EH! IF THAT'S THE JOKER'S NEXT MOVE, IT'S OURS, TOO!

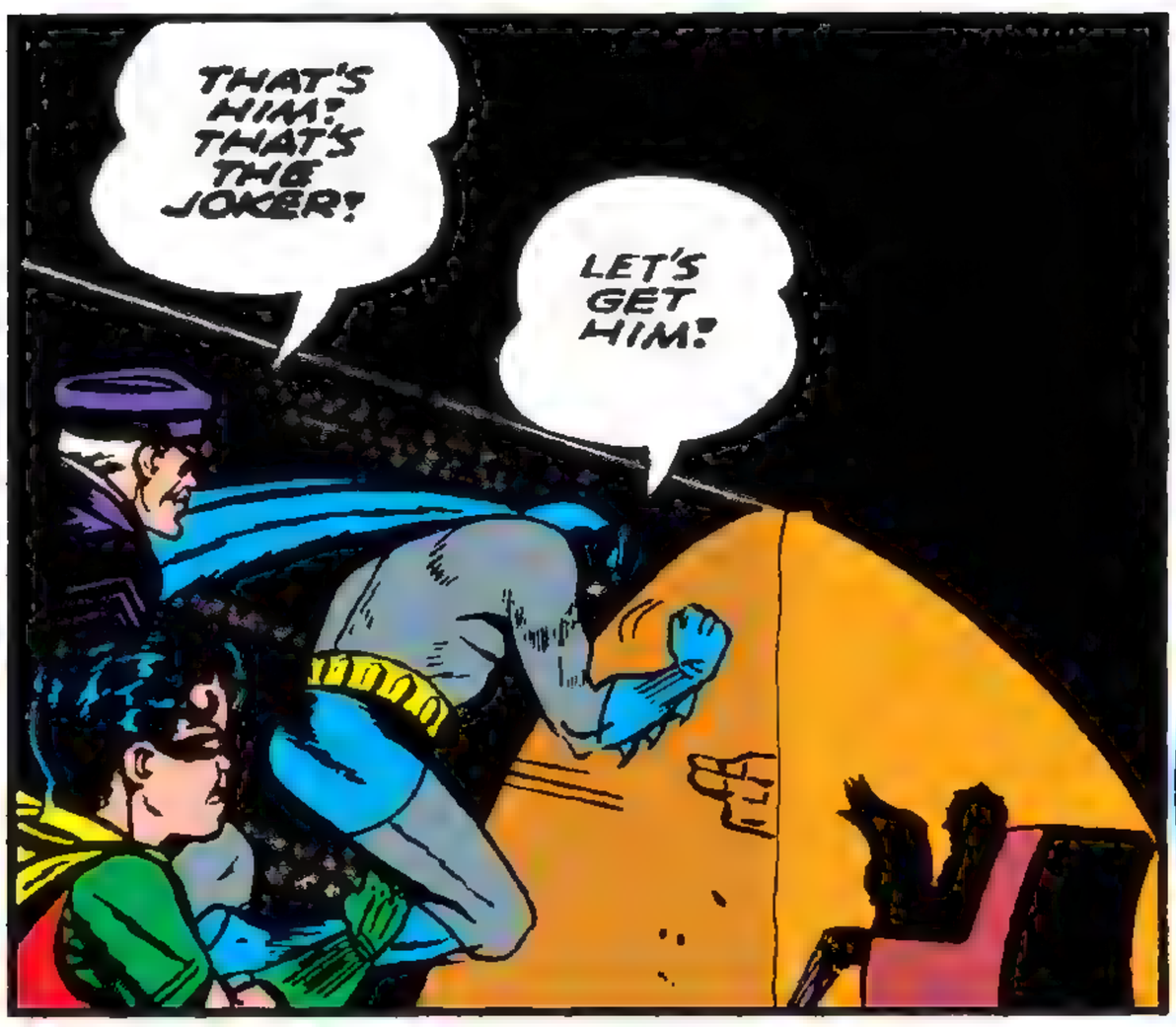
THE BATMOBILE ROCKETS THRU STATE AFTER STATE ON THE TRAIL OF THE ELUSIVE **JOKER**!

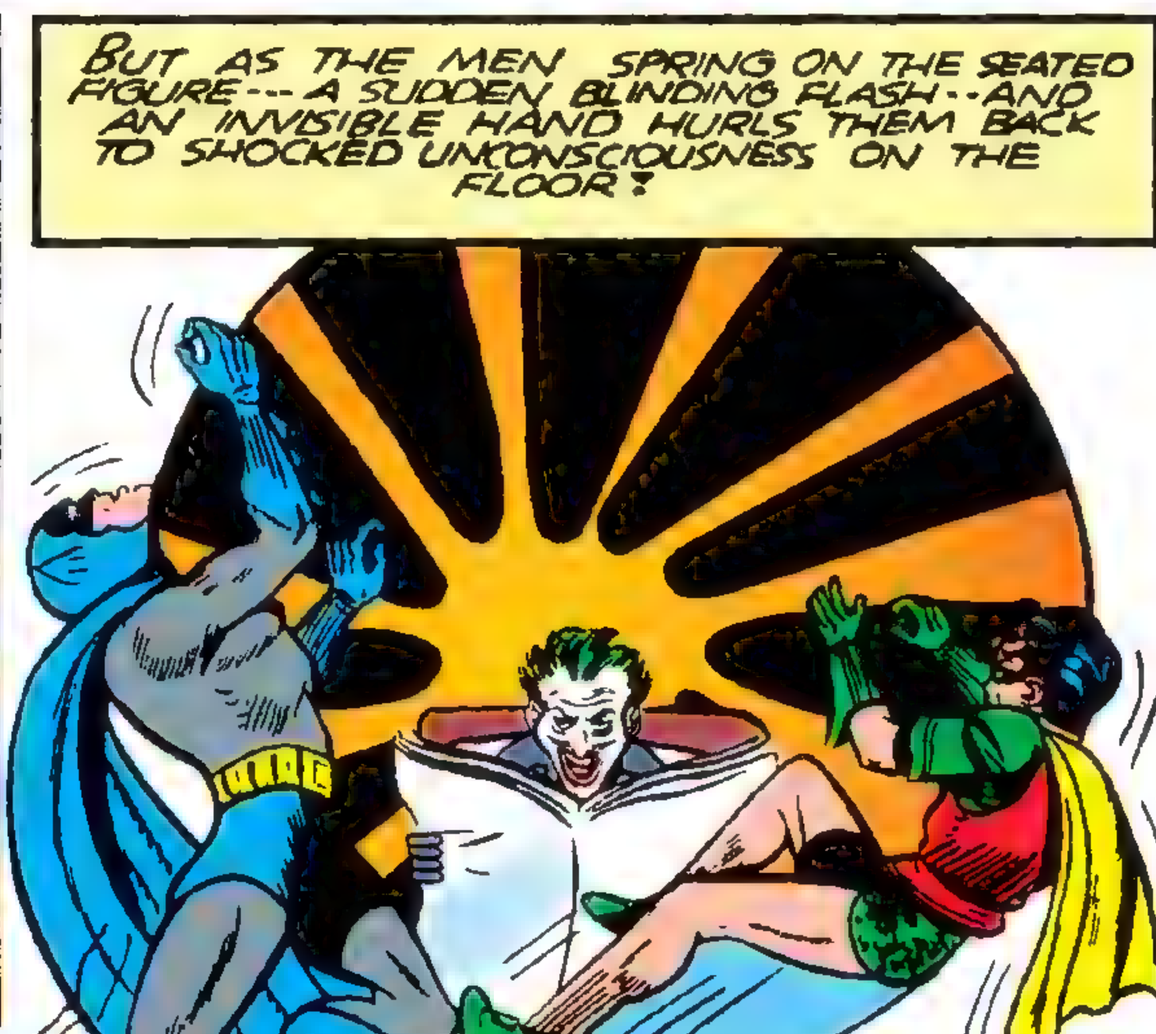
THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** CLING TO THE TRAIL, WHEN STARTLING WORDS SNAP THEM UPRIGHT--

CALLING ALL CARS! THE **JOKER** HAS BEEN SEEN ENTERING A HOUSE ON 2255 CONCOURSE AVE. .....

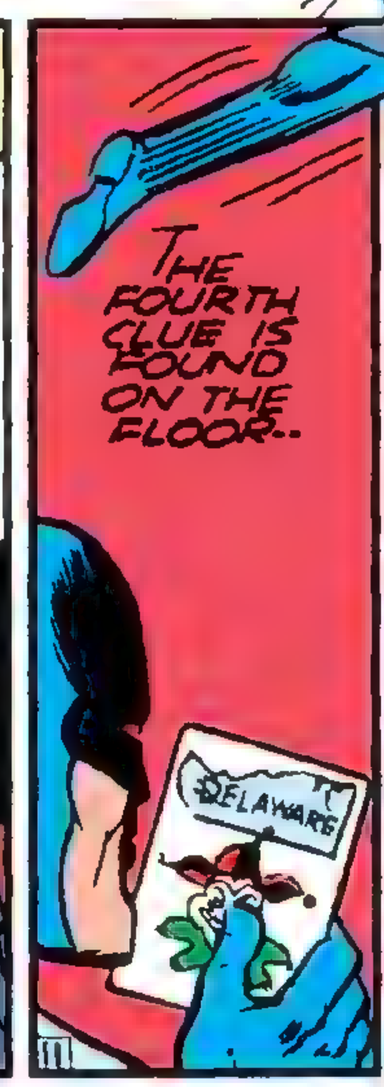

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND THE SUSPICIOUS DWELLING SURROUNDED BY POLICE--
SO THE JOKER'S IN THERE, EH?
YES--- AND THIS TIME WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM!

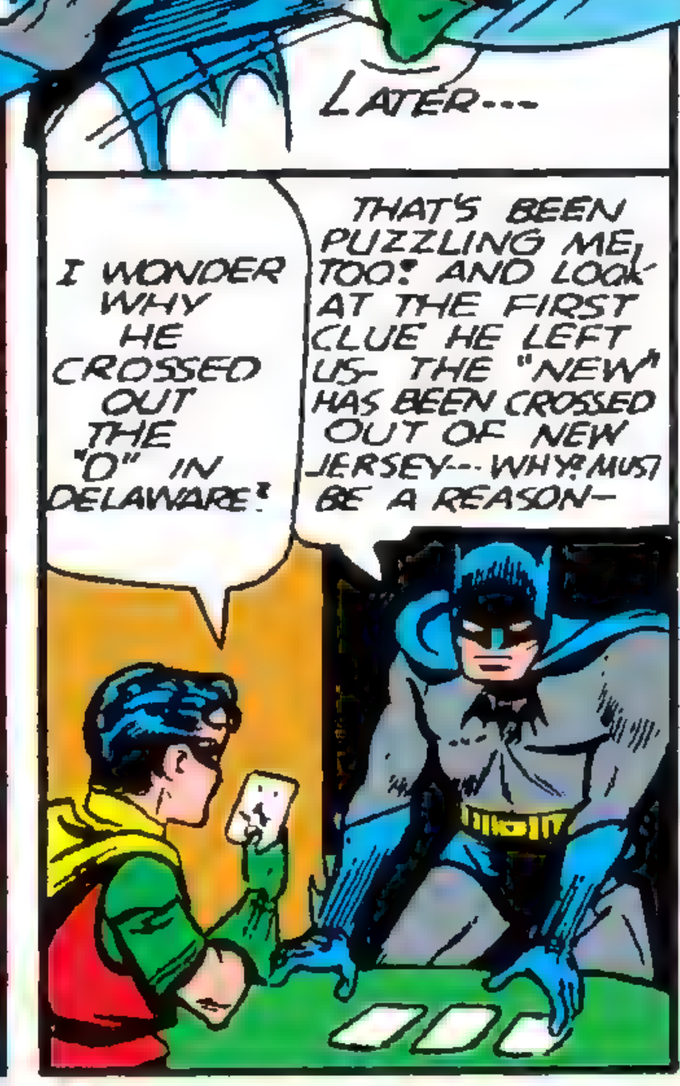
WITH THE POLICE CHIEF AND AN ASSISTANT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN PAD SOFTLY UP THE CREAKING STAIRS---


THAT'S HIM! THAT'S THE JOKER!
LET'S GET HIM!


BUT AS THE MEN SPRING ON THE SEATED FIGURE--- A SUDDEN BLINDING FLASH--AND AN INVISIBLE HAND HURLS THEM BACK TO SHOCKED UNCONSCIOUSNESS ON THE FLOOR!

MINUTES LATER--A DAZED GROUP RISES TO ITS UNSTEADY FEET---
WHAT HAPPENED!
DON'T TOUCH THAT! YOU'LL GET ANOTHER ELECTRIC SHOCK- THE JOKER RIGGED UP AN ELECTRICALLY CHARGED DUMMY TO FOOL US! THE FIEND!

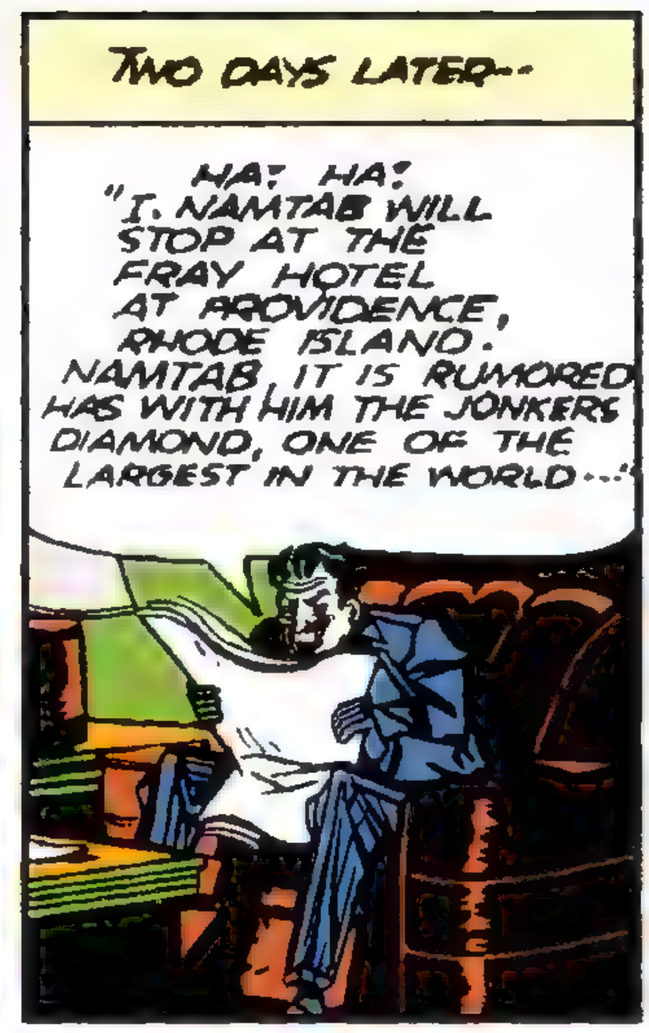

THE FOURTH CLUE IS FOUND ON THE FLOOR--
DELAWARE


LATER---
I WONDER WHY HE CROSSED OUT THE "O" IN DELAWARE!
THAT'S BEEN PUZZLING ME, TOO! AND LOOK AT THE FIRST CLUE HE LEFT US- THE "NEW" HAS BEEN CROSSED OUT OF NEW JERSEY--- WHY? MUST BE A REASON-

NEW JERSEY... OHIO... KANSAS.... HOLY SMOKE! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN... I'VE GOT THE ANSWER NOW!

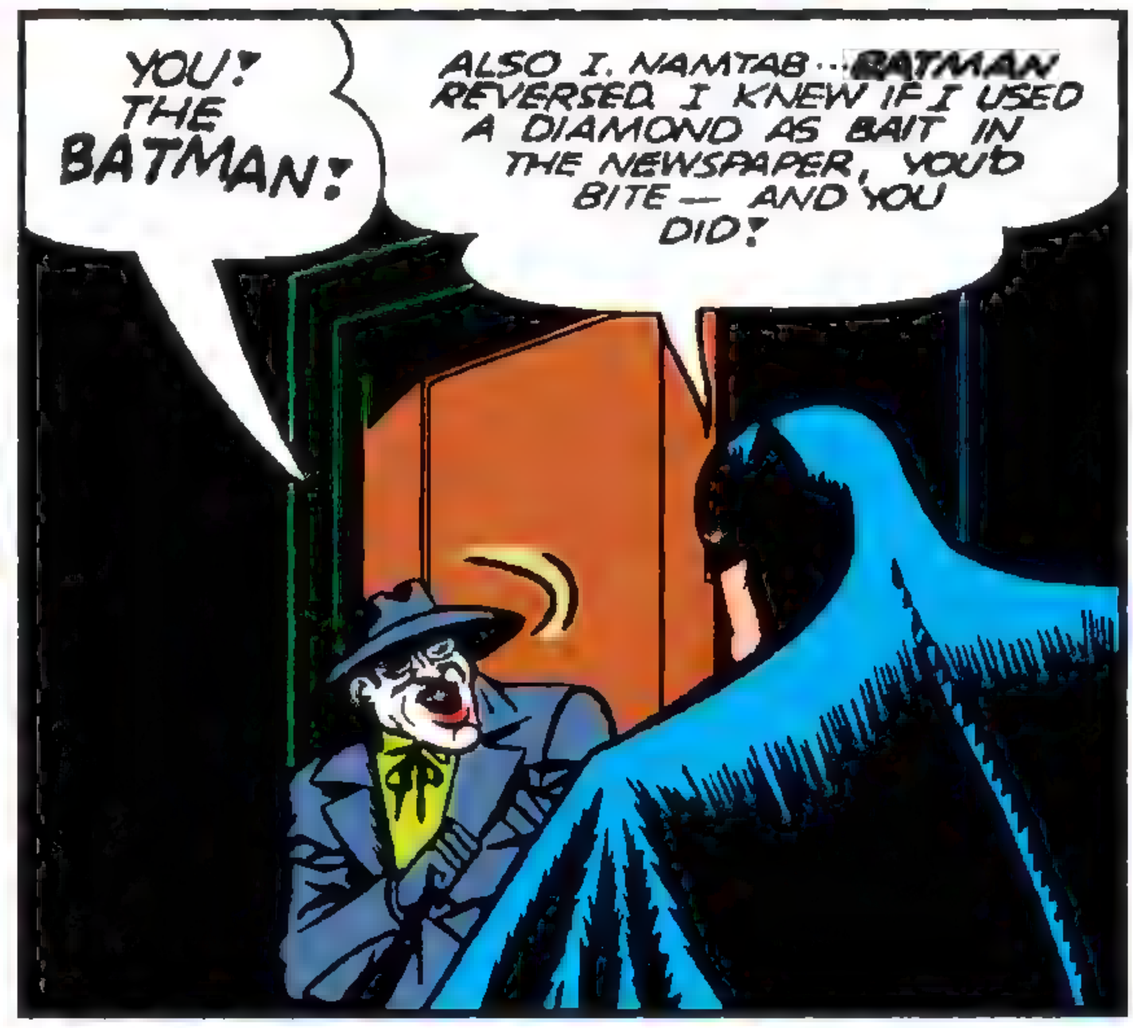
THE BATMAN WRITES A LIST OF THE CLUES....
LOOK WHAT THE LETTERS OF EACH STATE SPELL OUT AFTER WE CROSS OUT "NEW" AND THE "O" OF DELAWARE!
JERSEY IS "J" ...THEN "O"....."K"..... "E" ... WHY, THEY START TO SPELL OUT THE JOKER'S NAME...
New Jersey
Ohio
Kansas
Elaware

AND ADD THE "R" OF RHODE ISLAND-JOKER! THAT EGOTISTICAL MANIAC HAS SPELLED HIS NAME ACROSS THE COUNTRY. INSTEAD OF GOING TO DELAWARE AS HE EXPECTS US TO---
I KNOW-WE'RE GOING TO RHODE ISLAND WE'LL BE ONE JUMP AHEAD OF HIM-
New Jersey
Ohio
Kansas
Elaware
Rhode island


TWO DAYS LATER--
HA! HA! "I. NAMTAB WILL STOP AT THE FRAY HOTEL AT PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND. NAMTAB, IT IS RUMORED HAS WITH HIM THE JONKERS DIAMOND, ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD..."

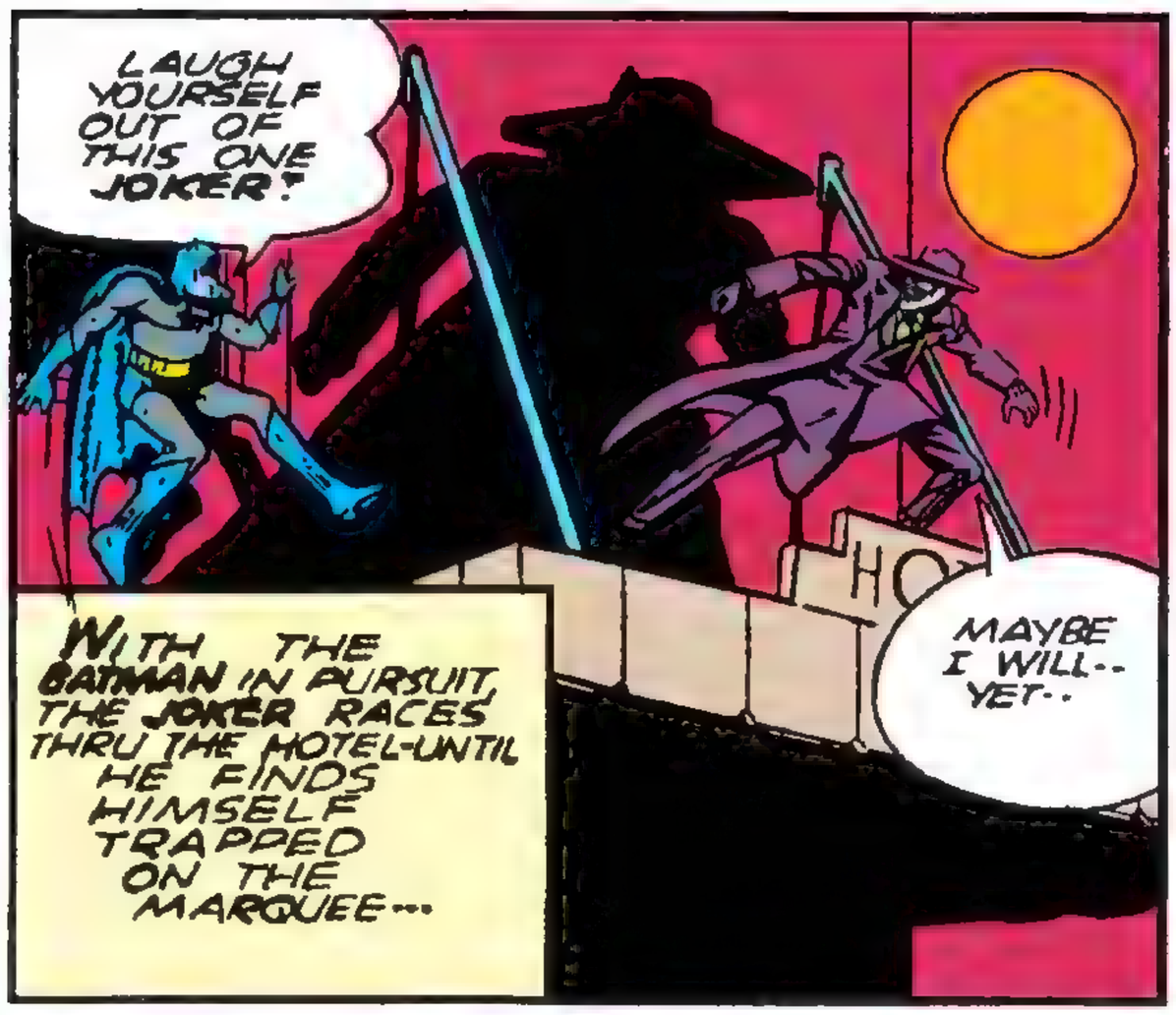
PROVIDENCE, EH-- I'LL BE THERE AND AWAY BEFORE THE BATMAN - THE DIAMOND IS MINE!

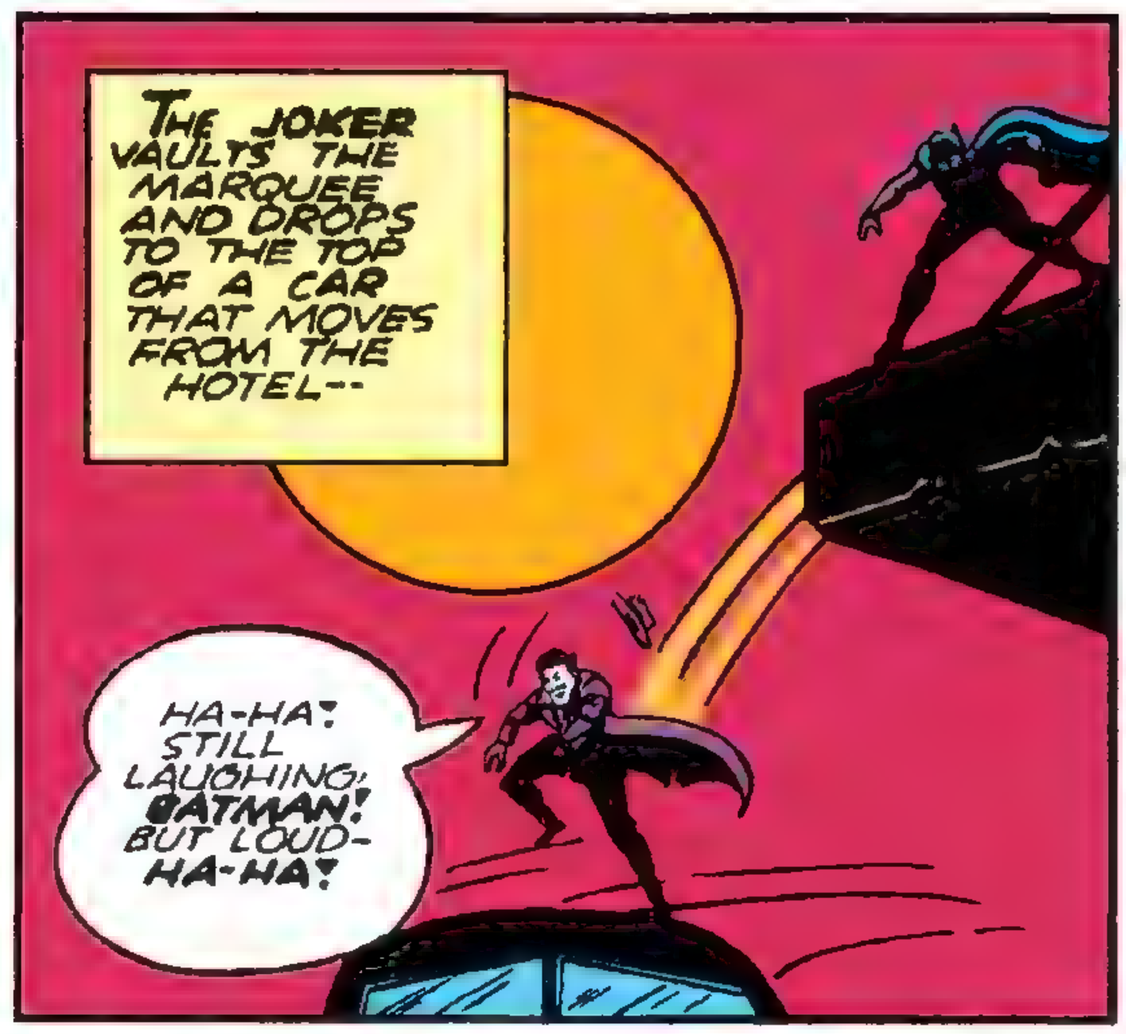
FRAY HOTEL--- THE JOKER'S KNUCKLES RAP SHARPLY ON I. NAMTAB'S DOOR--
COME IN!


YOU! THE BATMAN!
ALSO I. NAMTAB...BATMAN REVERSED. I KNEW IF I USED A DIAMOND AS BAIT IN THE NEWSPAPER, YOU'D BITE — AND YOU DID!

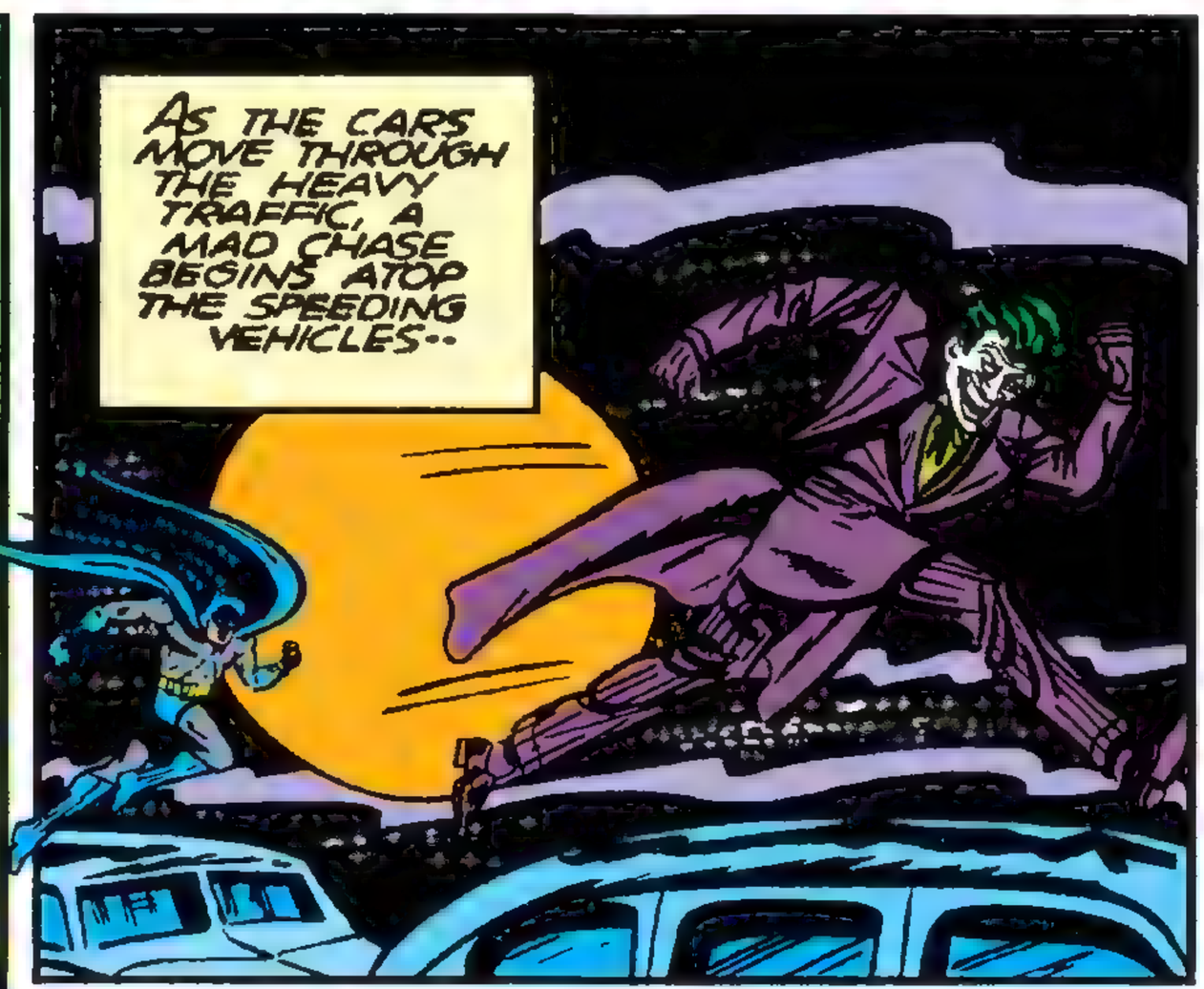
I'M NOT CAUGHT YET, BATMAN? NOT YET!
BUT YOU SOON WILL BE, BROTHER-- YOU SOON WILL BE!

YOU LITTLE BRAT- GET OUT OF MY WAY!

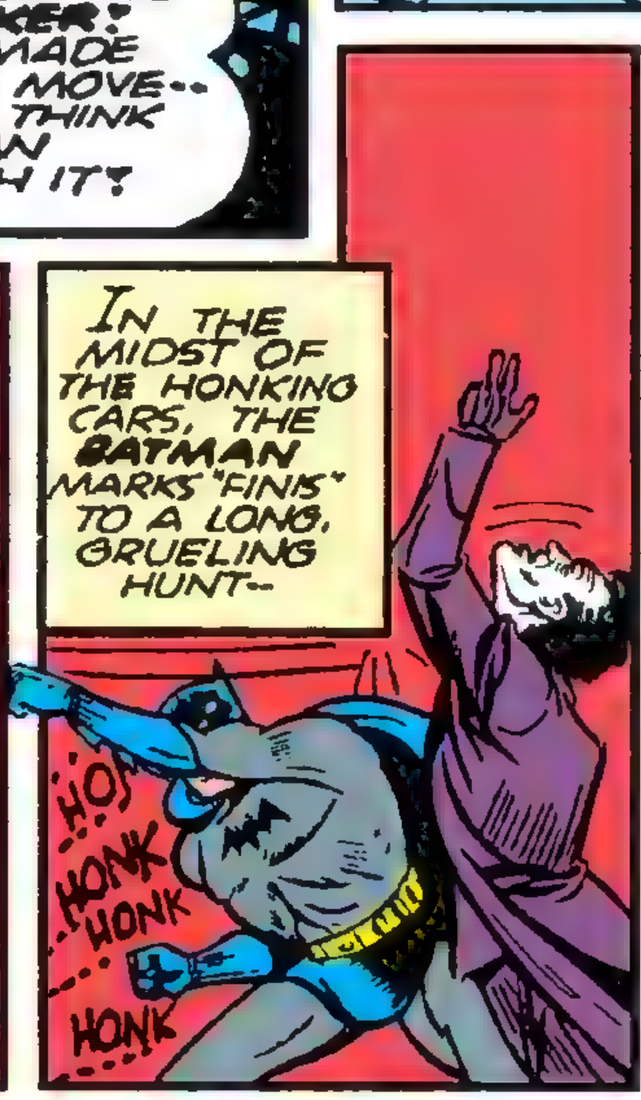

LAUGH YOURSELF OUT OF THIS ONE JOKER!
WITH THE BATMAN IN PURSUIT, THE JOKER RACES THRU THE HOTEL-UNTIL HE FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED ON THE MARQUEE...
MAYBE I WILL-- YET..

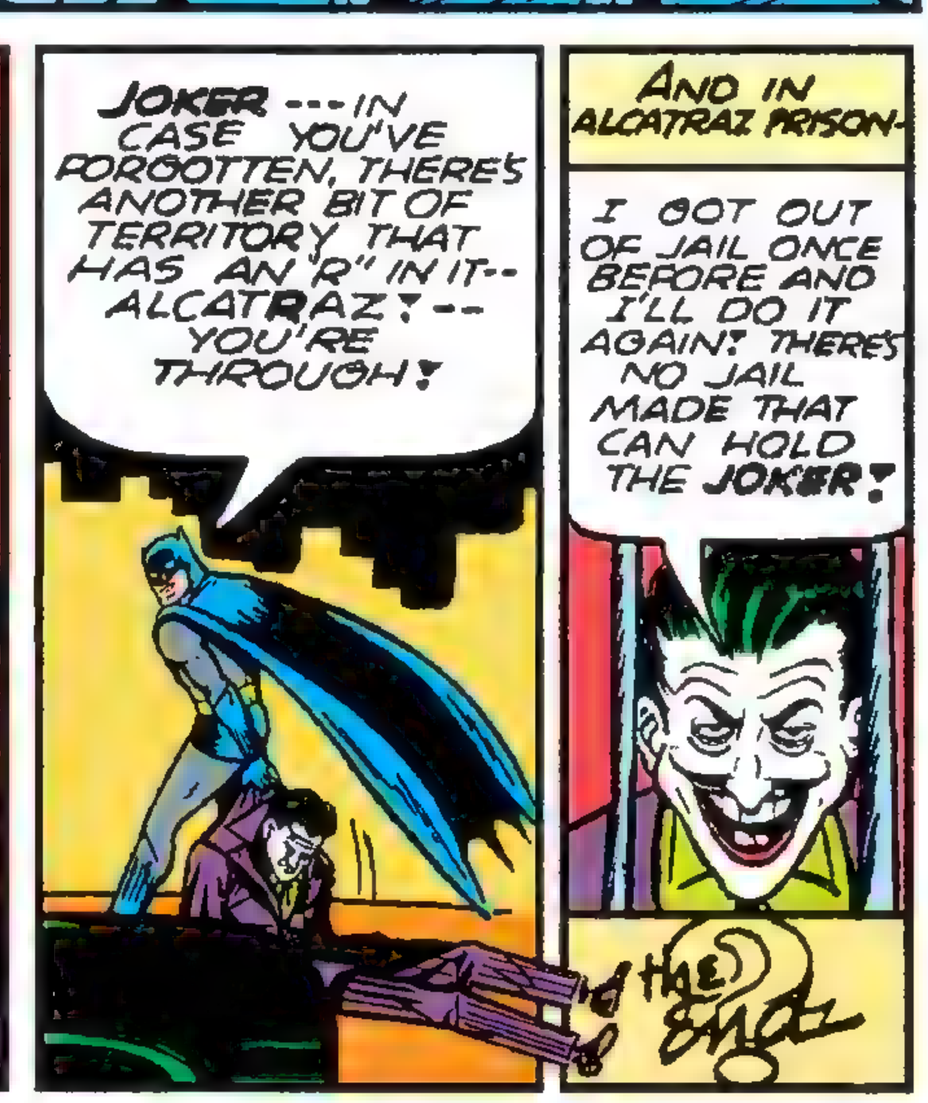

THE JOKER VAULTS THE MARQUEE AND DROPS TO THE TOP OF A CAR THAT MOVES FROM THE HOTEL--
HA-HA! STILL LAUGHING, BATMAN! BUT LOUD- HA-HA!

HA, HA! GOOD-BYE, BATMAN!
YOU LAUGH JUST A BIT TOO SOON, JOKER! YOU MADE A NICE MOVE-- BUT I THINK I CAN MATCH IT!


AS THE CARS MOVE THROUGH THE HEAVY TRAFFIC, A MAD CHASE BEGINS ATOP THE SPEEDING VEHICLES--

A FLYING TACKLE, AND---


IN THE MIDST OF THE HONKING CARS, THE BATMAN MARKS "FINIS" TO A LONG, GRUELING HUNT--
HONK
HONK
HONK


JOKER ---IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, THERE'S ANOTHER BIT OF TERRITORY THAT HAS AN "R" IN IT-- ALCATRAZ! -- YOU'RE THROUGH!
AND IN ALCATRAZ PRISON-
I GOT OUT OF JAIL ONCE BEFORE AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN! THERE'S NO JAIL MADE THAT CAN HOLD THE JOKER!
THE END

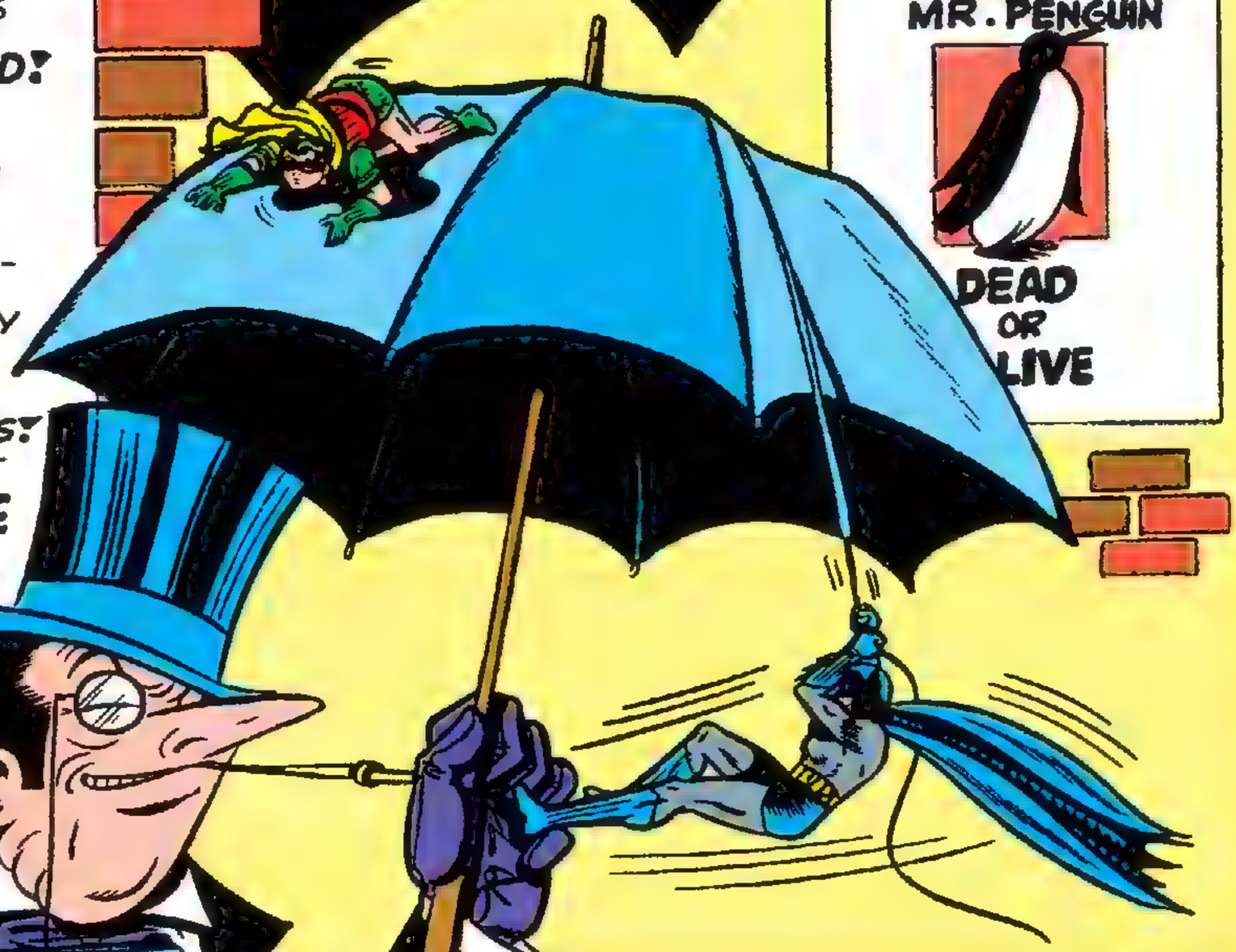
No. 59
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
IND
The BATMAN
Detective
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
JAN.
COMICS

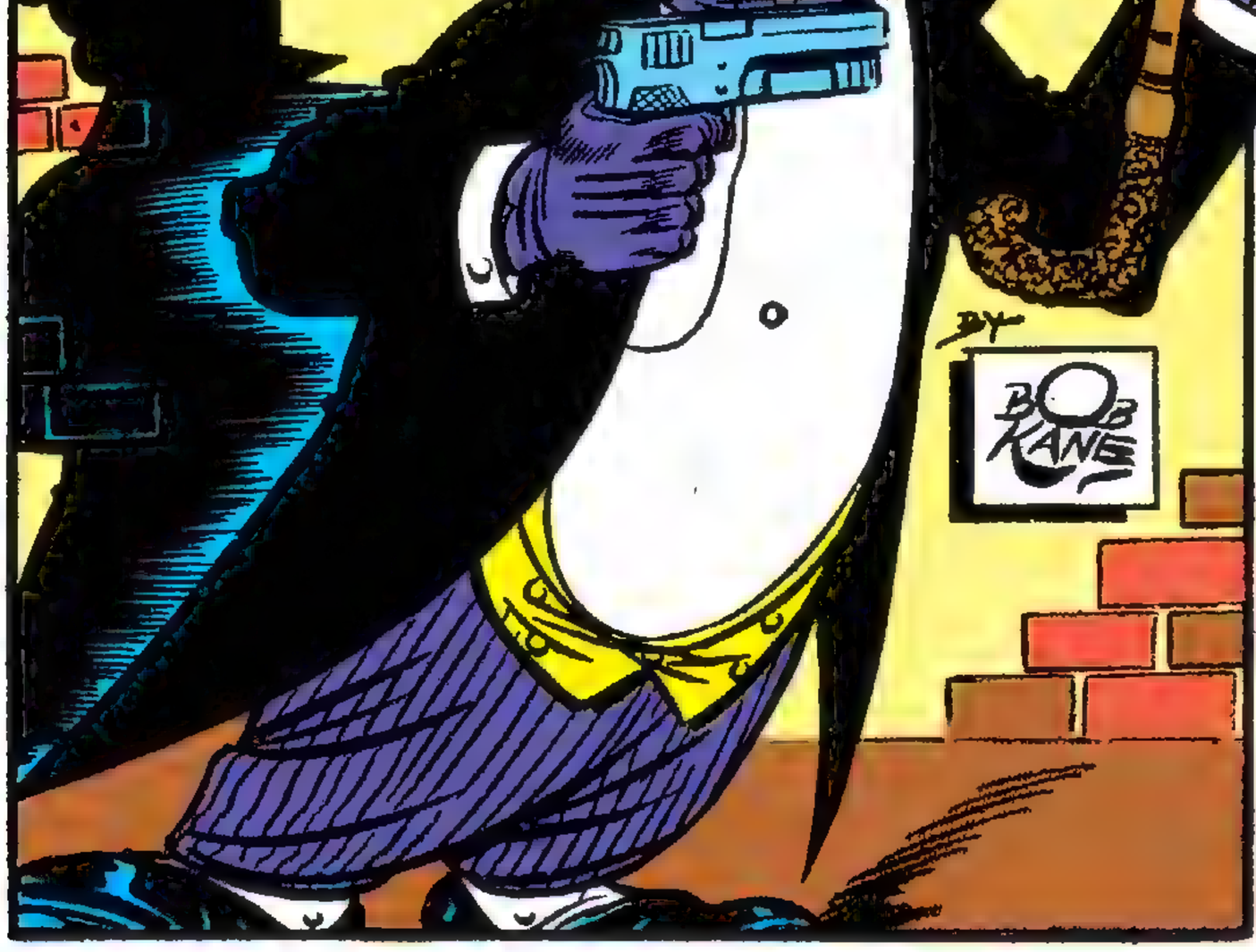
BATMAN WITH ROBIN

ONCE AGAIN AN EERIE SHAPE THROWS LENGTHENING SHADOWS THAT CUT A CRIMINAL SWATH ACROSS A CONTINENT- THE **PENGUIN HAS RETURNED!**

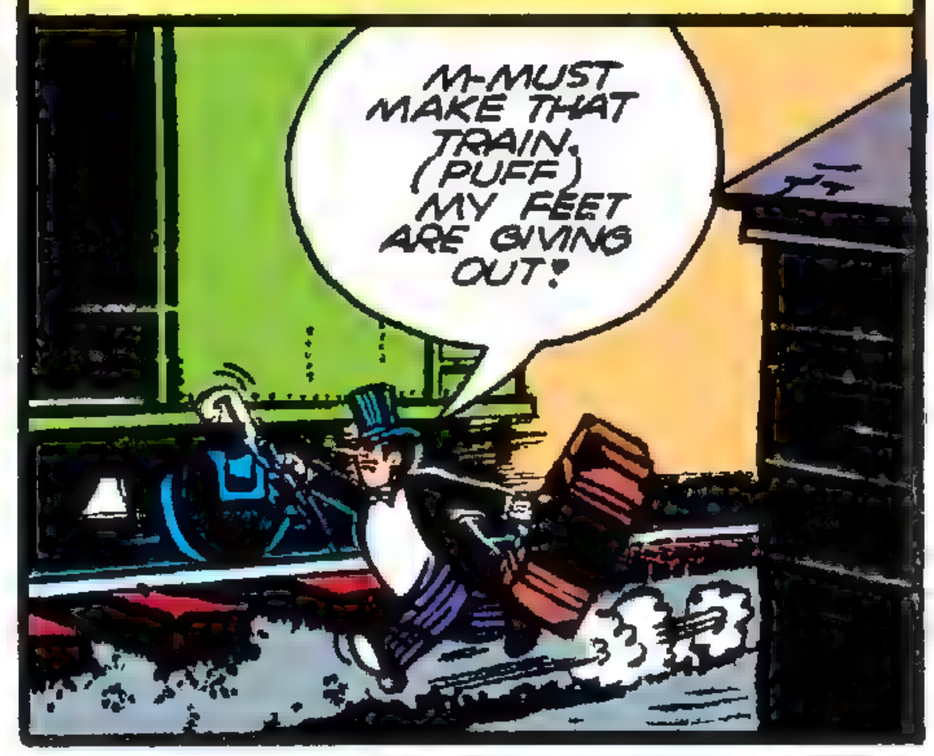
THE ODD LITTLE MAN, WITH THE PECULIAR ROLLING GAIT, WADDLES THRU A SERIES OF CRIMES INSPIRED BY HIS FERTILE --BUT TWISTED-- BRAIN, AND LEADS THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HALFWAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO END A SAGA OF VIOLENCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI'S MUDDY WATERS! THE AMAZING STORY OF--

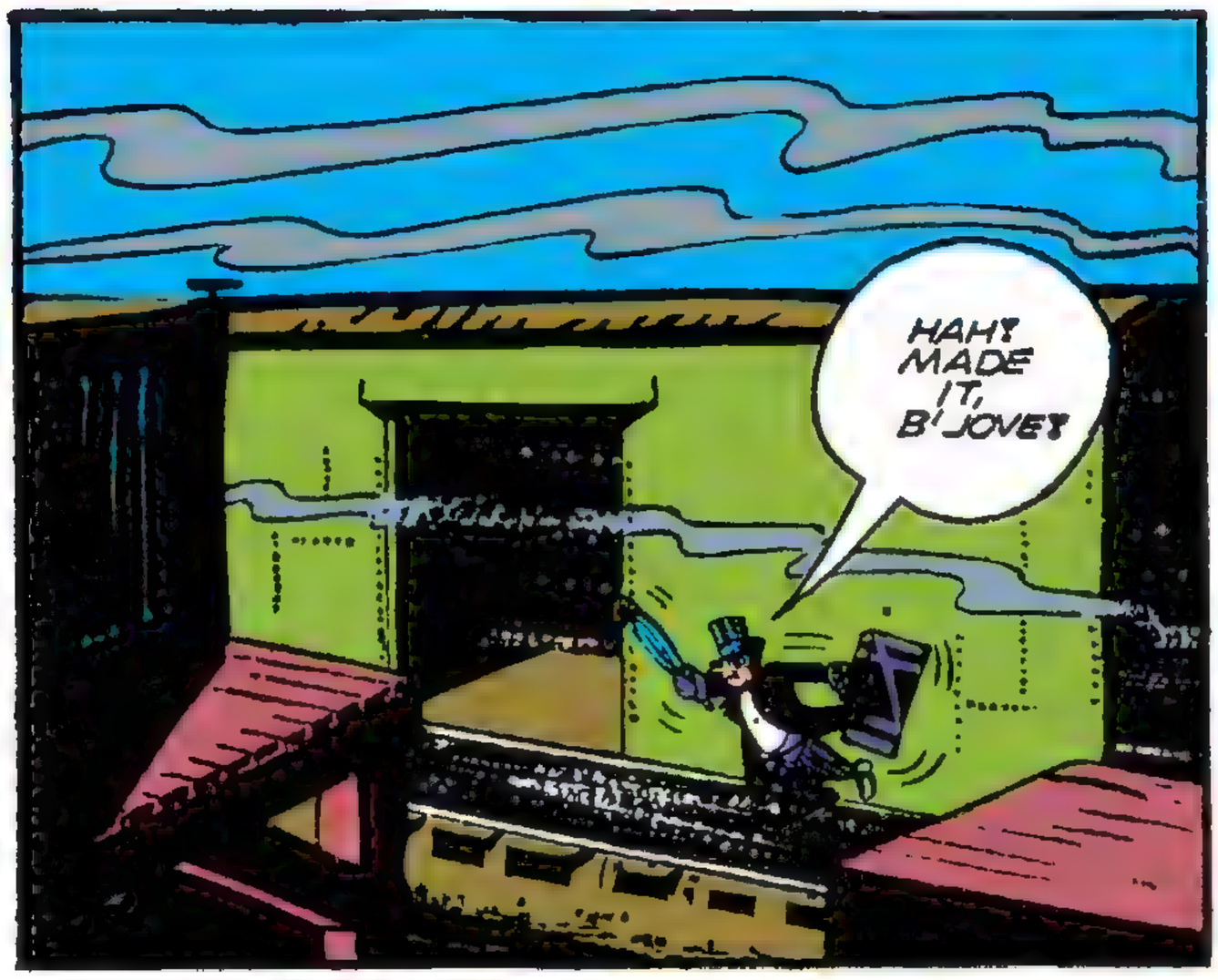
THE KING OF THE JUNGLE!





AS CHURNING WHEELS SPEED A FAST EXPRESS ACROSS MID-WESTERN PLAINS ----AN ODD, LITTLE FIGURE DARTS FROM BEHIND A WATER-TOWER AND---




HAH! MADE IT, B'JOVE!

SURPRISINGLY NIMBLE, IN SPITE OF HIS FAT, THE ODD LITTLE MAN SWINGS HIMSELF INTO THE BOX CAR--
WELL--WELL-- AND I THOUGHT THESE WERE PRIVATE ACCOMMODATIONS!
SMART, EH? WHAT'S YOUR MONIKER, FATTY?

NAME CALLING ISN'T NICE! SUPPOSE I TELL YOU YOUR--ER MONIKERS! YOU'RE LEFTY LARRY, WANTED FOR MURDER! AND YOU'RE MIKE THE TRAMP, WANTED FOR ARSON AND--

I'LL TEAR 'IM APART-- YEEOW!
TSK TSK! I'M SORRY-- BUT REALLY I DON'T WANT TO BE TORN APART--

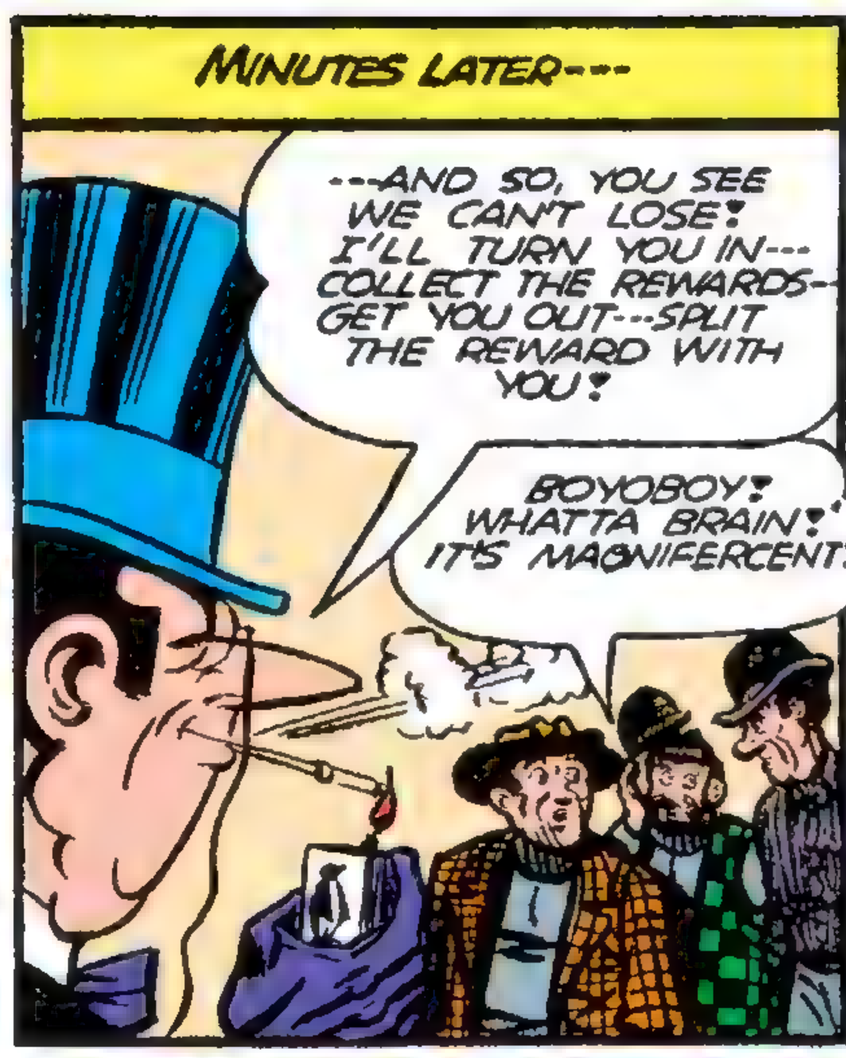
SAY-- WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
PERMIT ME--I AM THE PENGUIN!

TH-THE PENGUIN! BOY! HE'S A REAL BIG SHOT!
OH, YEAH! WHADDABOUT ME? AIN'T THERE A TEN GRAND REWARD OUT FOR ME?

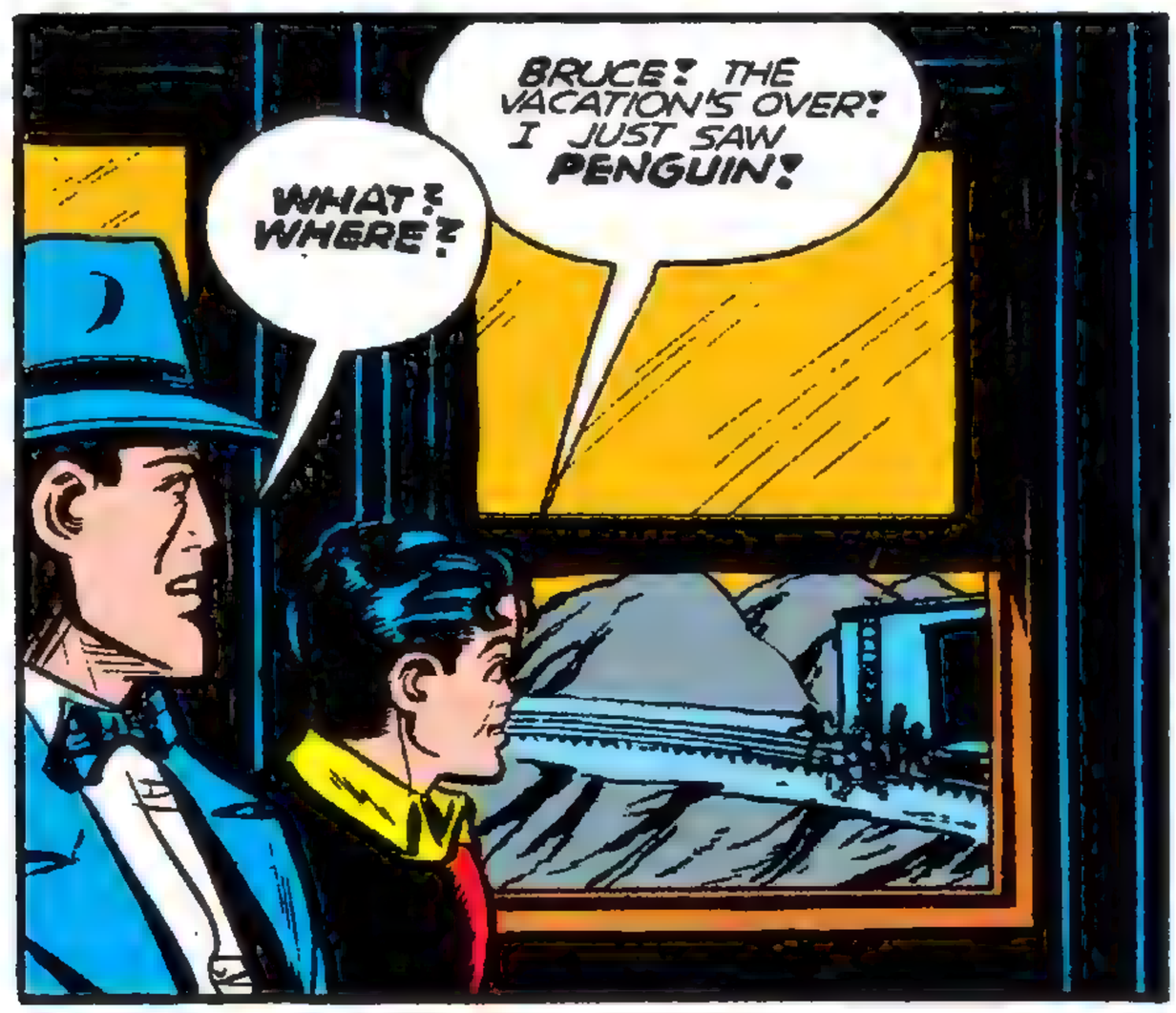
TEN GRAND! HUH! THATS CHICKENFEED! WHY, THE COPS WILL GIVE FIFTEEN GRAND FOR ME!
I GOT YA BOTH BEAT- LEMME TELL YOU--

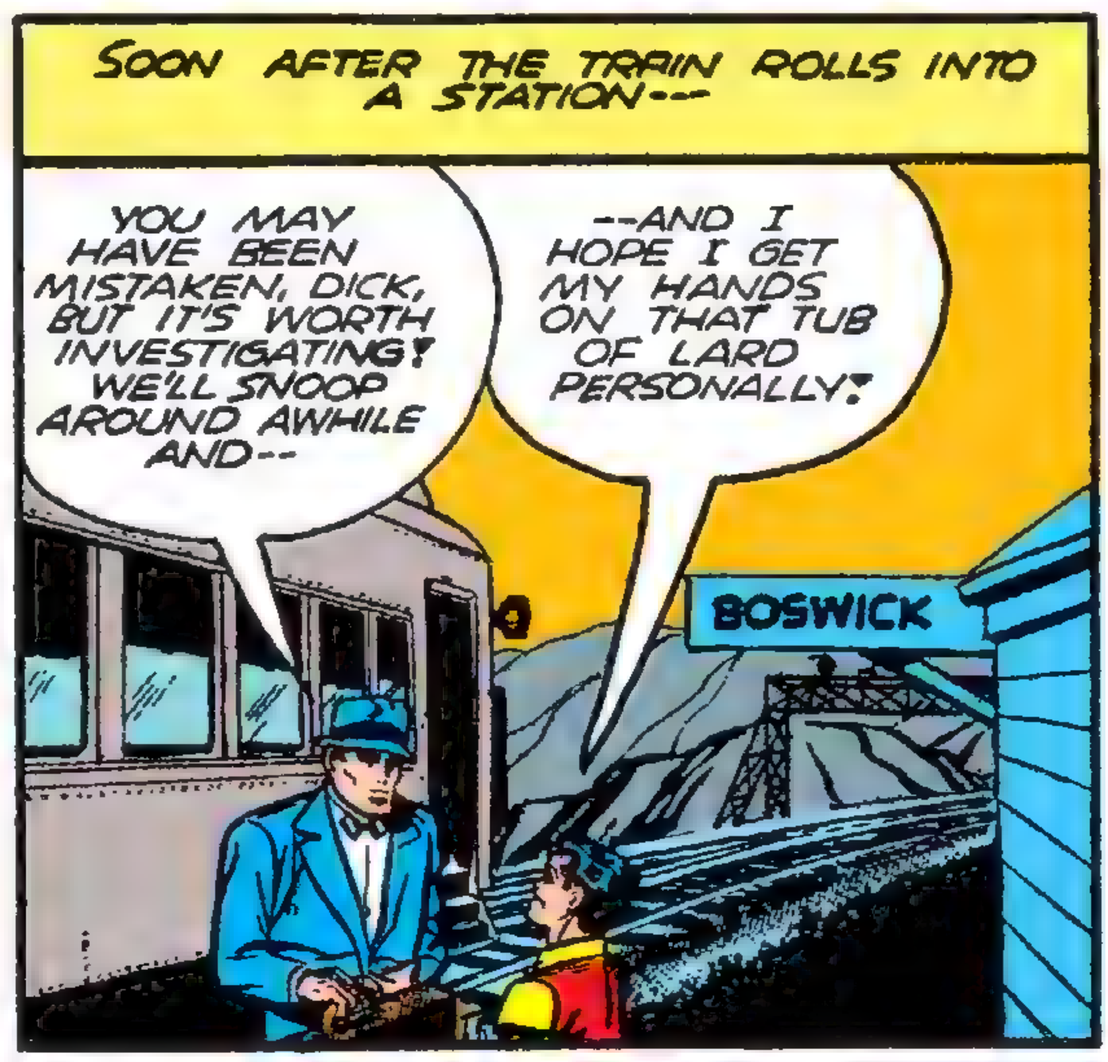
HMMM--- WHOEVER TURNED YOU LADS IN TO THE AUTHORITIES WOULD REALIZE A NICE PIECE OF--ER-- CHANGE!
JUSSA MINUTE, PENGUIN! YOU AIN'T GONNA--

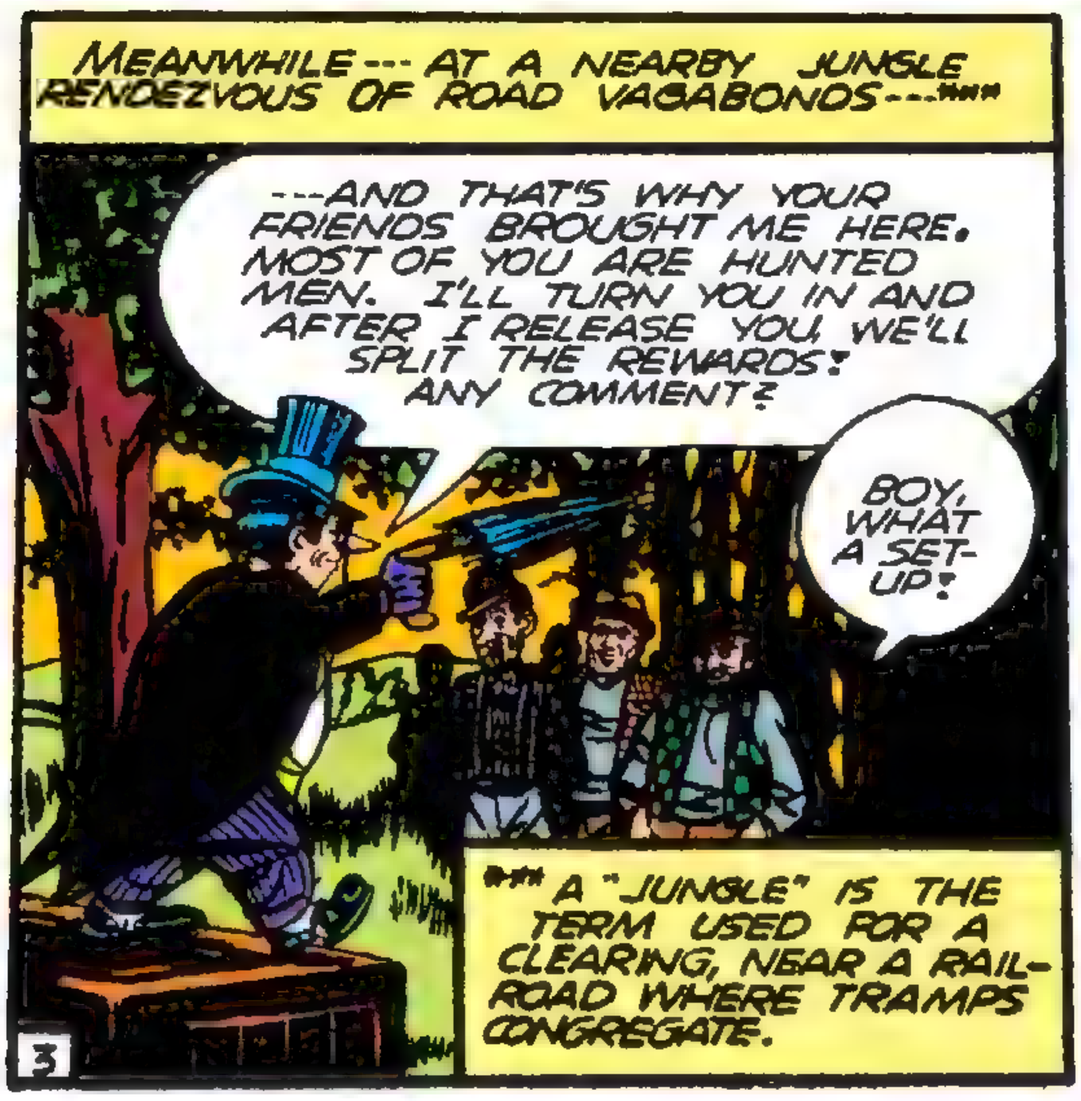
NOW...NOW... MUSTN'T GET ROUGH! I AM.. AH--THINKING OF MAKING MONEY-FOR ALL OF US!
LETS HEAR 'IM OUT!
WID THAT UMBRELLER, WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?


MINUTES LATER---
---AND SO, YOU SEE WE CAN'T LOSE! I'LL TURN YOU IN--- COLLECT THE REWARDS-- GET YOU OUT---SPLIT THE REWARD WITH YOU!
BOYOBOY! WHATTA BRAIN! IT'S MAGNIFERCENT!

AT THIS MOMENT--- A FEW CARS BACK-- ARE BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ---
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE'RE FINALLY ON A VACATION!
THIS FEELS SWELL-- EVERYTHING NICE AND PEACEFUL!


BRUCE! THE VACATION'S OVER! I JUST SAW PENGUIN!
WHAT? WHERE?

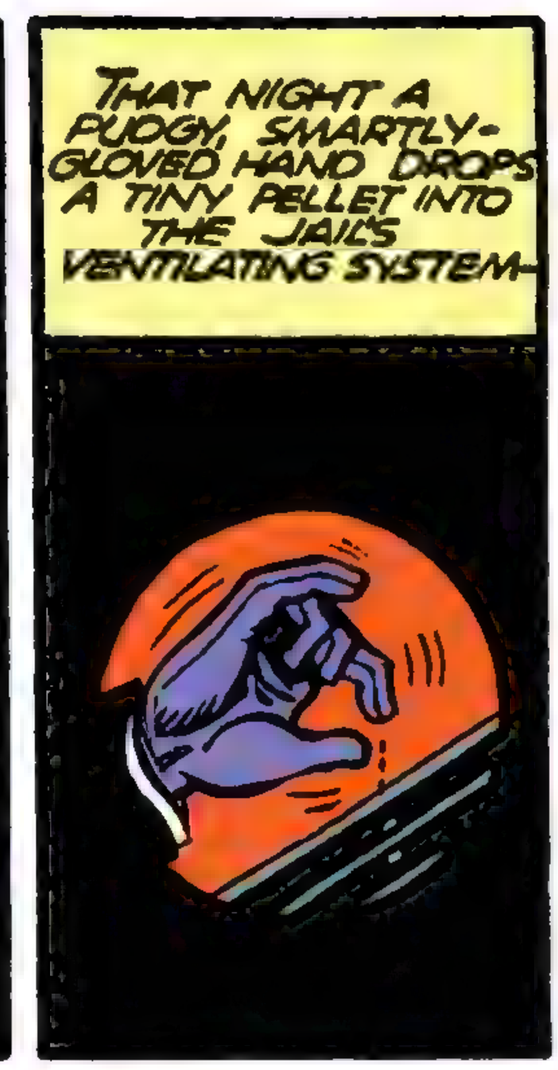

SOON AFTER THE TRAIN ROLLS INTO A STATION---
YOU MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN, DICK, BUT IT'S WORTH INVESTIGATING! WE'LL SNOOP AROUND AWHILE AND--
--AND I HOPE I GET MY HANDS ON THAT TUB OF LARD PERSONALLY!
BOSWICK


MEANWHILE--- AT A NEARBY JUNGLE RENDEZVOUS OF ROAD VAGABONDS---***
---AND THAT'S WHY YOUR FRIENDS BROUGHT ME HERE. MOST OF YOU ARE HUNTED MEN. I'LL TURN YOU IN AND AFTER I RELEASE YOU, WE'LL SPLIT THE REWARDS! ANY COMMENT?
BOY, WHAT A SET-UP!
*** A "JUNGLE" IS THE TERM USED FOR A CLEARING, NEAR A RAIL-ROAD WHERE TRAMPS CONGREGATE.
3

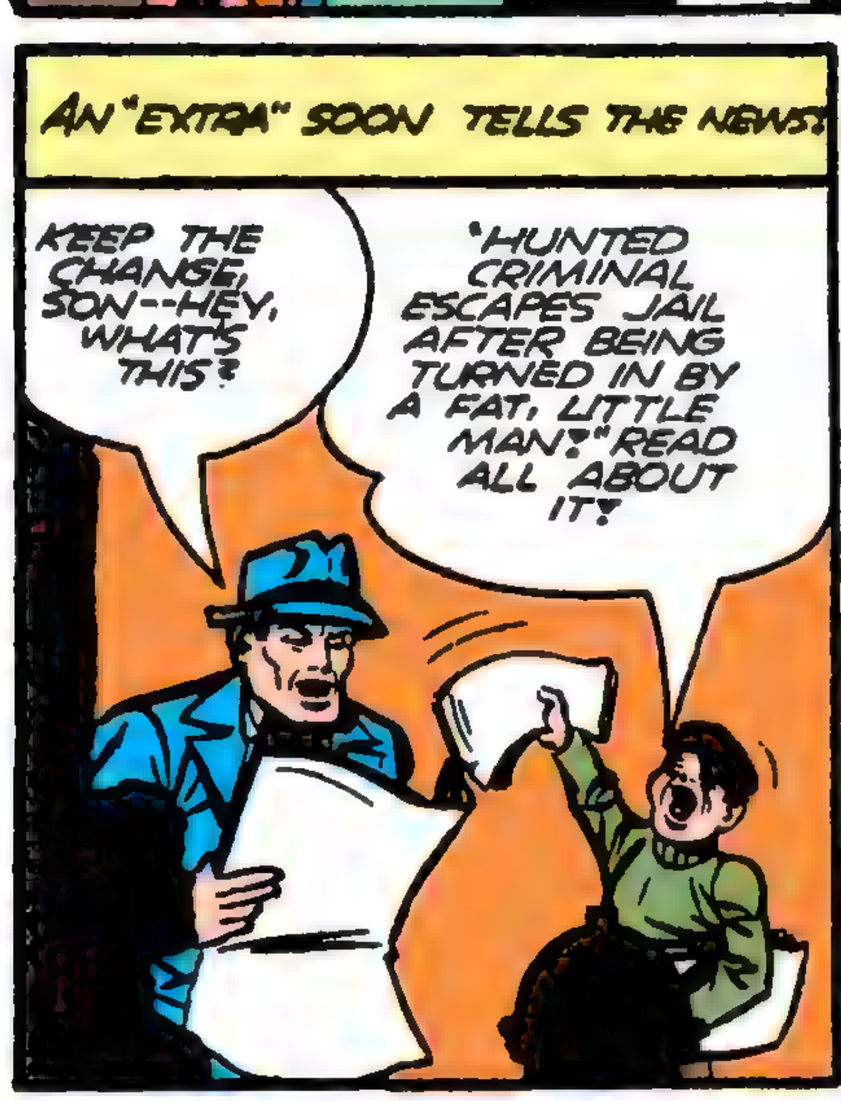
HAHA! I'M THE GUY FER YOU--THEY GOT A REWARD OUT FOR ME IN BOSWICK---FIVE MILES DOWN TH' ROAD!
VERY GOOD! OUR PARTNERSHIP BEGINS TONIGHT!

THAT NIGHT--IN BOSWICK!
I BELIEVE THERE IS A-----AH-- REWARD BEING OFFERED FOR THE APPREHENSION OF THIS GENTLEMAN?
C'MERE, "GENTLEMAN"!
WANTED
$1000 REWARD

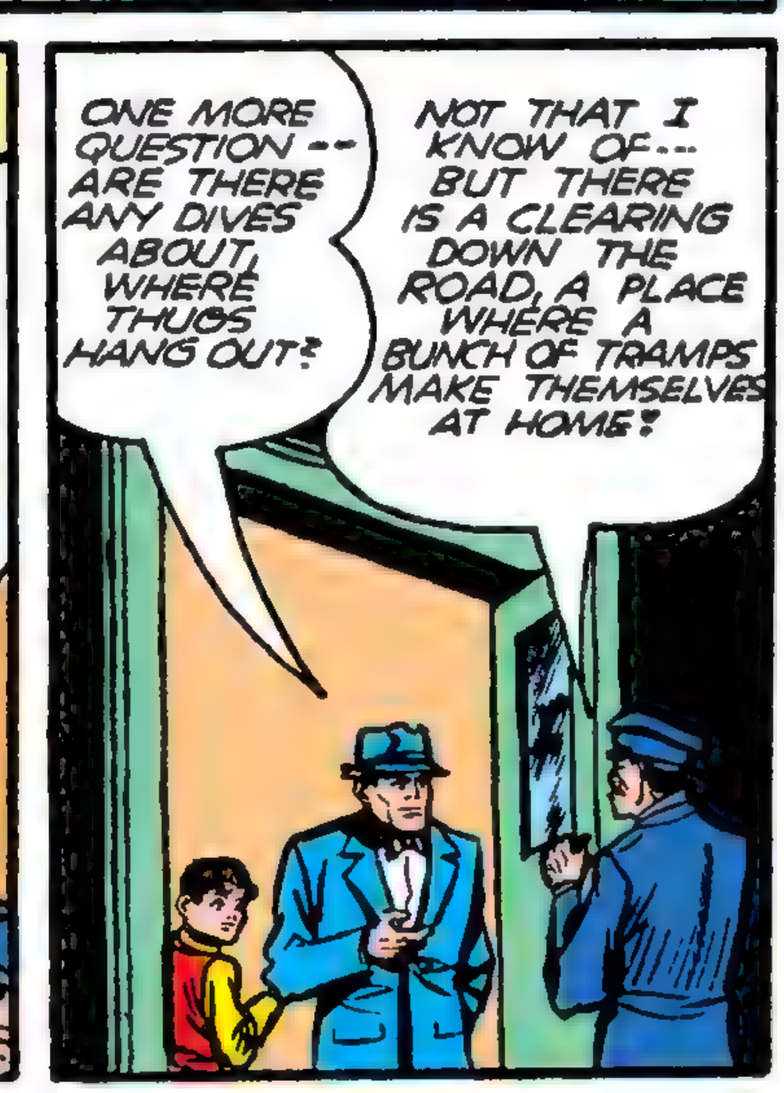
THIS-- THIS IS UNDEMOCRATIC!
HMMM--- 990... 995.... ONE THOUSAND! QUITE CORRECT!


THAT NIGHT A PUDGY, SMARTLY-GLOVED HAND DROPS A TINY PELLET INTO THE JAIL'S VENTILATING SYSTEM--

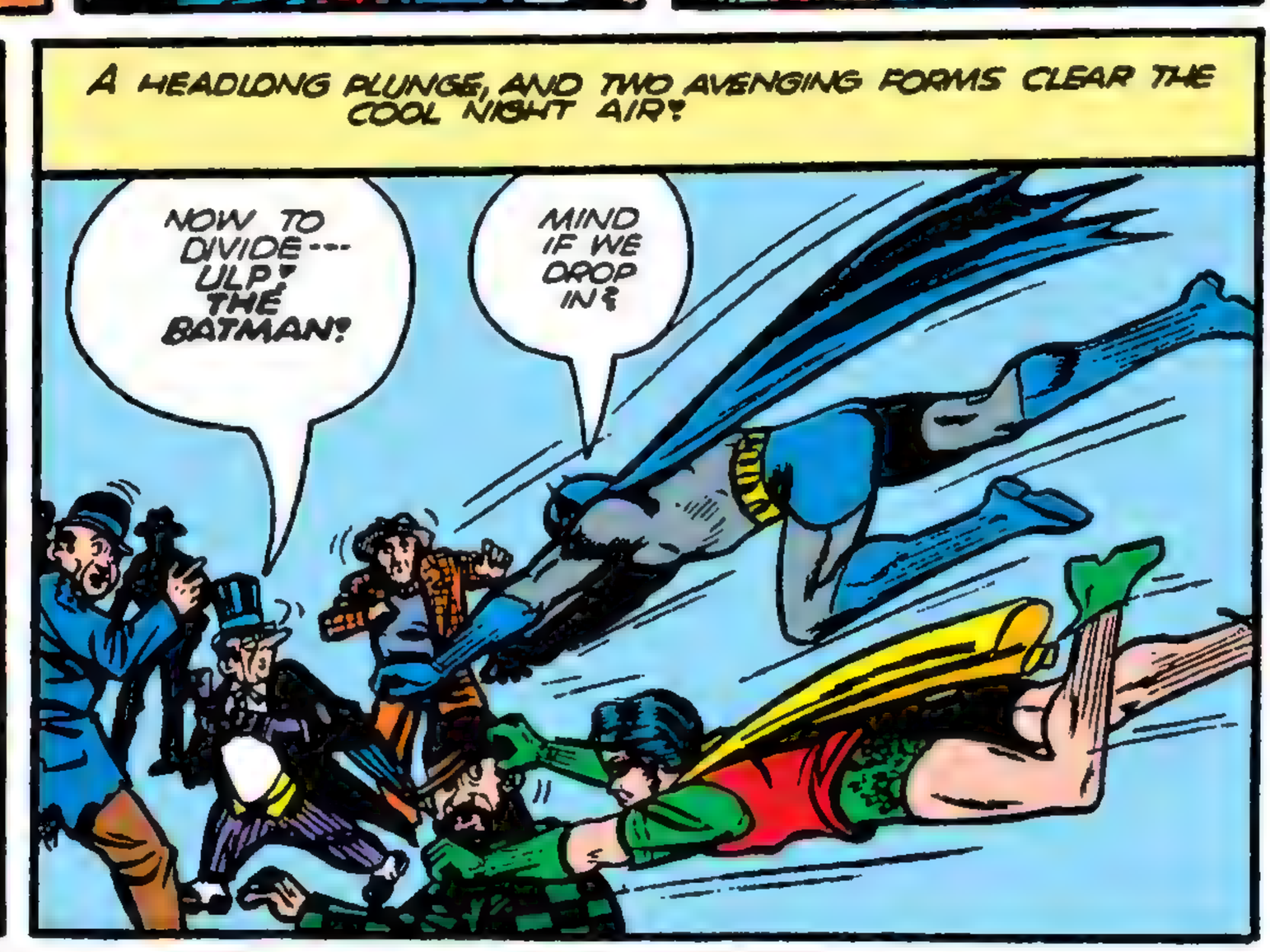
SOON AFTER!
HO HUM...
SFUNNY! I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN!


AN "EXTRA" SOON TELLS THE NEWS!
KEEP THE CHANGE, SON--HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
"HUNTED CRIMINAL ESCAPES JAIL AFTER BEING TURNED IN BY A FAT, LITTLE MAN!" READ ALL ABOUT IT!

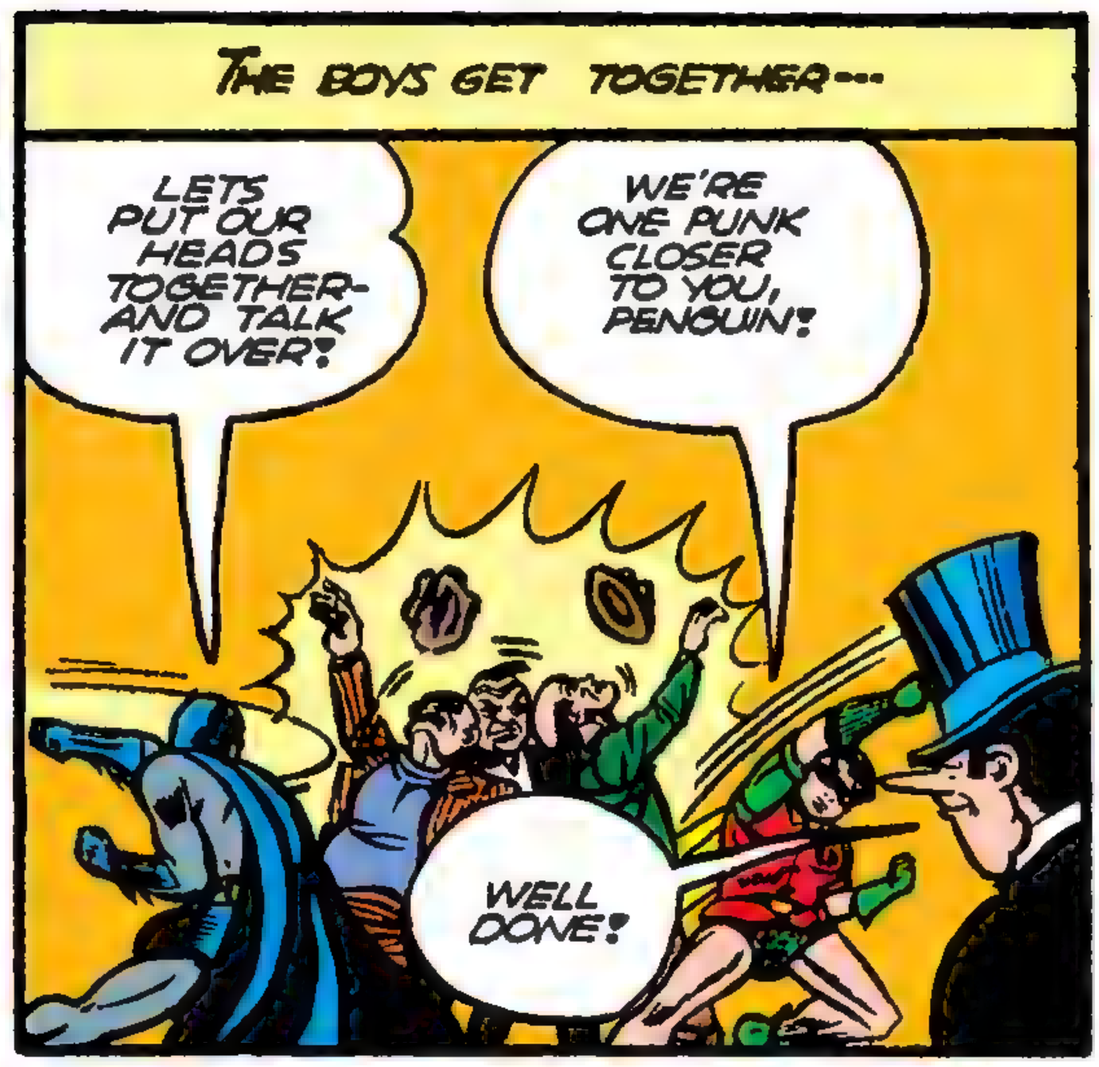
MINUTES LATER---
TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS CHAP WHO CLAIMED THE REWARD!
LIKE I JUST TOLD YOU, HE WAS A CHUBBY LITTLE EGG--- WELL-DRESSED AND VERY POLITE- HE REMINDED ME OF--OF A BIRD!

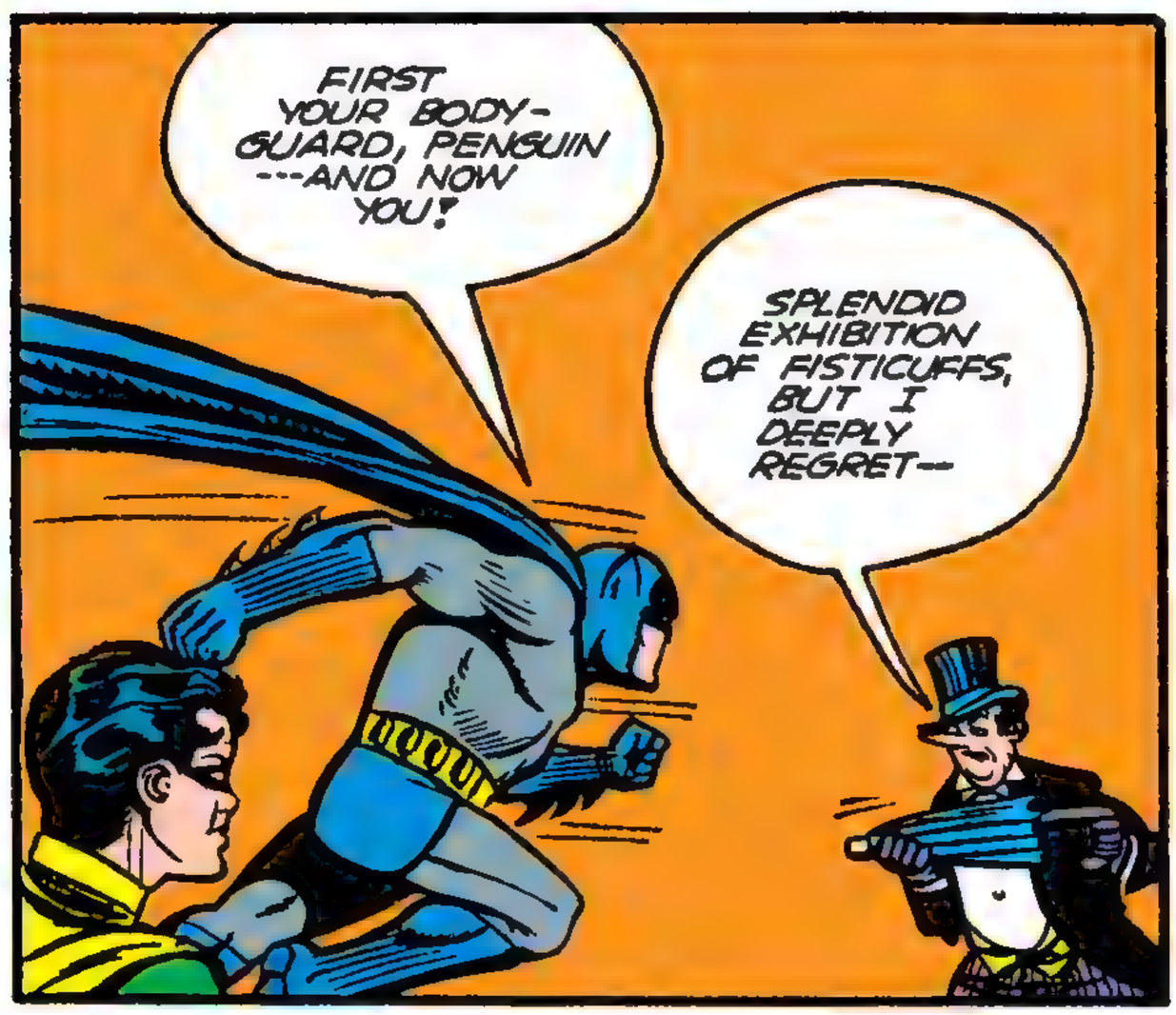

ONE MORE QUESTION -- ARE THERE ANY DIVES ABOUT, WHERE THUGS HANG OUT?
NOT THAT I KNOW OF... BUT THERE IS A CLEARING DOWN THE ROAD, A PLACE WHERE A BUNCH OF TRAMPS MAKE THEMSELVES AT HOME!

NIGHT! TWO CAPED FIGURES RACE SWIFTLY OVER A MOONLIT ROAD!
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE, ROBIN! ALL SET?
SLIGHTLY BEHIND YOU--BUT RIGHT WITH YOU!
4


A HEADLONG PLUNGE, AND TWO AVENGING FORMS CLEAR THE COOL NIGHT AIR!
NOW TO DIVIDE--- ULP! THE BATMAN!
MIND IF WE DROP IN?

--AND MAKE OURSELVES RIGHT AT HOME!
WE WON'T LET THEM GET YA-- YOU'RE OUR BRAINS!

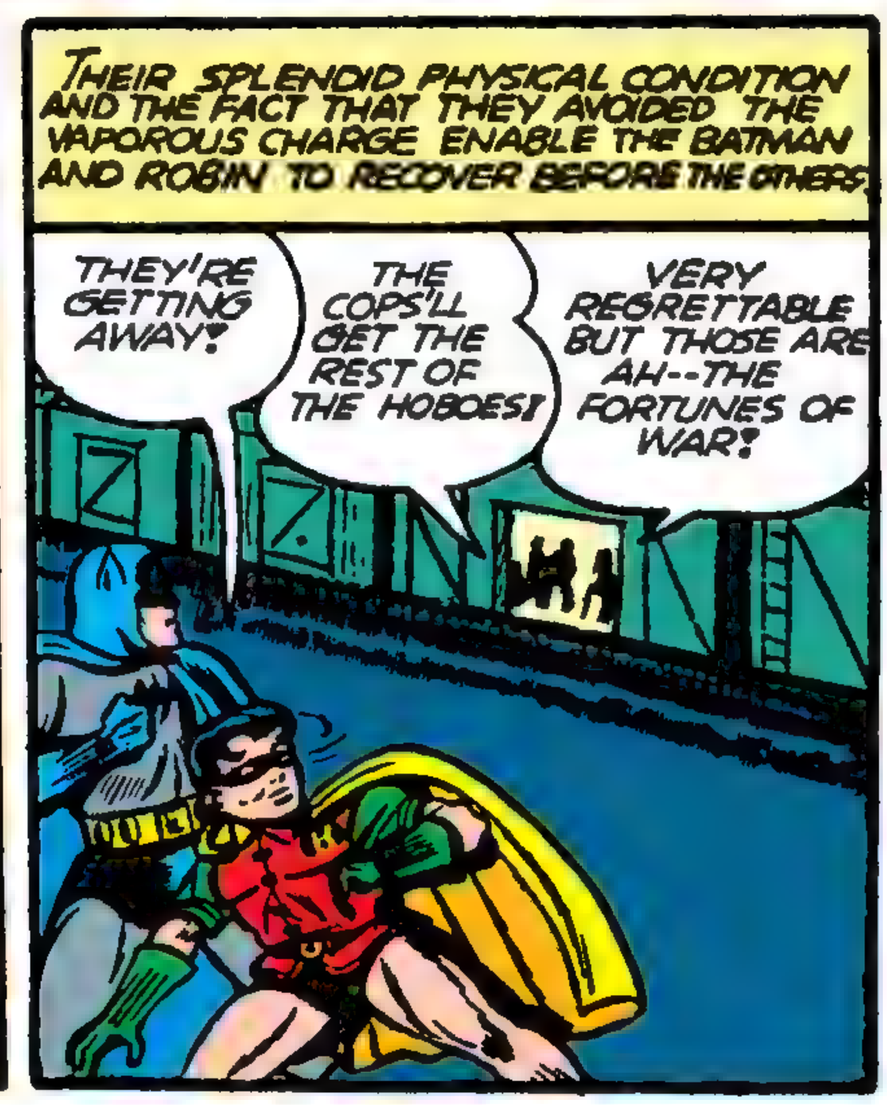

THE BOYS GET TOGETHER---
LETS PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER- AND TALK IT OVER!
WE'RE ONE PUNK CLOSER TO YOU, PENGUIN!
WELL DONE!

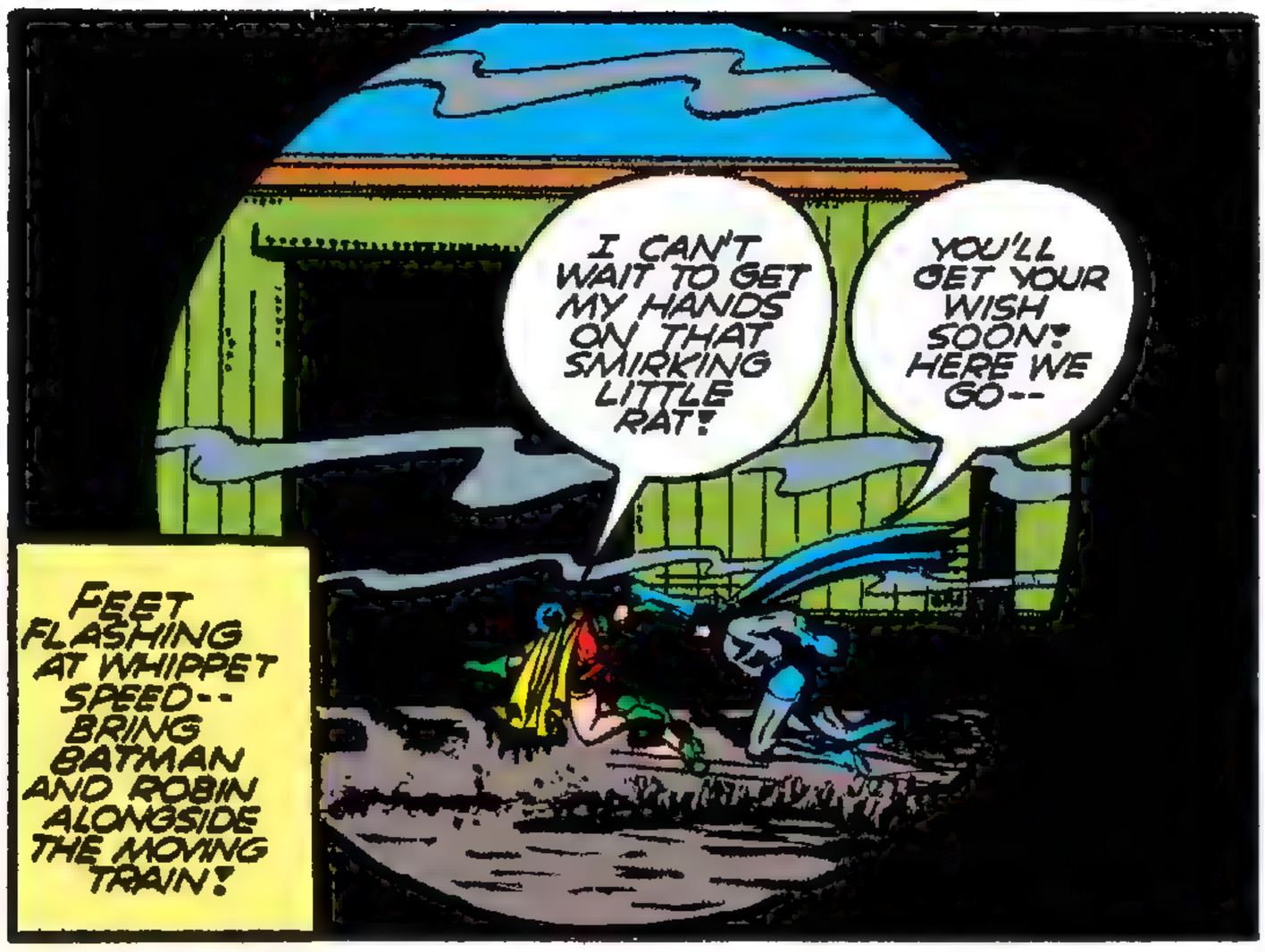

FIRST YOUR BODY-GUARD, PENGUIN ---AND NOW YOU!
SPLENDID EXHIBITION OF FISTICUFFS, BUT I DEEPLY REGRET--

--THAT I MUST BRING IT TO AN END!
GAS! DUCK, ROBIN!
I CAN'T BREATHE!

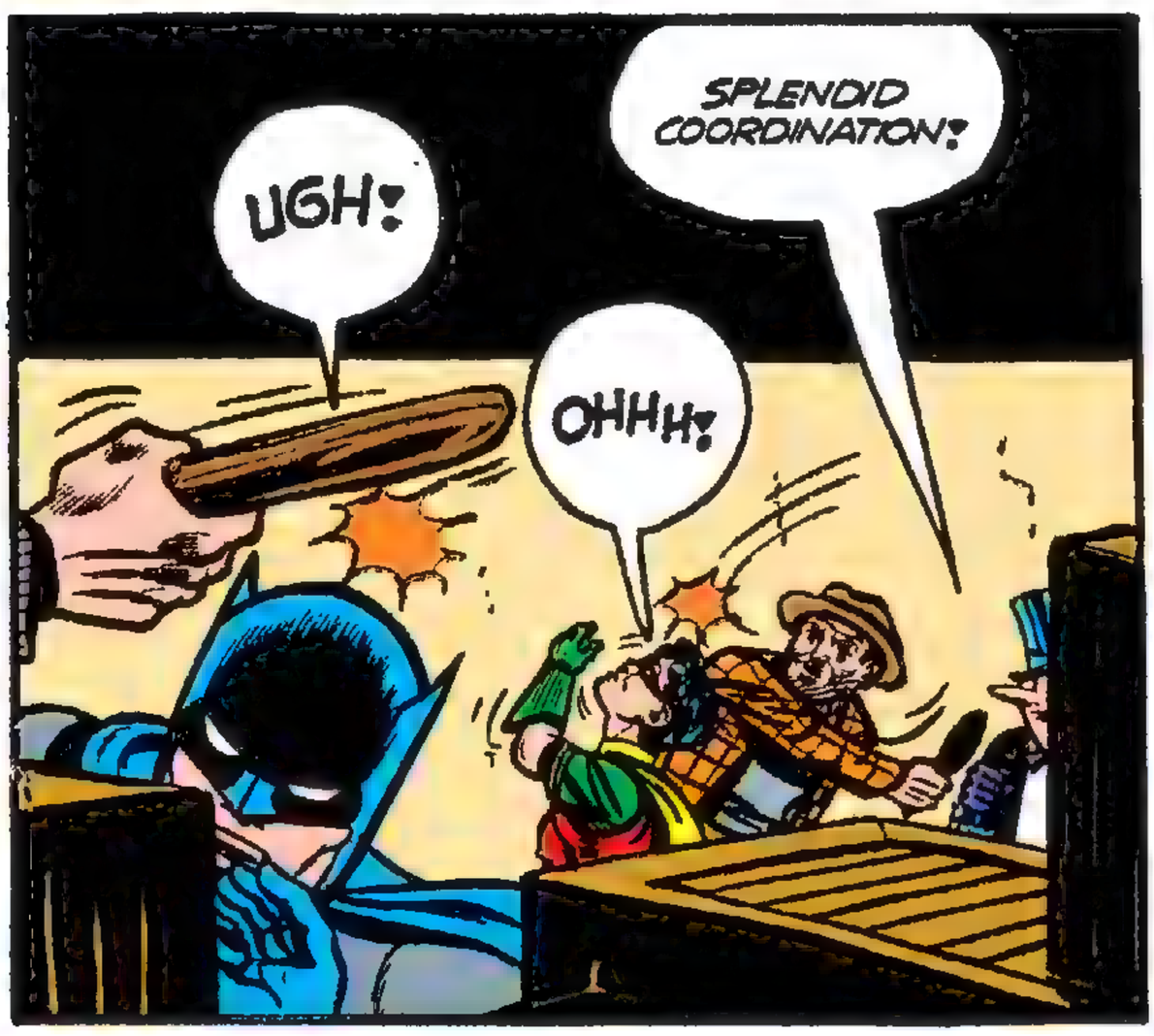
ONE BY ONE, THE GASSED VICTIMS DROP SILENTLY TO THE GROUND---
THE MONEY WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG---AH- OURSELVES! BY JOVE, HERE COMES A TRAIN!
GOOD! LET'S HOP IT!
TOOT
TOOT
TOOT

AS YOU SAY WE SHALL ER--HOP IT! BUT WE MUSTN'T FORGET MY UMBRELLAS--


THEIR SPLENDID PHYSICAL CONDITION AND THE FACT THAT THEY AVOIDED THE VAPOROUS CHARGE ENABLE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TO RECOVER BEFORE THE OTHERS.
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
THE COPS'LL GET THE REST OF THE HOBOES!
VERY REGRETTABLE BUT THOSE ARE AH--THE FORTUNES OF WAR!

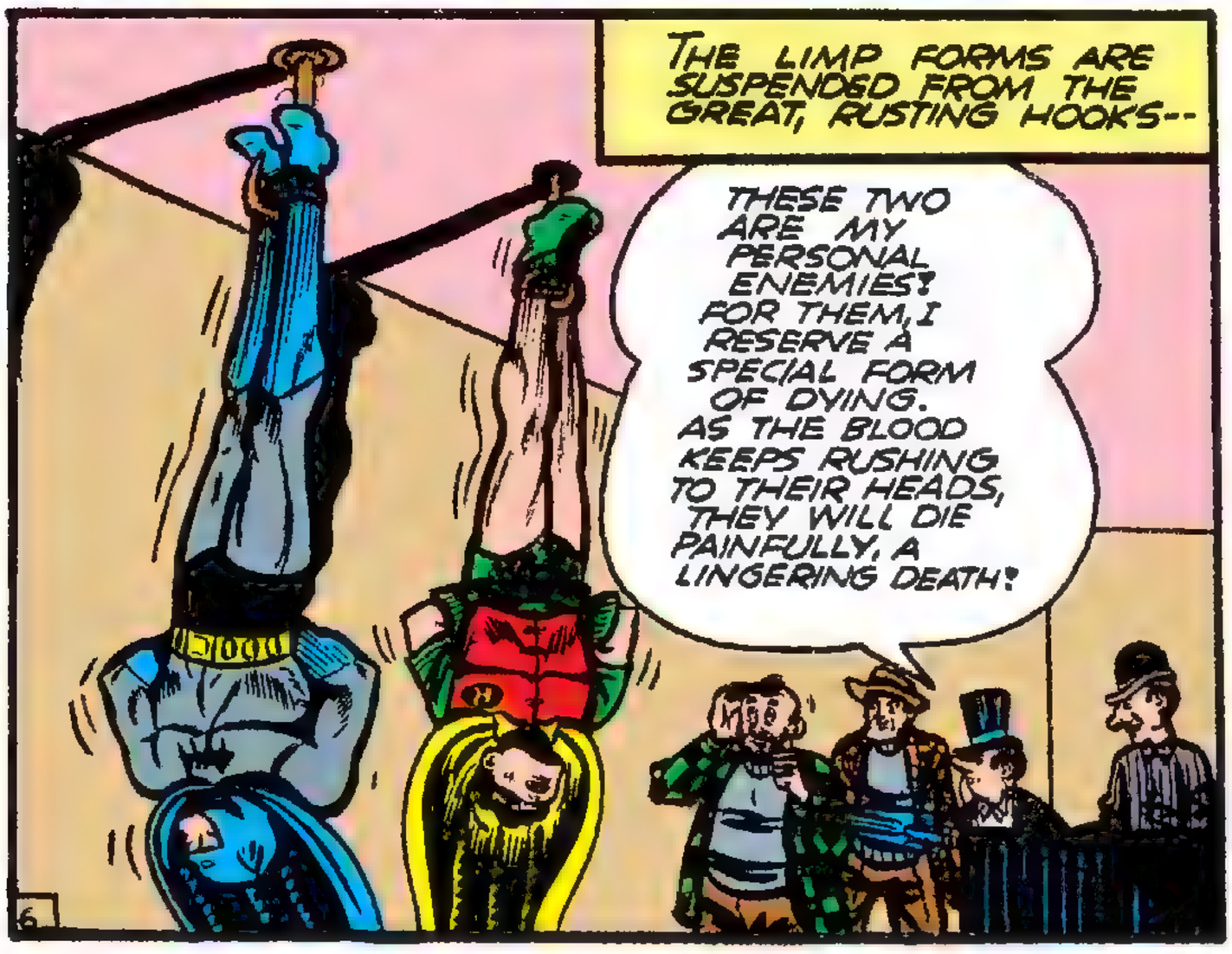

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT SMIRKING LITTLE RAT!
YOU'LL GET YOUR WISH SOON! HERE WE GO--
FEET FLASHING AT WHIPPET SPEED-- BRING BATMAN AND ROBIN ALONGSIDE THE MOVING TRAIN!

--UP AND OVER!
IT'LL SOON BE OVER FOR YOU!

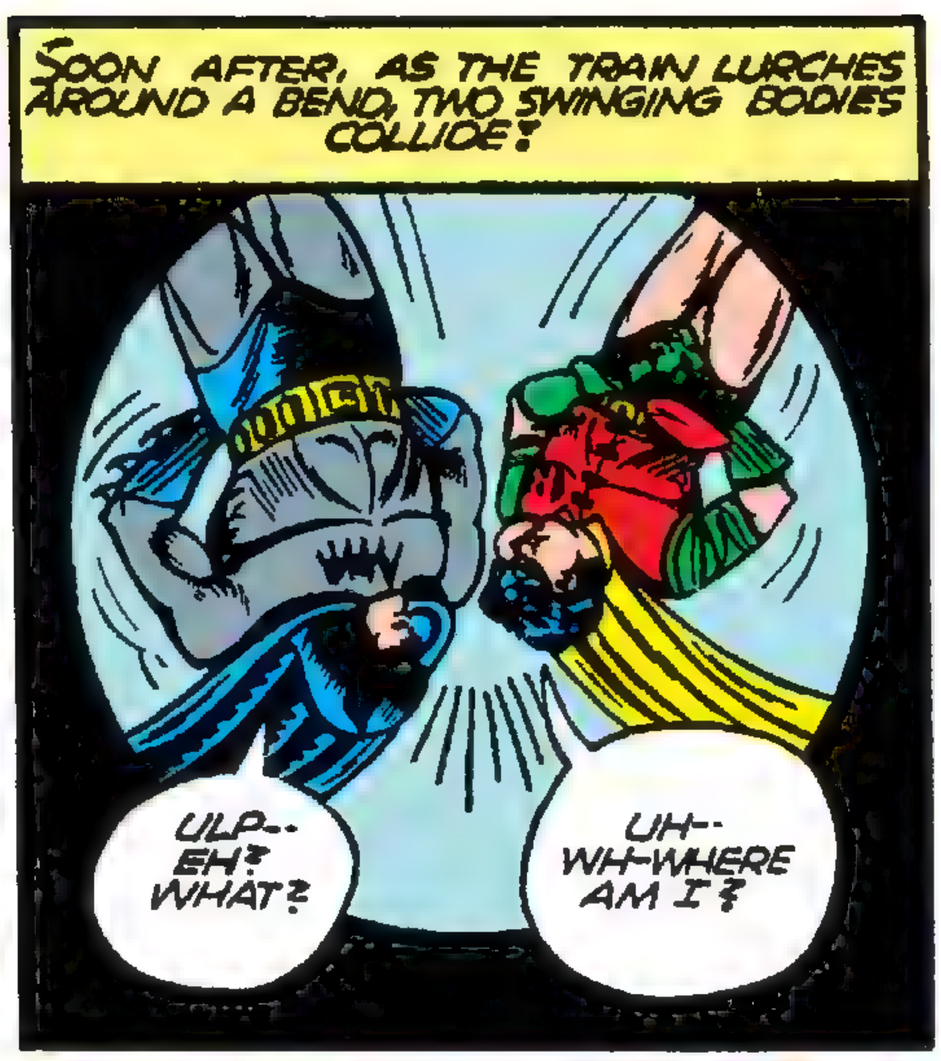

UGH!
OHHH!
SPLENDID COORDINATION!

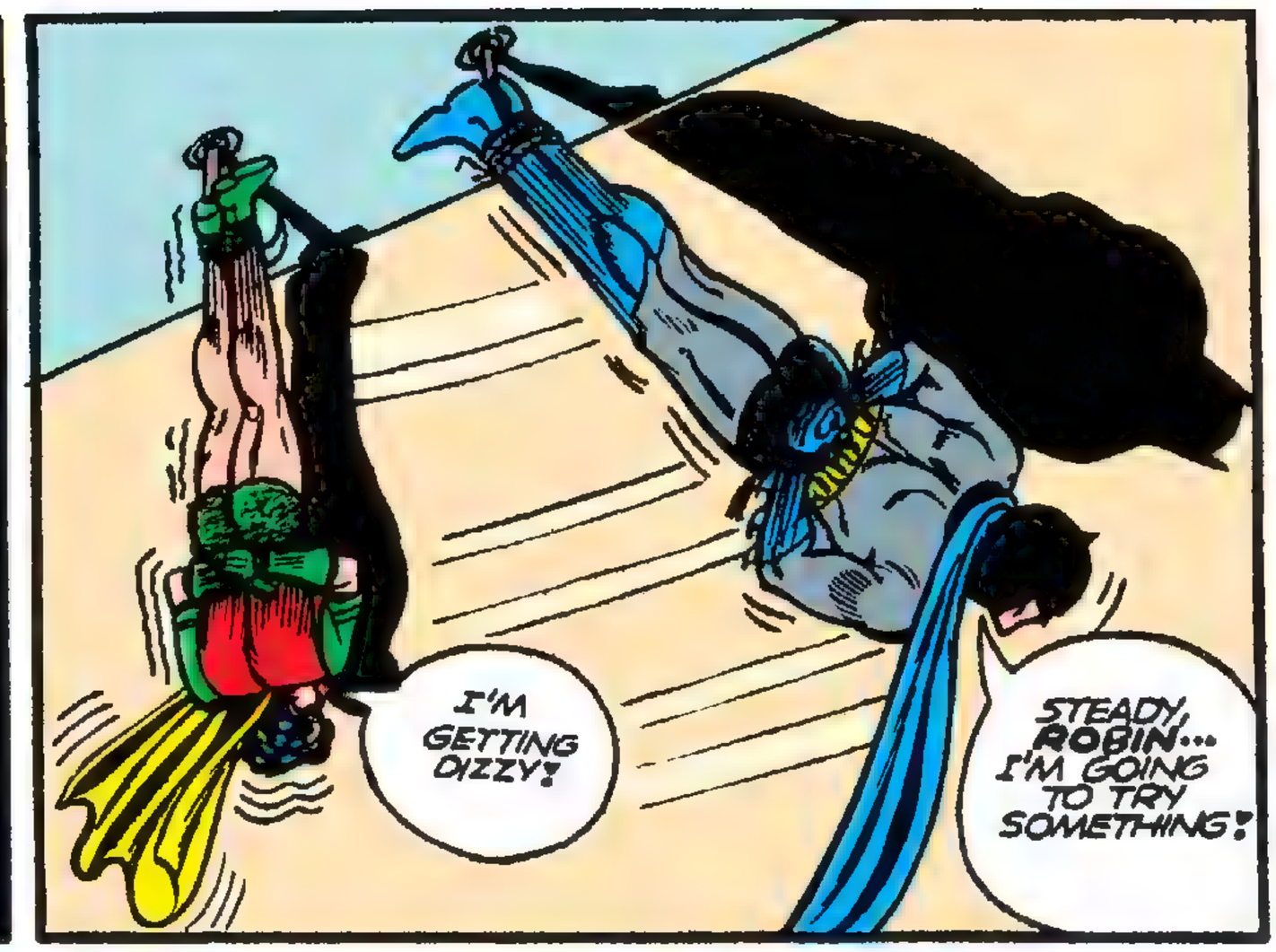
I FEAR THAT WE WILL HAVE TO RESTRAIN THEIR LIBERTY! THEY ARE ENTIRELY TOO--- AH-- ENERGETIC!

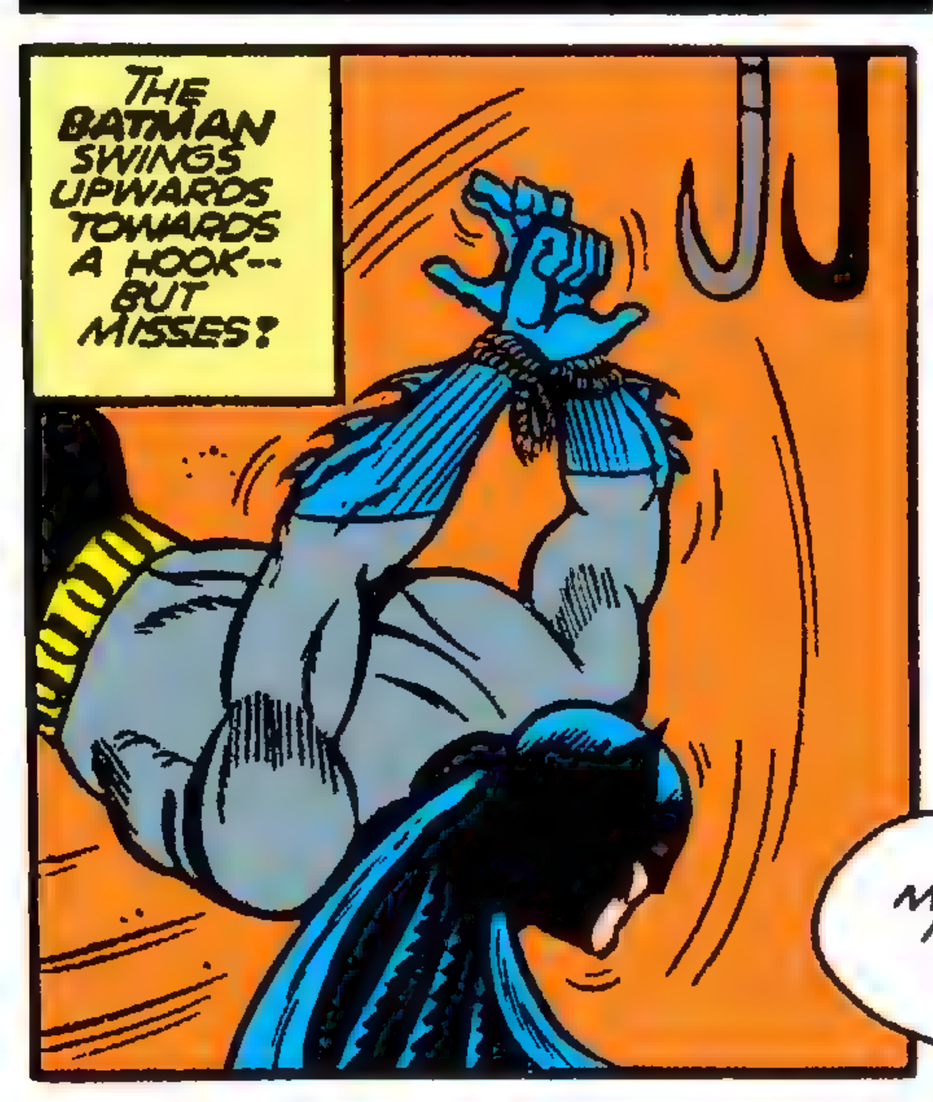
BUT, MR. PENGUIN, AIN'T YA GONNA KILL 'EM!
MAKE THEIR ROPES TIGHTER, MY GOOD MAN, TIGHTER AND THEN HANG THEM ON THOSE HOOKS-- BY THEIR HEELS!

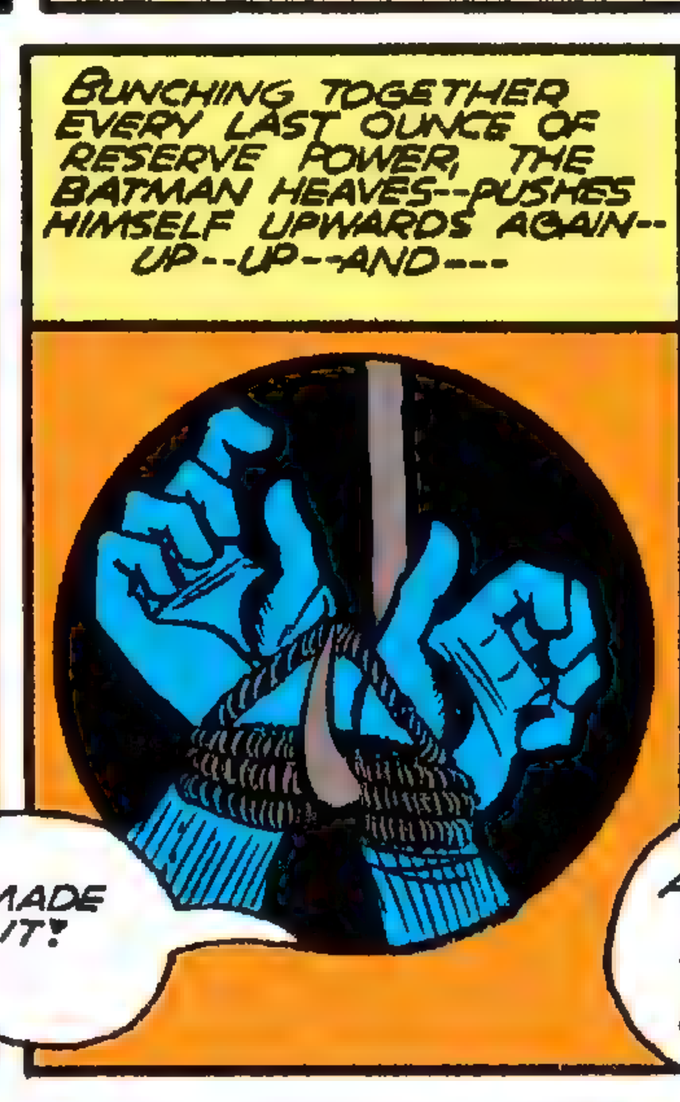

THE LIMP FORMS ARE SUSPENDED FROM THE GREAT, RUSTING HOOKS--
THESE TWO ARE MY PERSONAL ENEMIES! FOR THEM, I RESERVE A SPECIAL FORM OF DYING. AS THE BLOOD KEEPS RUSHING TO THEIR HEADS, THEY WILL DIE PAINFULLY, A LINGERING DEATH!

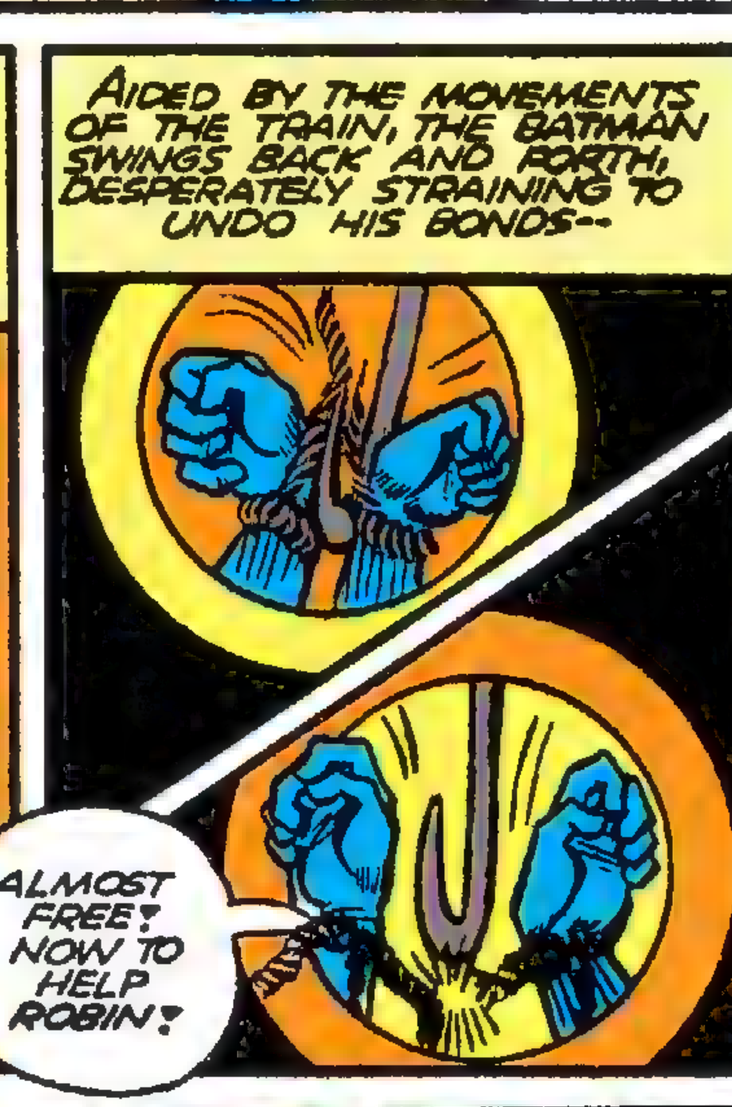
I BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO TRY ANOTHER FORM OF TRANSPORTATION-

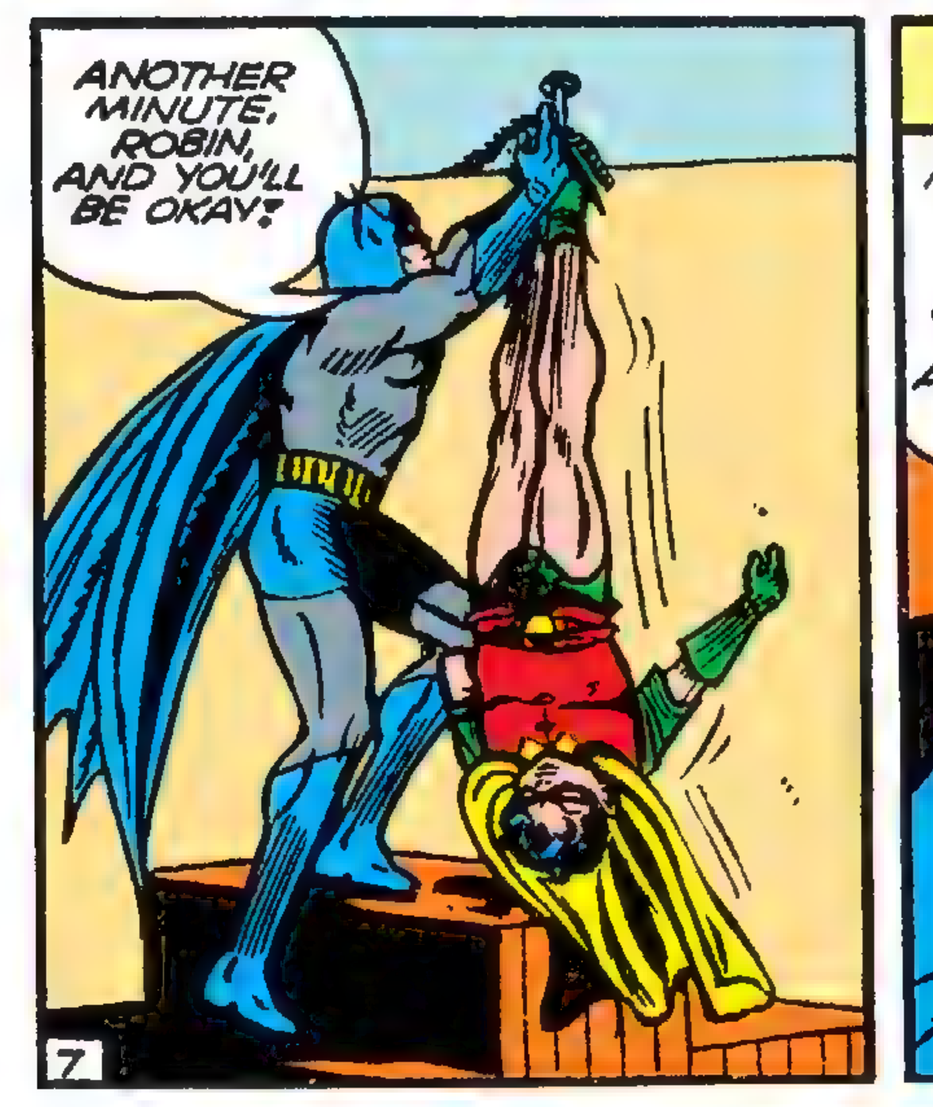

SOON AFTER, AS THE TRAIN LURCHES AROUND A BEND, TWO SWINGING BODIES COLLIDE!
ULP-- EH? WHAT?
UH-- WH-WHERE AM I?


I'M GETTING DIZZY!
STEADY, ROBIN... I'M GOING TO TRY SOMETHING!


THE BATMAN SWINGS UPWARDS TOWARDS A HOOK-- BUT MISSES!

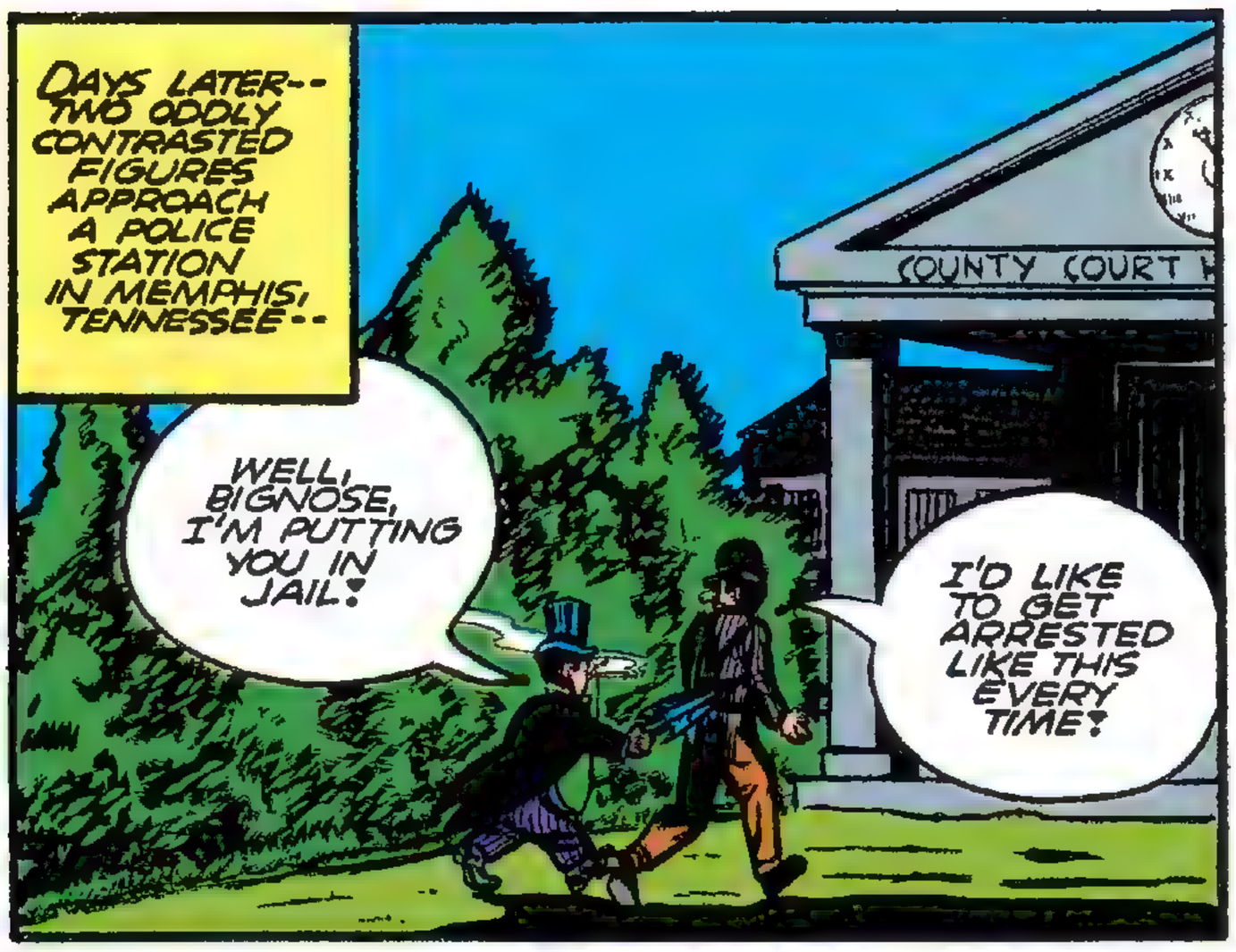

BUNCHING TOGETHER EVERY LAST OUNCE OF RESERVE POWER, THE BATMAN HEAVES--PUSHES HIMSELF UPWARDS AGAIN-- UP--UP--AND---
MADE IT!


AIDED BY THE MOVEMENTS OF THE TRAIN, THE BATMAN SWINGS BACK AND FORTH, DESPERATELY STRAINING TO UNDO HIS BONDS--
ALMOST FREE! NOW TO HELP ROBIN!


ANOTHER MINUTE, ROBIN, AND YOU'LL BE OKAY!
7

SECONDS LATER --
IT'LL TAKE A WEEK TILL MY BLOOD COLLECTS ITSELF AND COMES HOME!
AHHHH! THIS FEELS GOOD! WELL, BATMAN, WHAT NOW?

WE'RE GOING HOME! I'VE AN IDEA!
NY


DAYS LATER-- TWO ODDLY CONTRASTED FIGURES APPROACH A POLICE STATION IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE--
COUNTY COURT
WELL, BIGNOSE, I'M PUTTING YOU IN JAIL!
I'D LIKE TO GET ARRESTED LIKE THIS EVERY TIME!

LATER
BIGNOSE PAID OFF RATHER WELL. FIVE THOUSAND! WHAT A RACKET!

THAT NIGHT----
YOU HERE AGAIN?
OFFICER, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW I'VE SUFFERED THOUGH IT WAS MY--AH--CIVIC DUTY TO TURN IN THAT CRIMINAL--YET MY HEART VERILY BLEEDS FOR THE POOR UNFORTUNATE ER--NOT TO MENTION THE OTHERS!

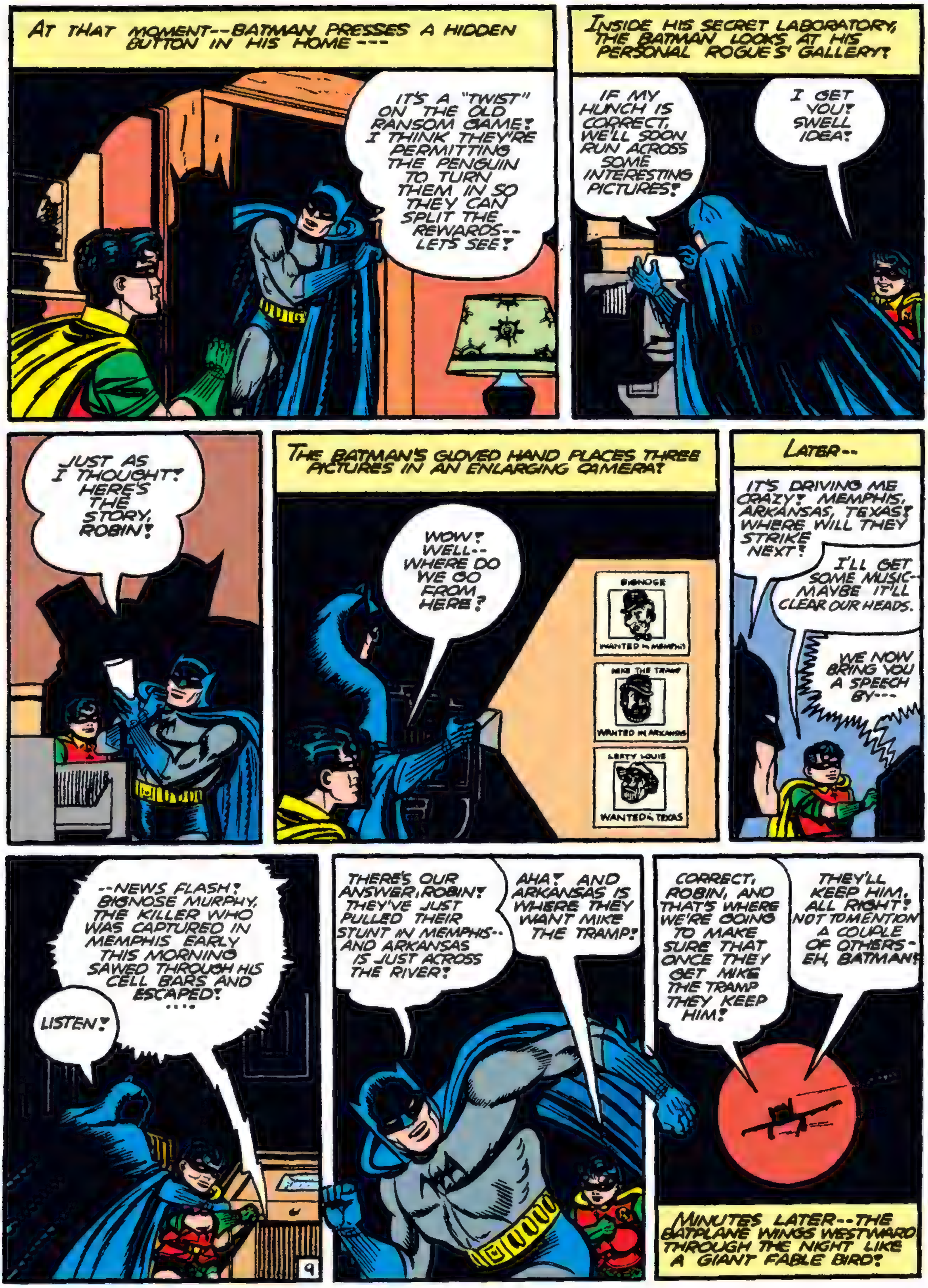
SO YOU BROUGHT PRESENTS, EH? I'LL HAVE TO EXAMINE THEM-- IT'S REGULATIONS!
TO BE SURE, AND DON'T FORGET TO EXTRACT THE FILE FROM THE CAKE! HA! HA! HA!

A FILE IN THE CAKE? HA! HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE!
OF COURSE! I ALWAYS PUT A FILE IN THE CAKE--TO HELP PRISONERS ESCAPE, YOU KNOW! UGH! COUGH--COUGH!
THAT'S RICH! WAIT'L I TELL THE CHIEF! HAW! HAW!

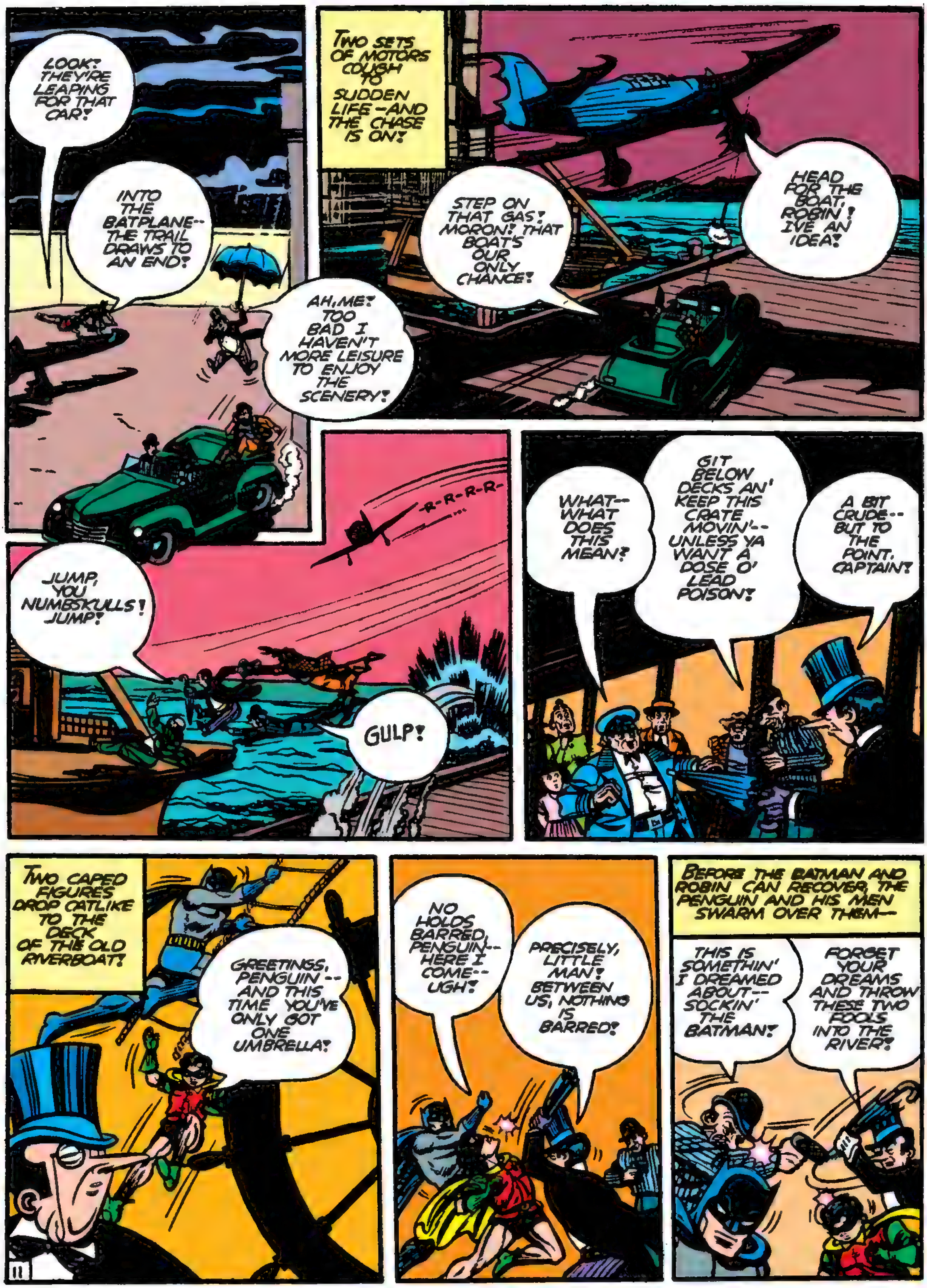
THE PENGUIN DISTRIBUTES HIS GIFTS--
HAW! YOU'RE KILLING ME!
HERE, POOR FELLOW, AND DON'T EAT THE SKIN!

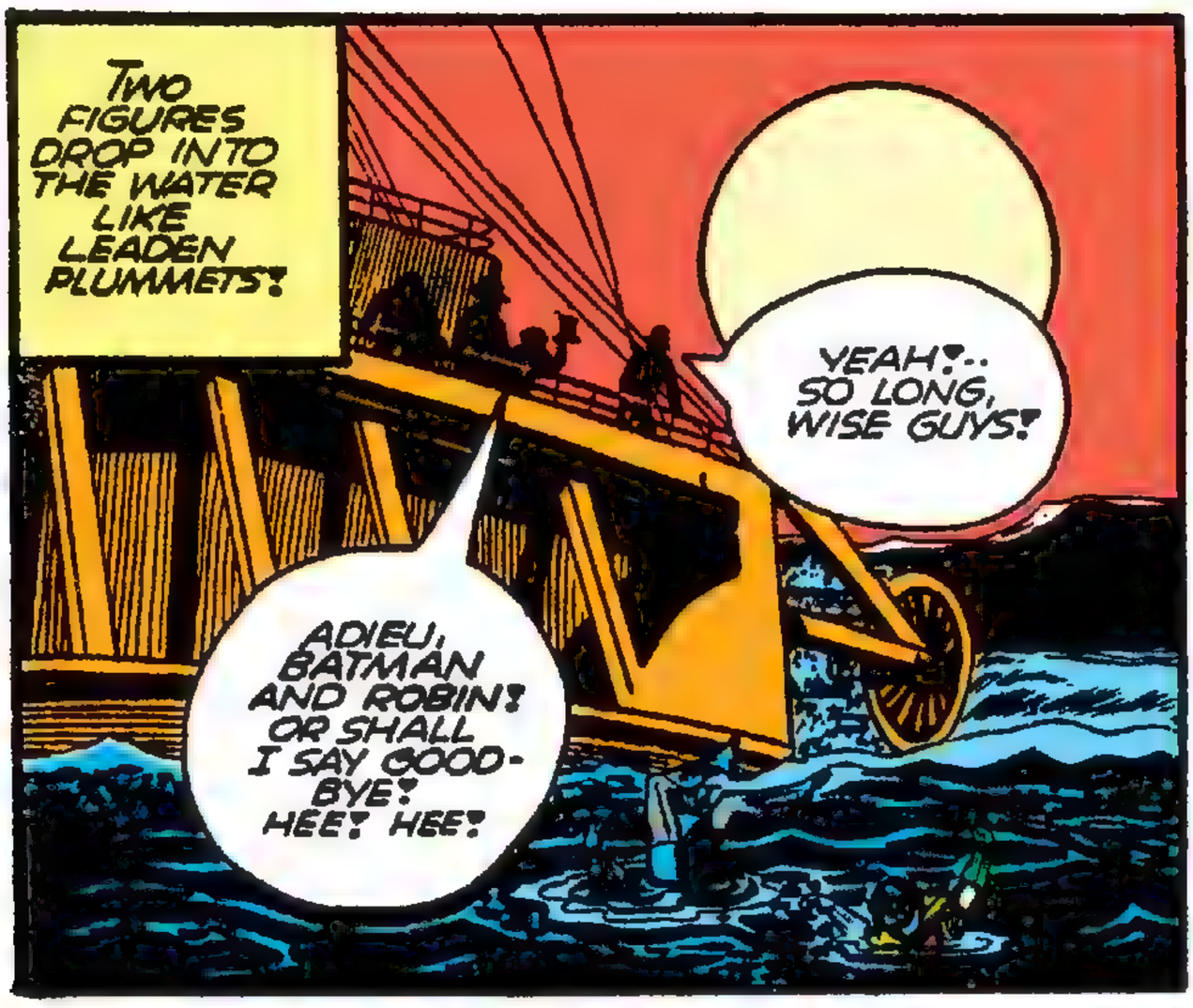
LAST PORT OF CALL!
TO SHOW I HAVE NO MALICE--I GIVE YOU THIS! IT WILL EASE YOUR HOURS, DEAR FRIEND! AND REMEMBER-- CRIME DOES NOT PAY!
A BIRTHDAY CAKE, HA! HA!
IT PAID YOU ALL RIGHT- HA!

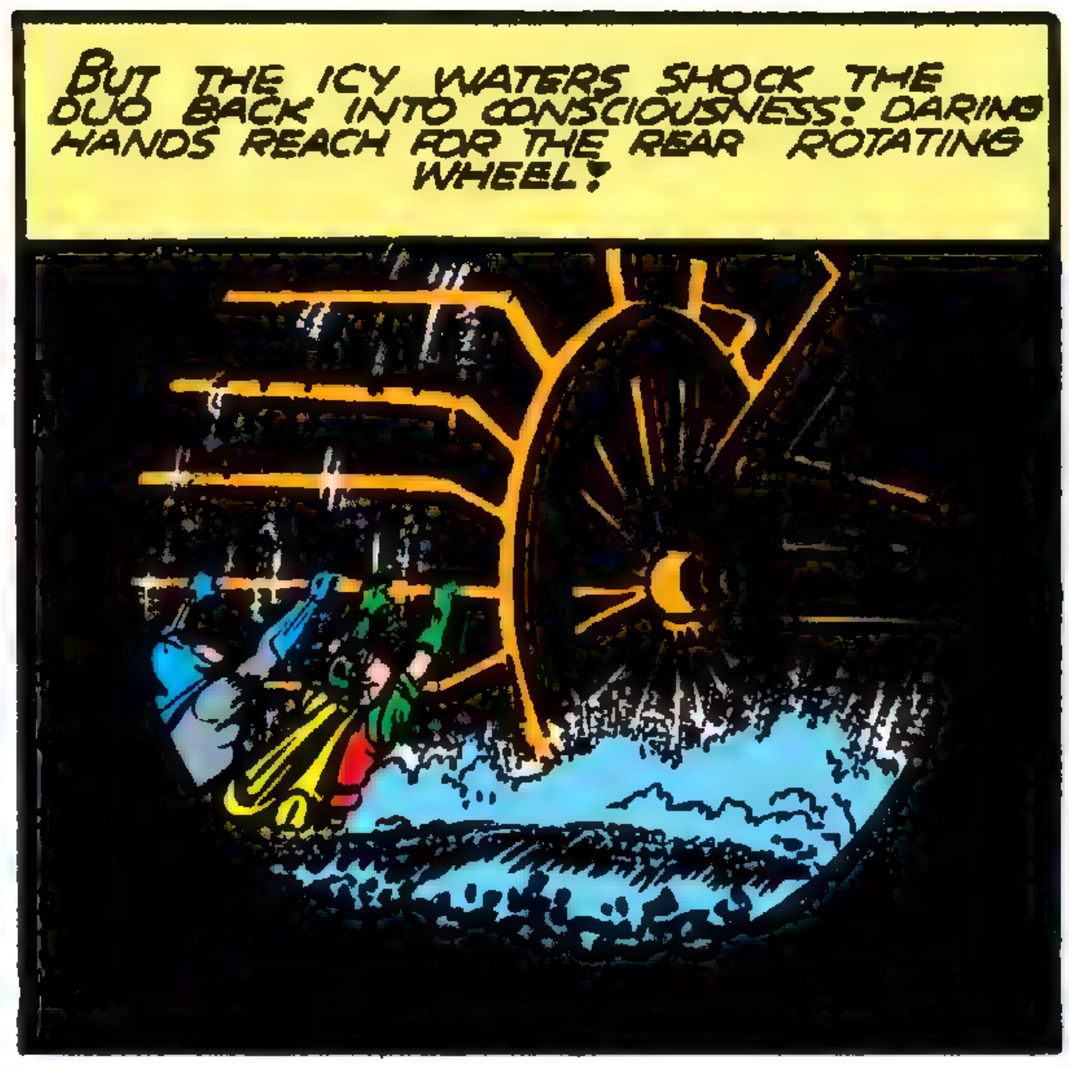
AS A NEARBY CHIME INTONES A LATE HOUR
THIS IS THE NICEST PRESENT I EVER HAD- HAW! HAW!

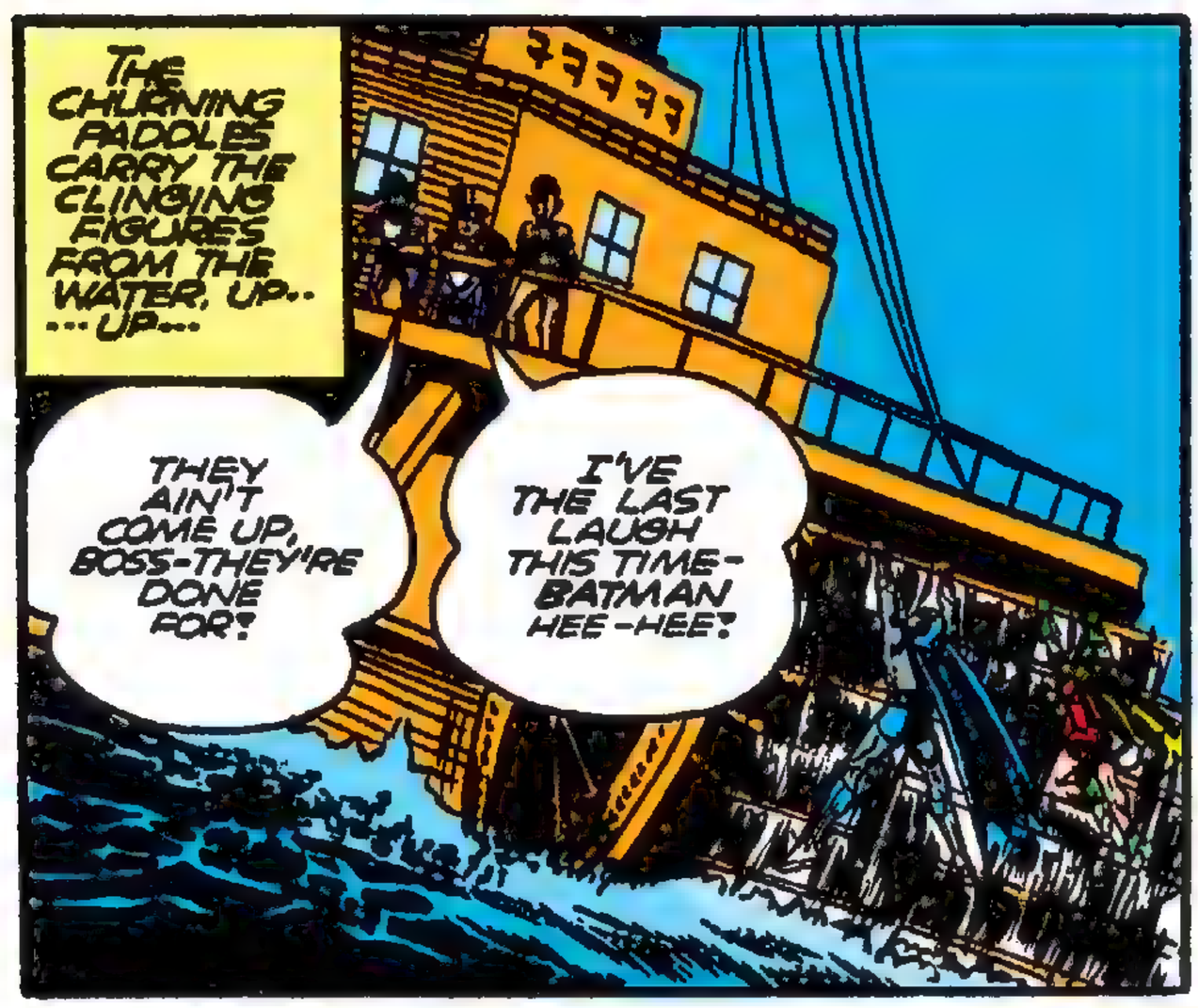

AT THAT MOMENT--BATMAN PRESSES A HIDDEN BUTTON IN HIS HOME---
IT'S A "TWIST" ON THE OLD RANSOM GAME! I THINK THEY'RE PERMITTING THE PENGUIN TO TURN THEM IN SO THEY CAN SPLIT THE REWARDS--LET'S SEE!
INSIDE HIS SECRET LABORATORY, THE BATMAN LOOKS AT HIS PERSONAL ROGUE'S' GALLERY!
IF MY HUNCH IS CORRECT, WE'LL SOON RUN ACROSS SOME INTERESTING PICTURES!
I GET YOU! SWELL IDEA!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! HERE'S THE STORY, ROBIN!
THE BATMAN'S GLOVED HAND PLACES THREE PICTURES IN AN ENLARGING CAMERA!
WOW! WELL--WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
BIGNOSE
WANTED IN MEMPHIS
MIKE THE TRAMP
WANTED IN ARKANSAS
LEFTY LOUIE
WANTED IN TEXAS
LATER--
IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY! MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS, TEXAS! WHERE WILL THEY STRIKE NEXT!
I'LL GET SOME MUSIC--MAYBE IT'LL CLEAR OUR HEADS.
WE NOW BRING YOU A SPEECH BY---
--NEWS FLASH! BIGNOSE MURPHY, THE KILLER WHO WAS CAPTURED IN MEMPHIS EARLY THIS MORNING SAWED THROUGH HIS CELL BARS AND ESCAPED! ....
LISTEN!
THERE'S OUR ANSWER, ROBIN! THEY'VE JUST PULLED THEIR STUNT IN MEMPHIS.. AND ARKANSAS IS JUST ACROSS THE RIVER!
AHA! AND ARKANSAS IS WHERE THEY WANT MIKE THE TRAMP!
CORRECT, ROBIN, AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT ONCE THEY GET MIKE THE TRAMP THEY KEEP HIM!
THEY'LL KEEP HIM, ALL RIGHT! NOT TO MENTION A COUPLE OF OTHERS--EH, BATMAN?
MINUTES LATER--THE BATPLANE WINGS WESTWARD THROUGH THE NIGHT LIKE A GIANT FABLE BIRD!

AS THE BATPLANE BULLETS THROUGH THE AIR---THE COLD, GREY STREAKS OF DAWN OUTLINE A CAR THAT SKIDS TO A HALT!
ALL SET, PETE, FOR YOUR--ER--JAILING?
ALL SET, MR. PENGUIN! IN AN' OUT LIKE A REVOLVIN' DOOR!
MINUTES LATER---
GOOD-BYE, SIR, AND WITH THE MONEY GO MY CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE DONE A REMARKABLE PIECE OF WORK!
I HAVE A SLIGHT PREMONITION THAT WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!
SAY-- YOU LOOK ILL! WHAT'S WRONG?
WELL- AHEM--- SINCE I HAVE TAKEN THIS MONEY--
UGH!
AHHH! MY EYES!
--IT IS FAIR THAT I GIVE YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN! DUCK, PETE!
A MOMENT LATER---
GOSH! WHAT HAPPENED?
LITTLE MAN-- BLINDED ME--TEAR GAS--TOOK PRISONER UPSTAIRS--
LET'S GO, ROBIN! WE CAN FLY THE BATPLANE UP AND--
MEANWHILE--
WHO ARE-- UGH!
LOADING ONE'S UMBRELLA HANDLE WITH LEAD MAKES THINGS--AH-- SIMPLER!
HALFWAY TO THE BATPLANE, A HAIL OF HOT LEAD SHOWERS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
HAW! LOOKA THEM JUMP!
YOU BLITHERING IDIOT--YOU MISSED! NOW WE'LL HAVE TO JUMP!
DOWN, ROBIN! DOWN!
10

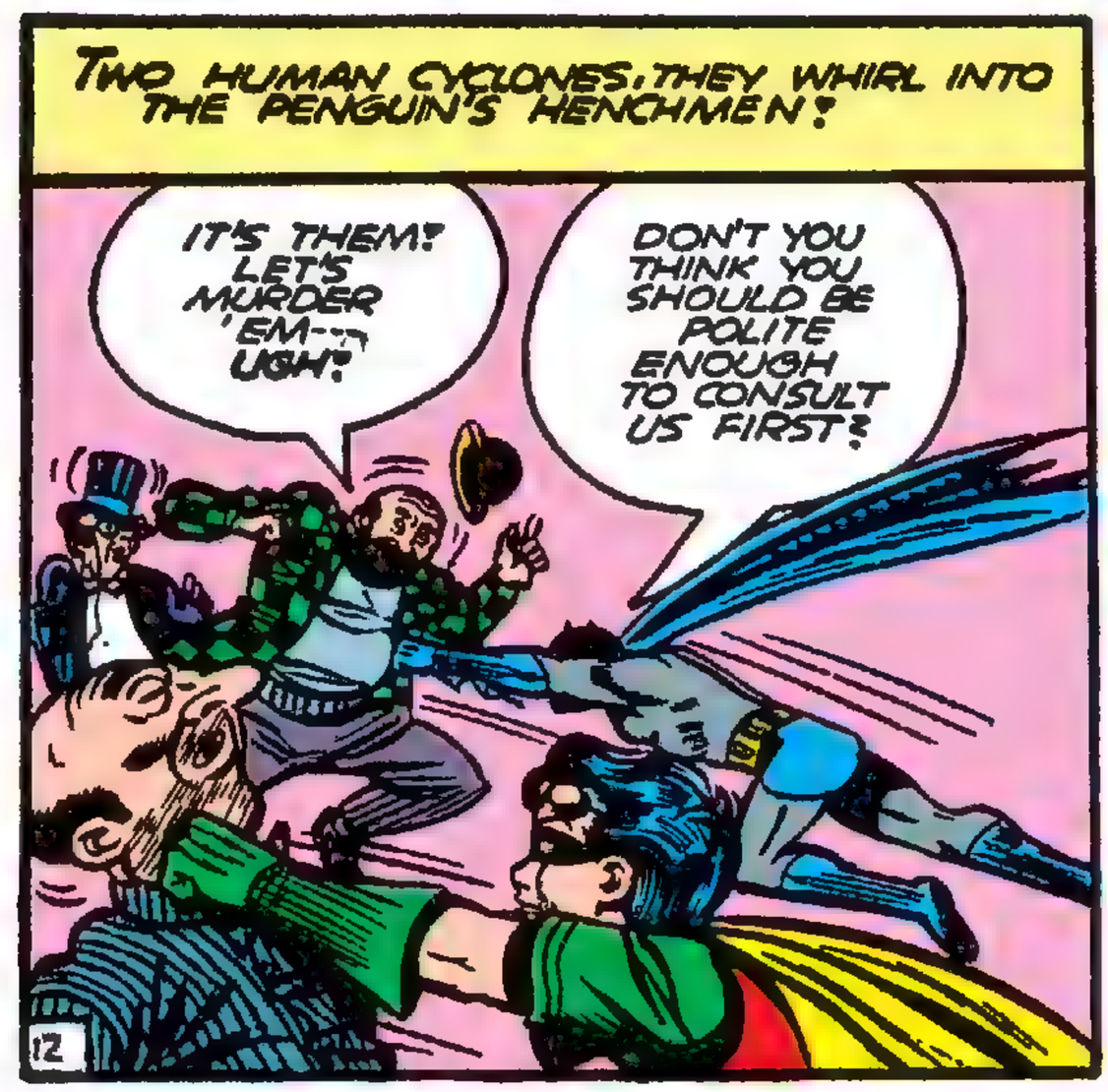

LOOK! THEY'RE LEAPING FOR THAT CAR!
INTO THE BATPLANE-- THE TRAIL DRAWS TO AN END!
AH, ME! TOO BAD I HAVEN'T MORE LEISURE TO ENJOY THE SCENERY!
TWO SETS OF MOTORS COUGH TO SUDDEN LIFE--AND THE CHASE IS ON!
STEP ON THAT GAS! MORON! THAT BOAT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
HEAD FOR THE BOAT, ROBIN! I'VE AN IDEA!
JUMP, YOU NUMBSKULLS! JUMP!
-R-R-R-R-...
GULP!
WHAT-- WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
GIT BELOW DECKS AN' KEEP THIS CRATE MOVIN'-- UNLESS YA WANT A DOSE O' LEAD POISON!
A BIT CRUDE-- BUT TO THE POINT, CAPTAIN!
TWO CAPED FIGURES DROP CATLIKE TO THE DECK OF THE OLD RIVERBOAT!
GREETINGS, PENGUIN-- AND THIS TIME YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE UMBRELLA!
NO HOLDS BARRED, PENGUIN-- HERE I COME-- UGH!
PRECISELY, LITTLE MAN! BETWEEN US, NOTHING IS BARRED!
BEFORE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN CAN RECOVER, THE PENGUIN AND HIS MEN SWARM OVER THEM--
THIS IS SOMETHIN' I DREAMED ABOUT-- SOCKIN' THE BATMAN!
FORGET YOUR DREAMS AND THROW THESE TWO FOOLS INTO THE RIVER!


TWO FIGURES DROP INTO THE WATER LIKE LEADEN PLUMMETS!
YEAH!.. SO LONG, WISE GUYS!
ADIEU, BATMAN AND ROBIN! OR SHALL I SAY GOOD-BYE! HEE! HEE!


BUT THE ICY WATERS SHOCK THE DUO BACK INTO CONSCIOUSNESS! DARING HANDS REACH FOR THE REAR ROTATING WHEEL!

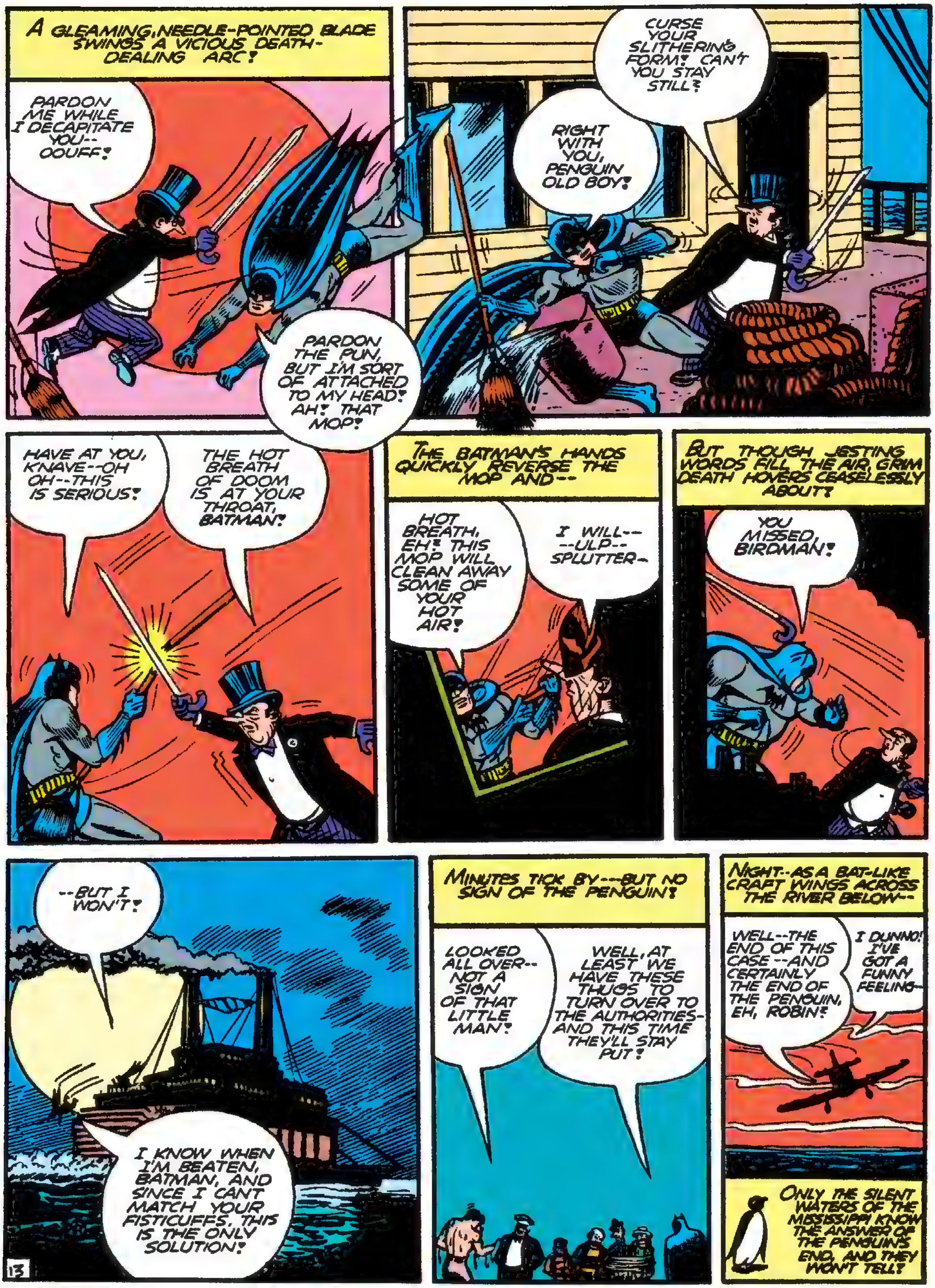

THE CHURNING PADDLES CARRY THE CLINGING FIGURES FROM THE WATER, UP.. ...UP...
THEY AIN'T COME UP, BOSS-THEY'RE DONE FOR!
I'VE THE LAST LAUGH THIS TIME-BATMAN HEE-HEE!

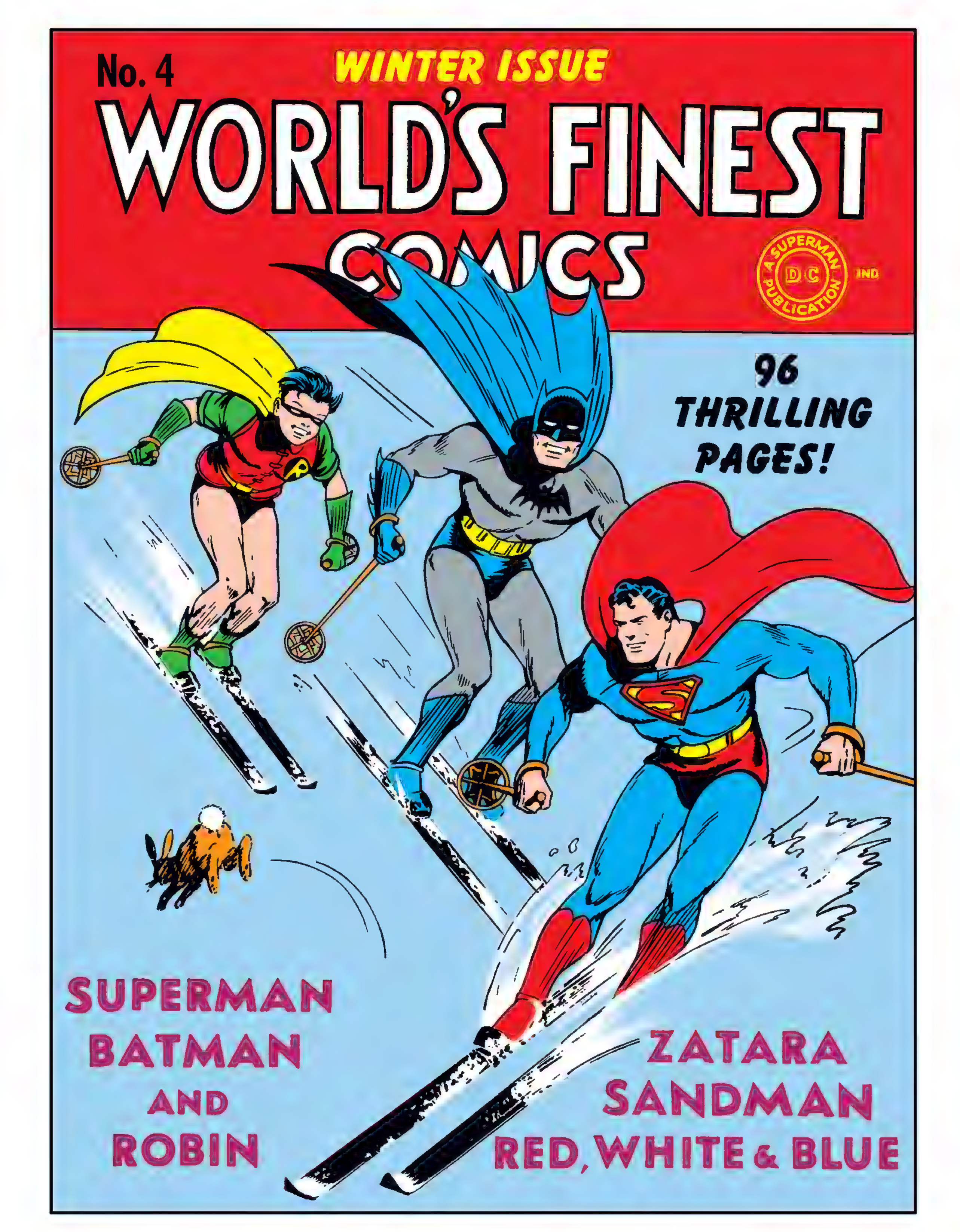
JUST LEAD ME TO 'EM!
NOW IT'S OUR TURN, ROBIN!
--TO THE UPPER DECK ITSELF!


TWO HUMAN CYCLONES, THEY WHIRL INTO THE PENGUIN'S HENCHMEN!
IT'S THEM! LET'S MURDER 'EM--UGH!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE POLITE ENOUGH TO CONSULT US FIRST?
12

RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG!

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A HIDDEN TRICK UP YOUR SLEEVE!
NO! NOT MY SLEEVE-- BUT--MY UMBRELLA!


A GLEAMING, NEEDLE-POINTED BLADE SWINGS A VICIOUS DEATH-DEALING ARC!
PARDON ME WHILE I DECAPITATE YOU--OOUFF!
PARDON THE PUN, BUT I'M SORT OF ATTACHED TO MY HEAD! AH! THAT MOP!
CURSE YOUR SLITHERING FORM! CAN'T YOU STAY STILL?
RIGHT WITH YOU, PENGUIN OLD BOY!
HAVE AT YOU, KNAVE--OH OH--THIS IS SERIOUS!
THE HOT BREATH OF DOOM IS AT YOUR THROAT, BATMAN!
THE BATMAN'S HANDS QUICKLY REVERSE THE MOP AND--
HOT BREATH, EH! THIS MOP WILL CLEAN AWAY SOME OF YOUR HOT AIR!
I WILL--
--ULP--
SPLUTTER--
BUT THOUGH JESTING WORDS FILL THE AIR, GRIM DEATH HOVERS CEASELESSLY ABOUT!
YOU MISSED, BIRDMAN!
--BUT I WON'T!
I KNOW WHEN I'M BEATEN, BATMAN, AND SINCE I CANT MATCH YOUR FISTICUFFS, THIS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION!
13
MINUTES TICK BY---BUT NO SIGN OF THE PENGUIN!
LOOKED ALL OVER--NOT A SIGN OF THAT LITTLE MAN!
WELL, AT LEAST WE HAVE THESE THUGS TO TURN OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES--AND THIS TIME THEY'LL STAY PUT!
NIGHT--AS A BAT-LIKE CRAFT WINGS ACROSS THE RIVER BELOW--
WELL--THE END OF THIS CASE--AND CERTAINLY THE END OF THE PENGUIN, EH, ROBIN!
I DUNNO! I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING--
ONLY THE SILENT WATERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI KNOW THE ANSWER OF THE PENGUIN'S END, AND THEY WON'T TELL!

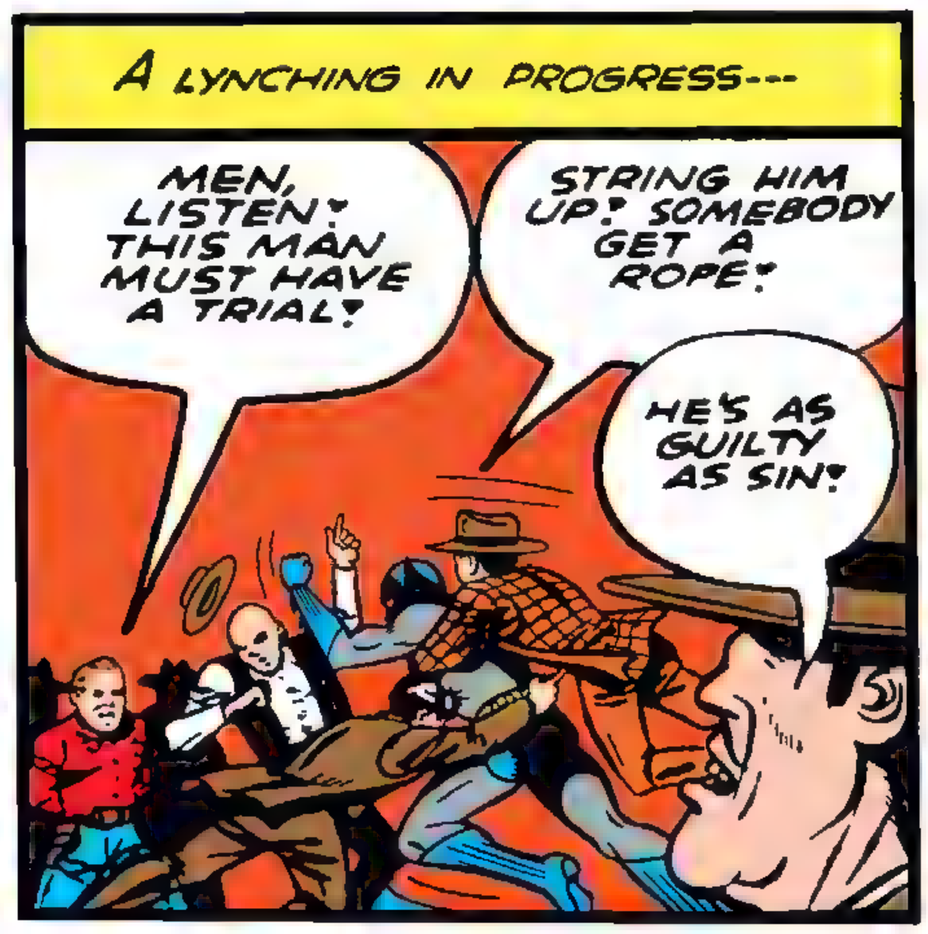

No. 4
WINTER ISSUE
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
IND
96 THRILLING PAGES!
SUPERMAN
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN
ZATARA
SANDMAN
RED, WHITE & BLUE

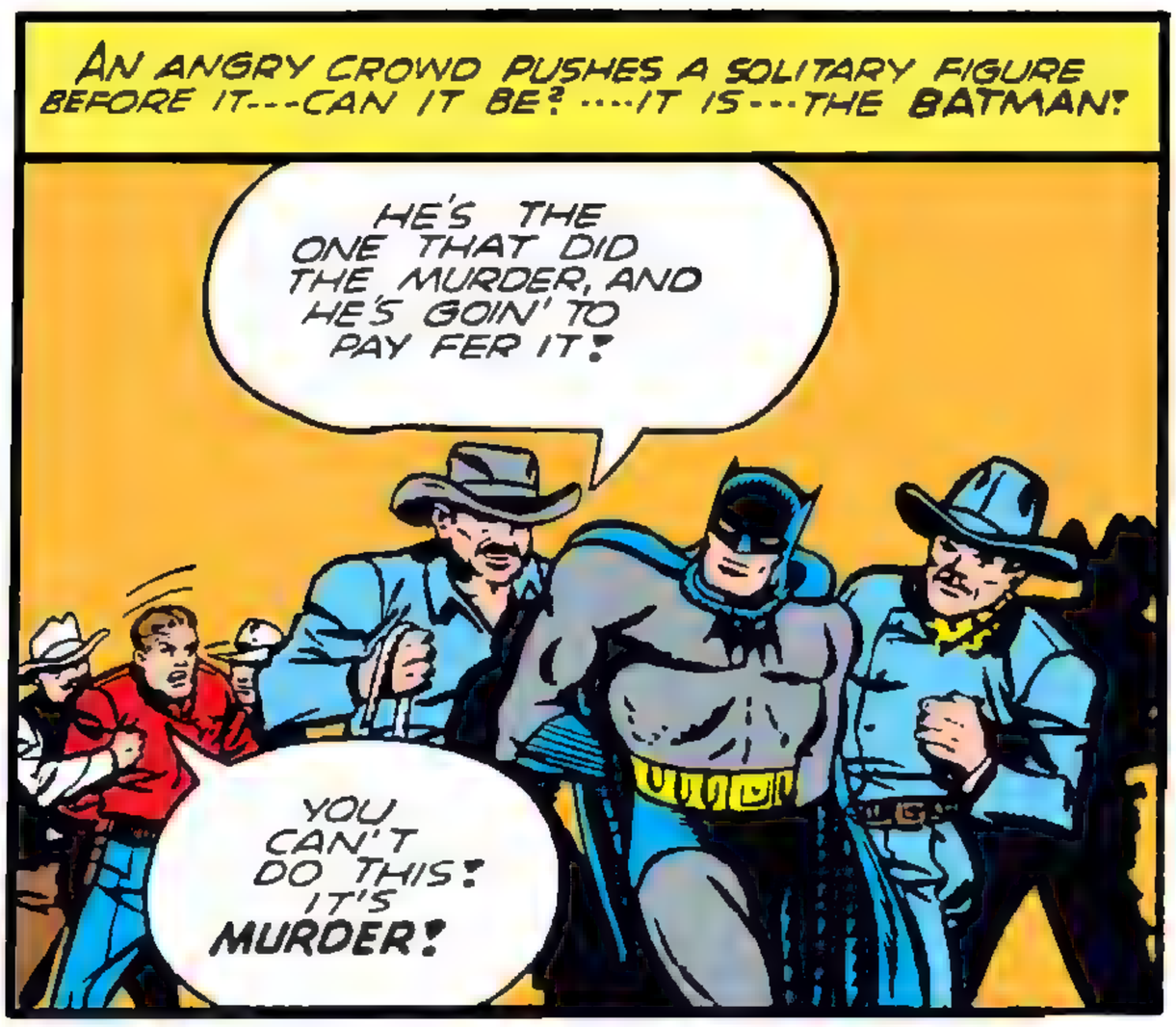
BATMAN WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

"GO WEST, YOUNG MAN... GO WEST!"

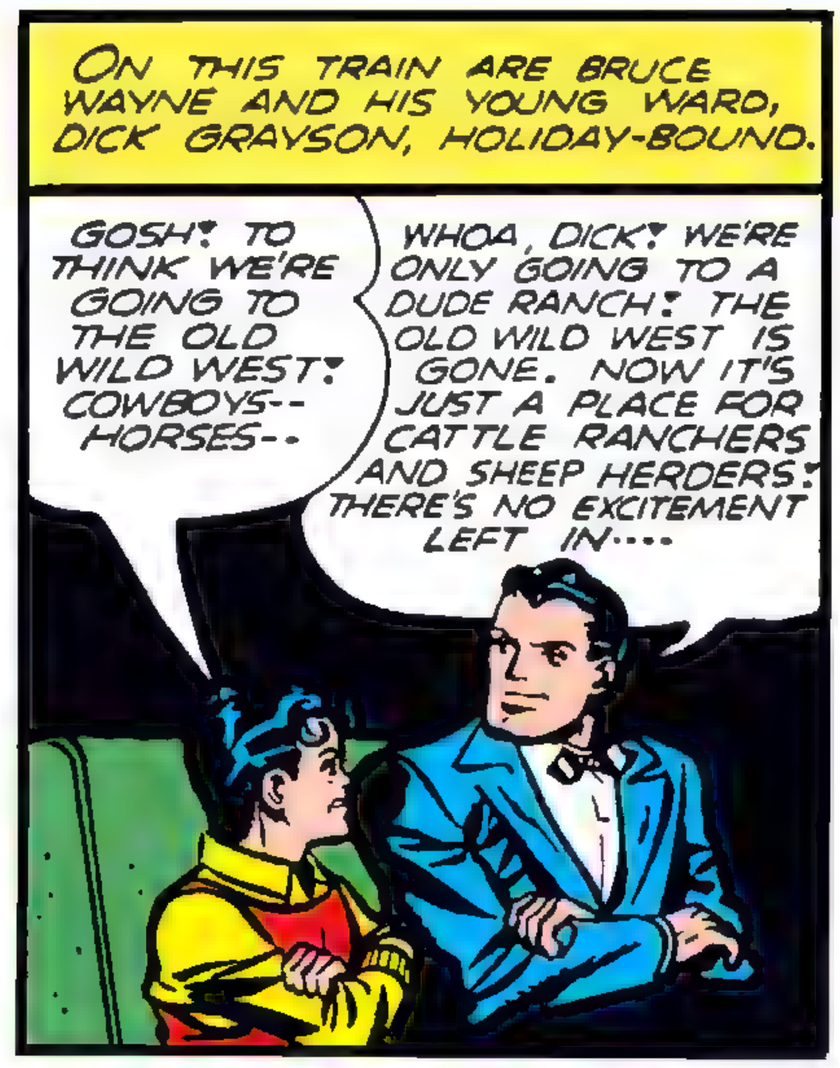
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN HEED THIS OLD ADAGE AND FIND THEMSELVES RIDING A TRAIL OF DANGER AND GUNPLAY--WITH THE ANSWER TO A MYSTERY AT THE END! WHY DID THE MODERN WEST GO BACK A CENTURY TO THE DAYS OF GUN-TOTIN', LEAD-SLINGIN' BADMEN? WHO WERE THESE BANDITS ON GHOST-PALE HORSES THAT GALLOPED ACROSS THE HARD-PACKED PRAIRIE WITH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN THE SADDLES? UNDER THE NOOSE'S SWAYING SHADOW, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ROUND UP A LEGION OF THE LAWLESS AND LASSO THE SOLUTION TO THE BAFFLING PUZZLE OF---"THE GHOST GANG GOES WEST!"

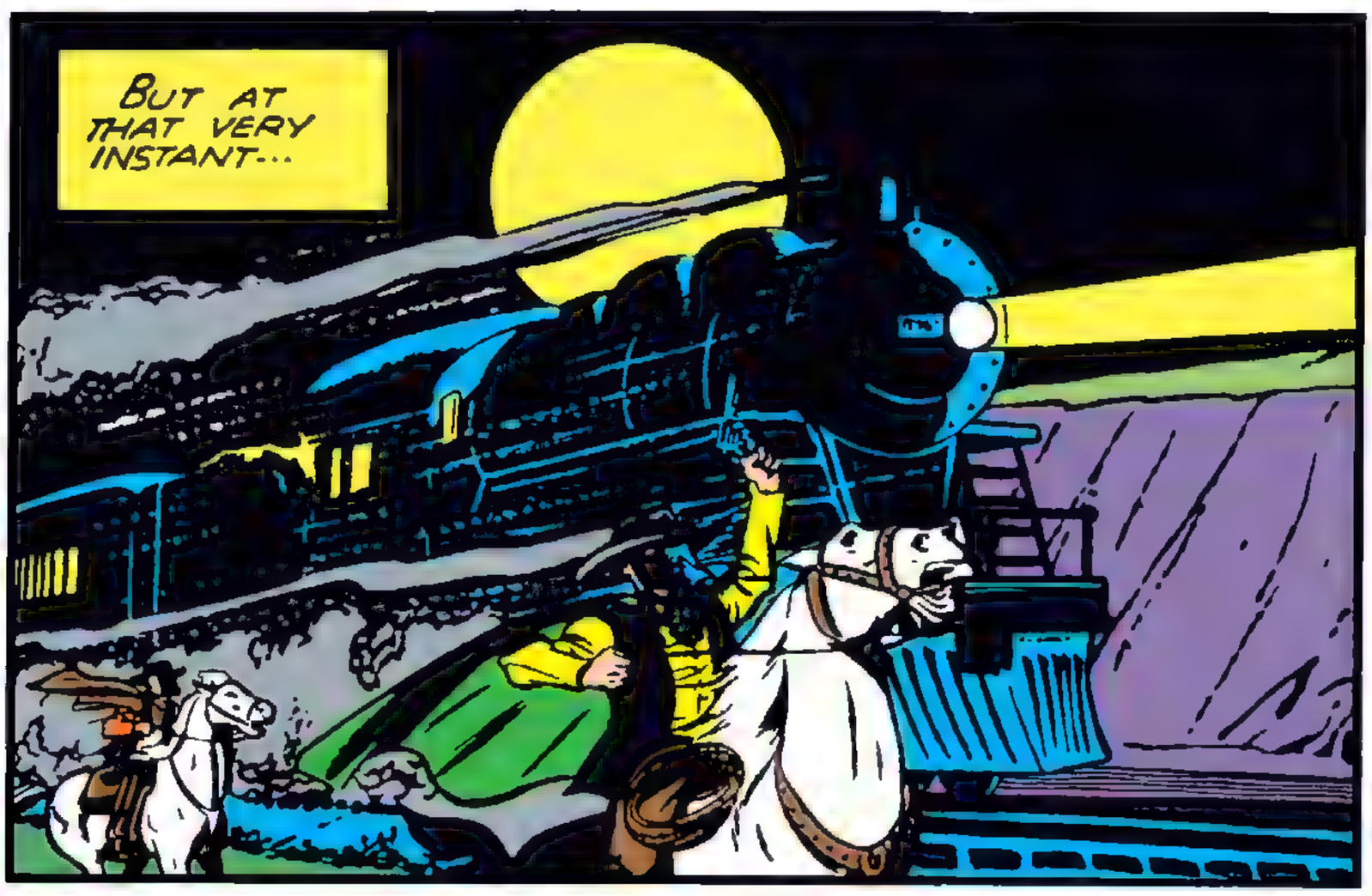
BOB KANE





THE BATMAN ABOUT TO BE LYNCHED! WHY? FOR THE ANSWER, WE MUST TURN BACK THE CLOCK A FEW HOURS-- AND GO TO A SPEEDING TRAIN!



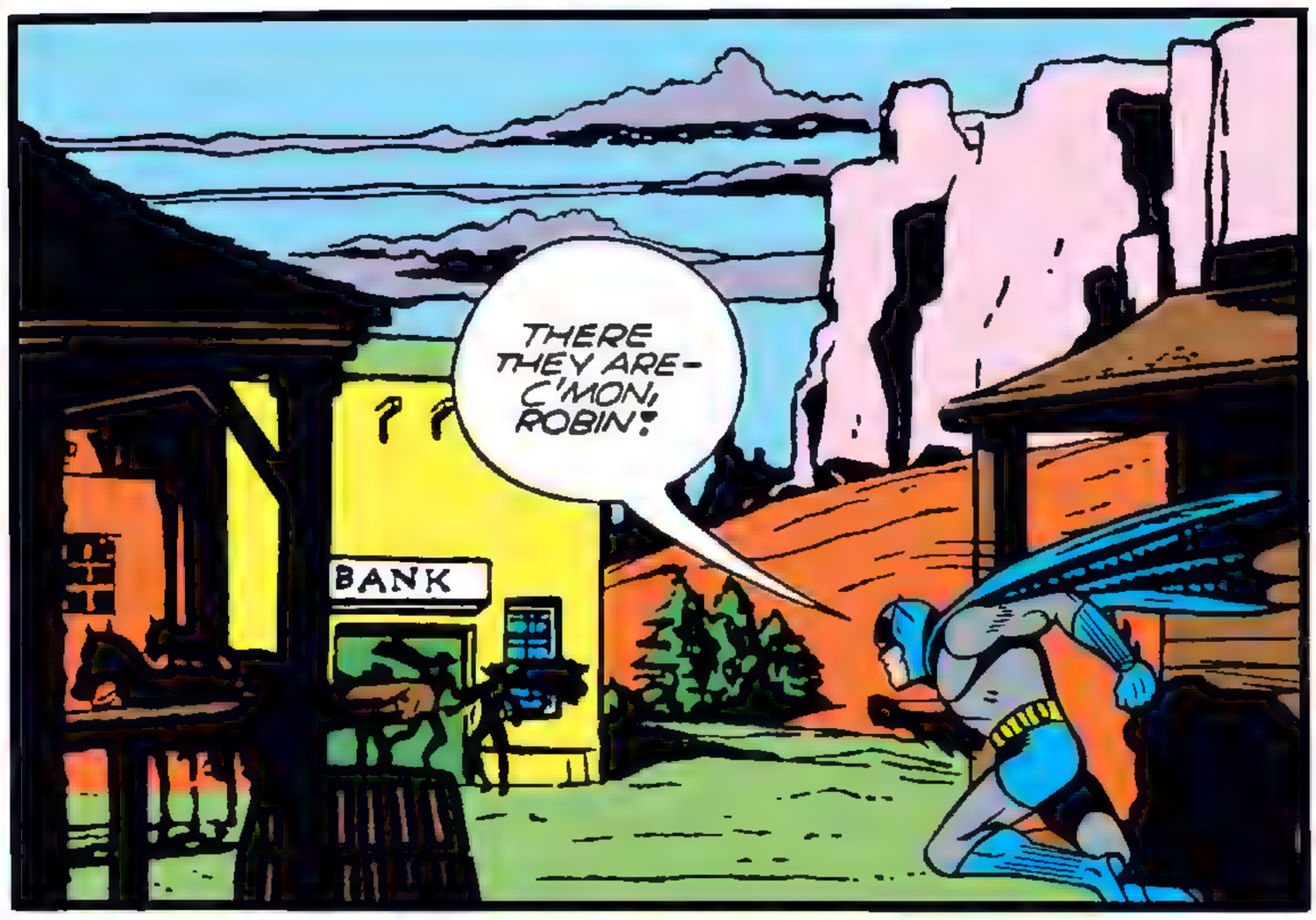


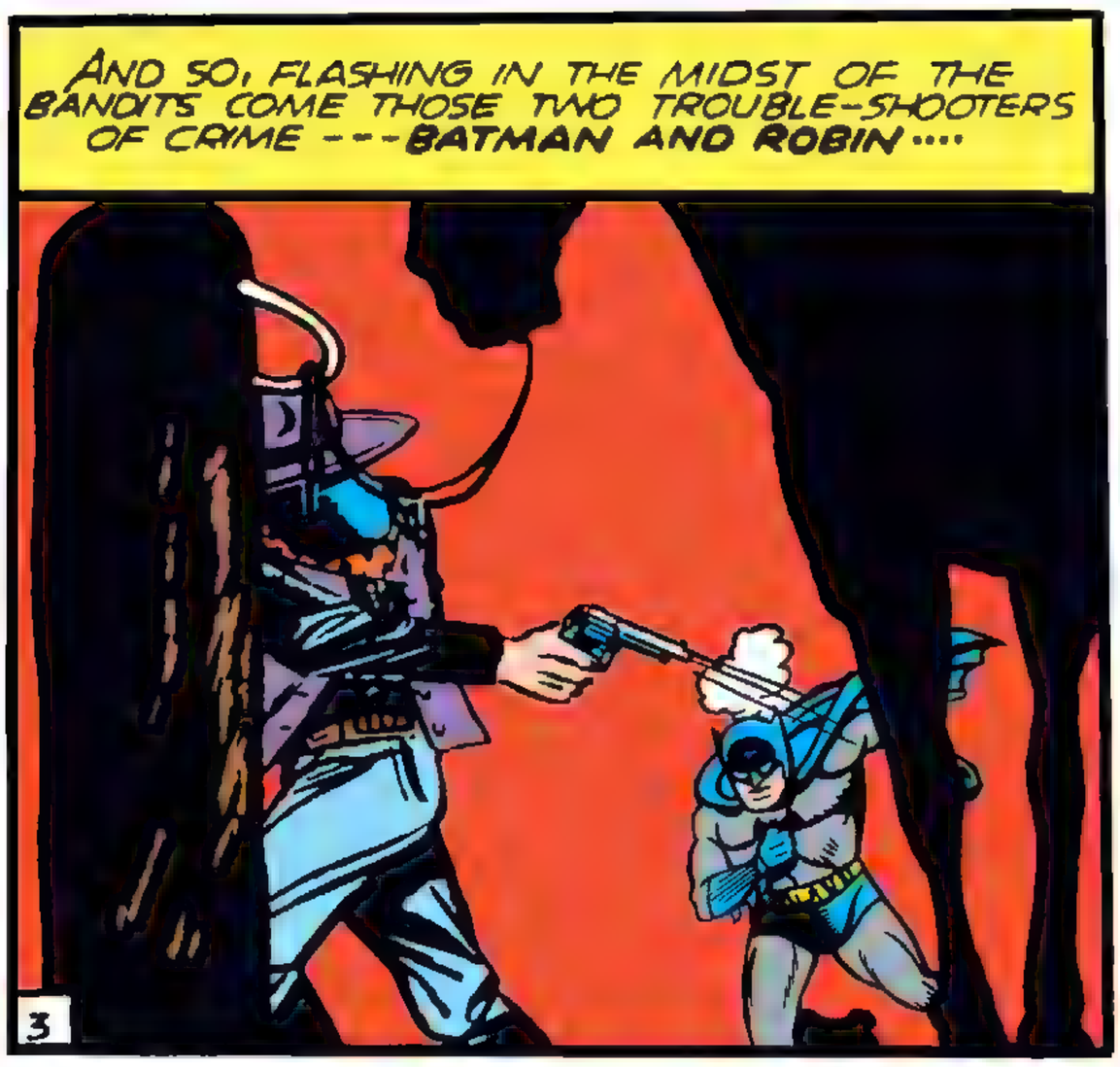
TEN MINUTES LATER---
JUST HAD A REPORT: THE GHOST GANG RAIDED A BANK 200 MILES FROM HERE! AND IT'S BEEN ONLY A FEW MINUTES SINCE THEY LEFT!
HOLY SMOKE! YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S FAST--TOO FAST! NOT EVEN RACE HORSES CAN RUN LIKE THAT!

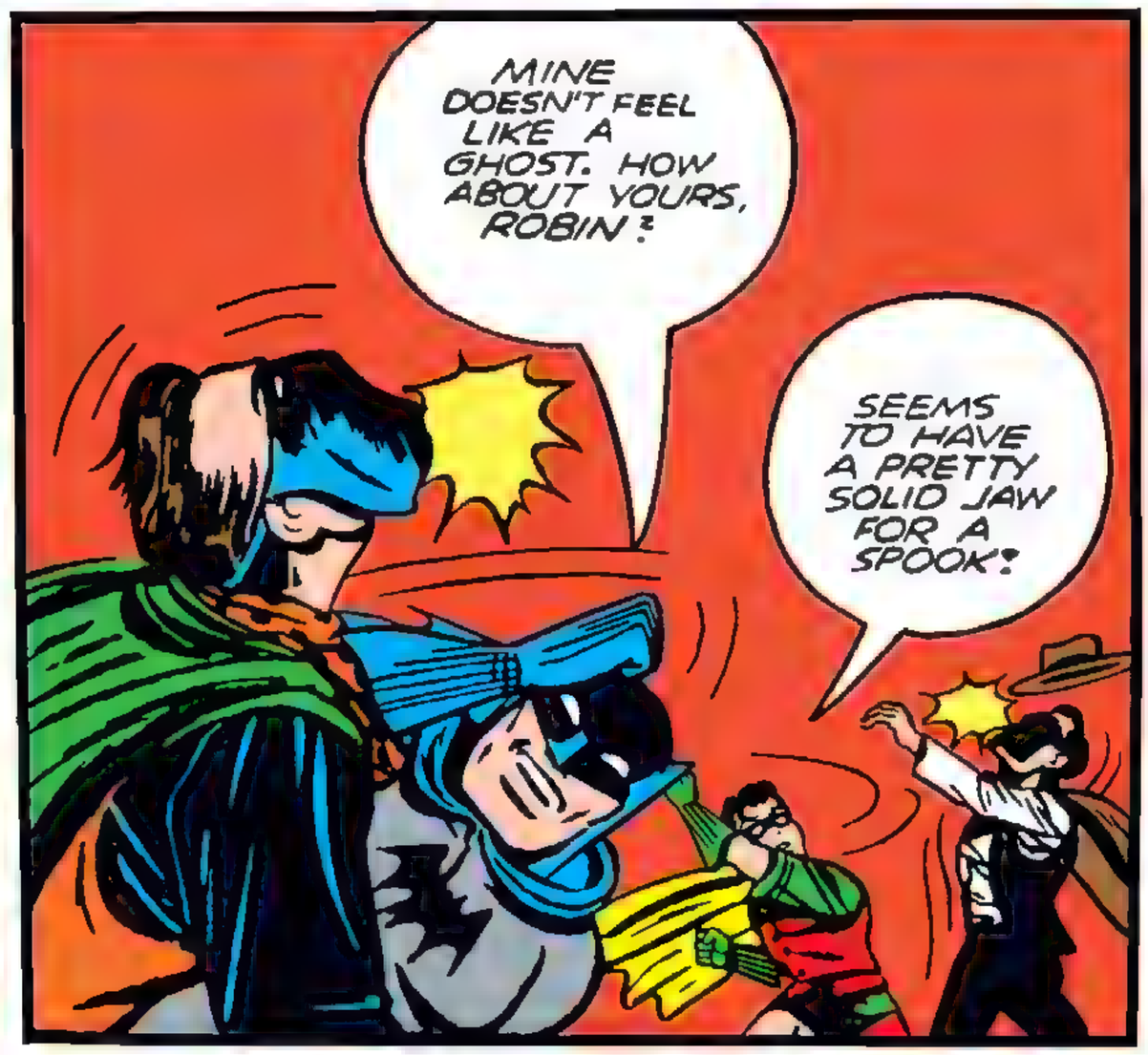
AND SOME TIME LATER, THE CRACK EXPRESS STOPS AT A WESTERN TOWN--
WELL--WE'RE HERE!
YES--I'D BETTER FIND US A HOTEL FOR THE NIGHT!

SUDDENLY---
THE GHOST GANG! THEY'RE ROBBING THE BANK!
THE GHOST GANG! BUT--ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO THEY WERE A COUPLE OF HUNDRED MILES FROM HERE--HOW?

IN A DESERTED SHACK---
C'MON--WE'RE GOING TO TACKLE THAT GANG AND SEE JUST HOW GHOSTLY THEY ARE!
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT! IT SOUNDS A LITTLE--SPOOKY!


THERE THEY ARE--C'MON, ROBIN!
BANK

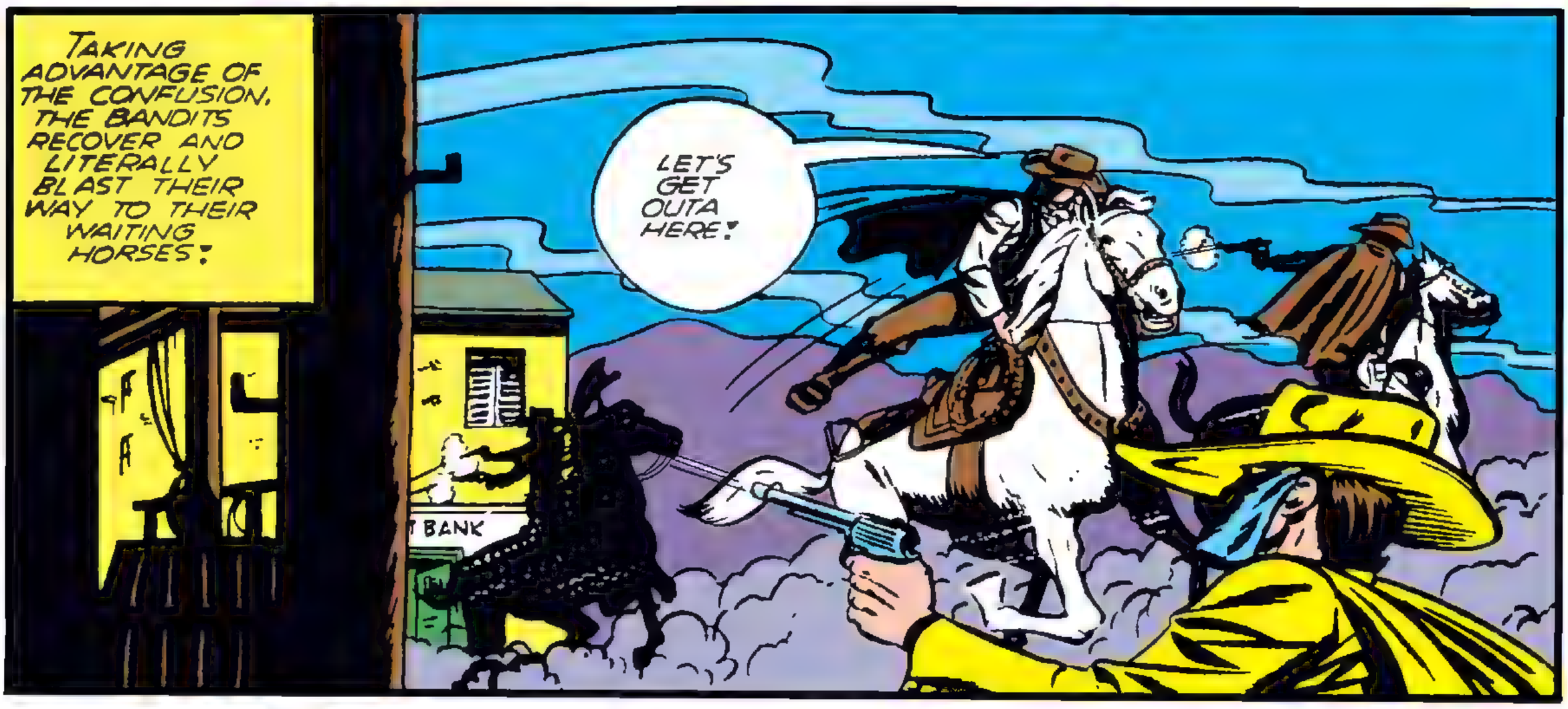

AND SO, FLASHING IN THE MIDST OF THE BANDITS COME THOSE TWO TROUBLE-SHOOTERS OF CRIME ---BATMAN AND ROBIN....
3


MINE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A GHOST. HOW ABOUT YOURS, ROBIN?
SEEMS TO HAVE A PRETTY SOLID JAW FOR A SPOOK!

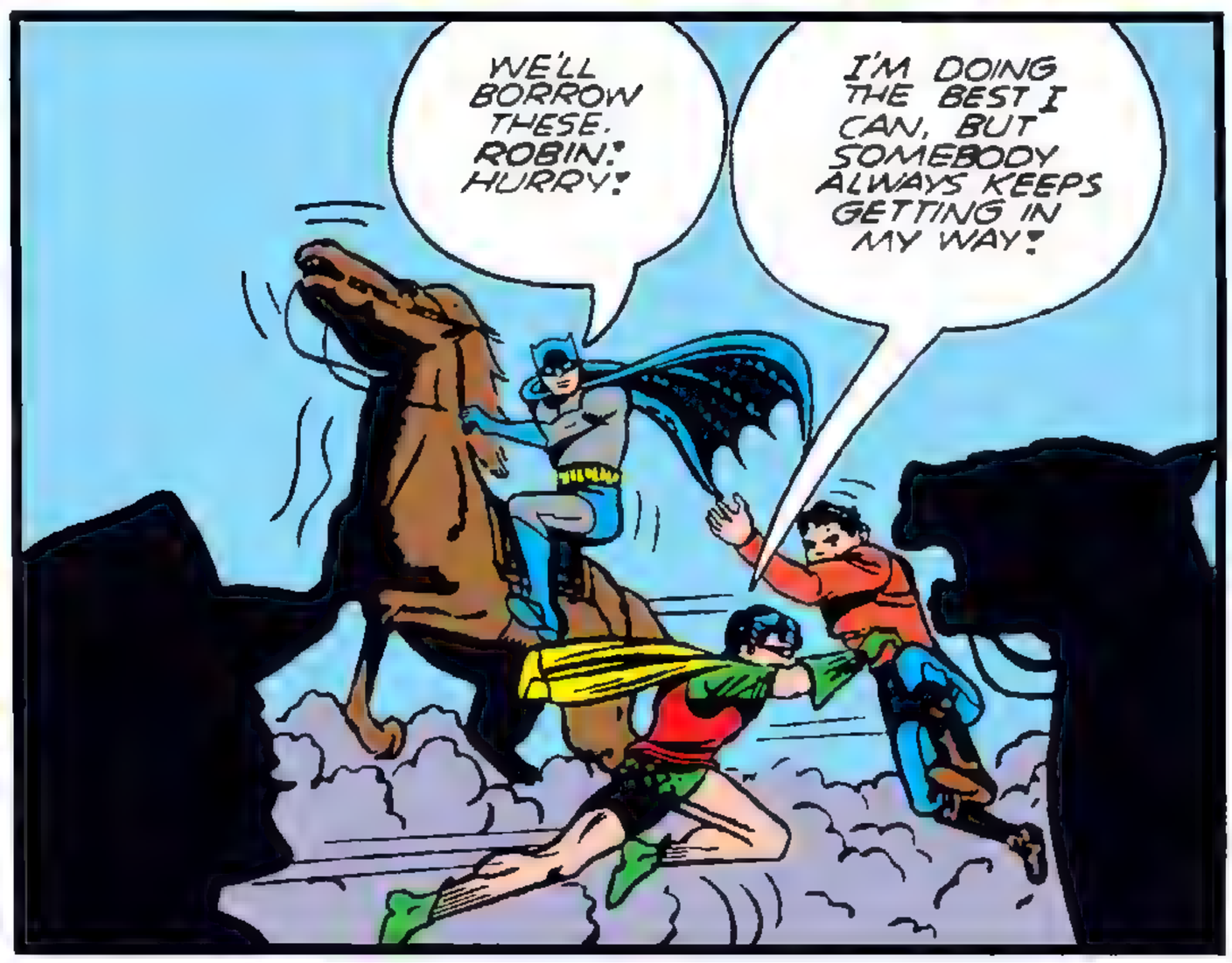
THE GHOST GOES WEST!

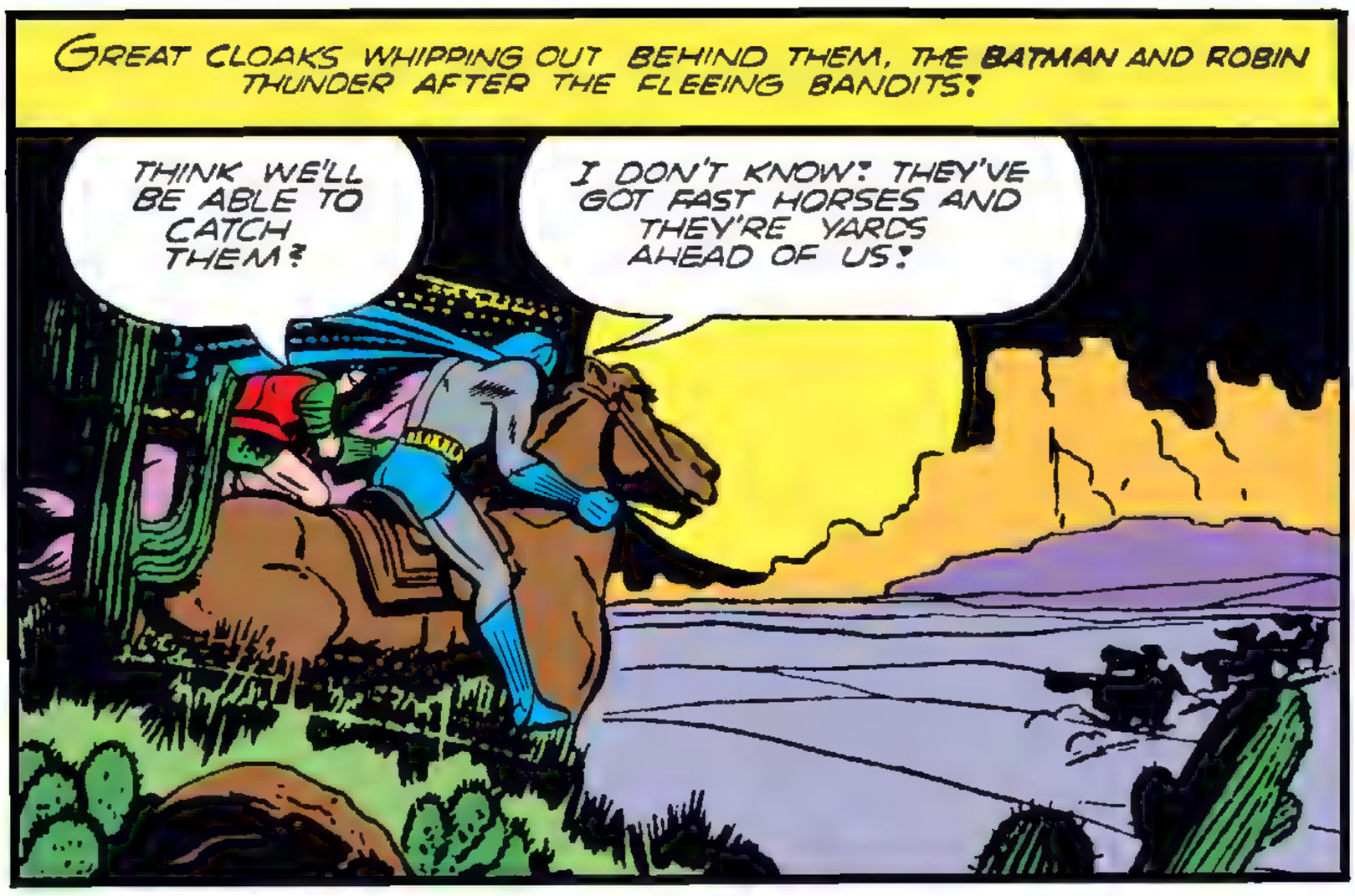
I'LL BET A COUPLE OF GHOSTLY TEETH FALL OUT OF THIS ONE!

SUDDENLY, THE TOWNSPEOPLE SURGE FORWARD UPON THE FIGHTERS! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND THEMSELVES TAKEN FOR BANDITS!
GET THE BANDITS!
HOLY SMOKE, ROBIN--WE'RE IN FOR A BAD CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY!


TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION, THE BANDITS RECOVER AND LITERALLY BLAST THEIR WAY TO THEIR WAITING HORSES!
LET'S GET OUTA HERE!
BANK

LOOK! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
DON'T STAND GAWKING, ROBIN--- LET'S GO GET 'EM!
4


WE'LL BORROW THESE, ROBIN! HURRY!
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN, BUT SOMEBODY ALWAYS KEEPS GETTING IN MY WAY!

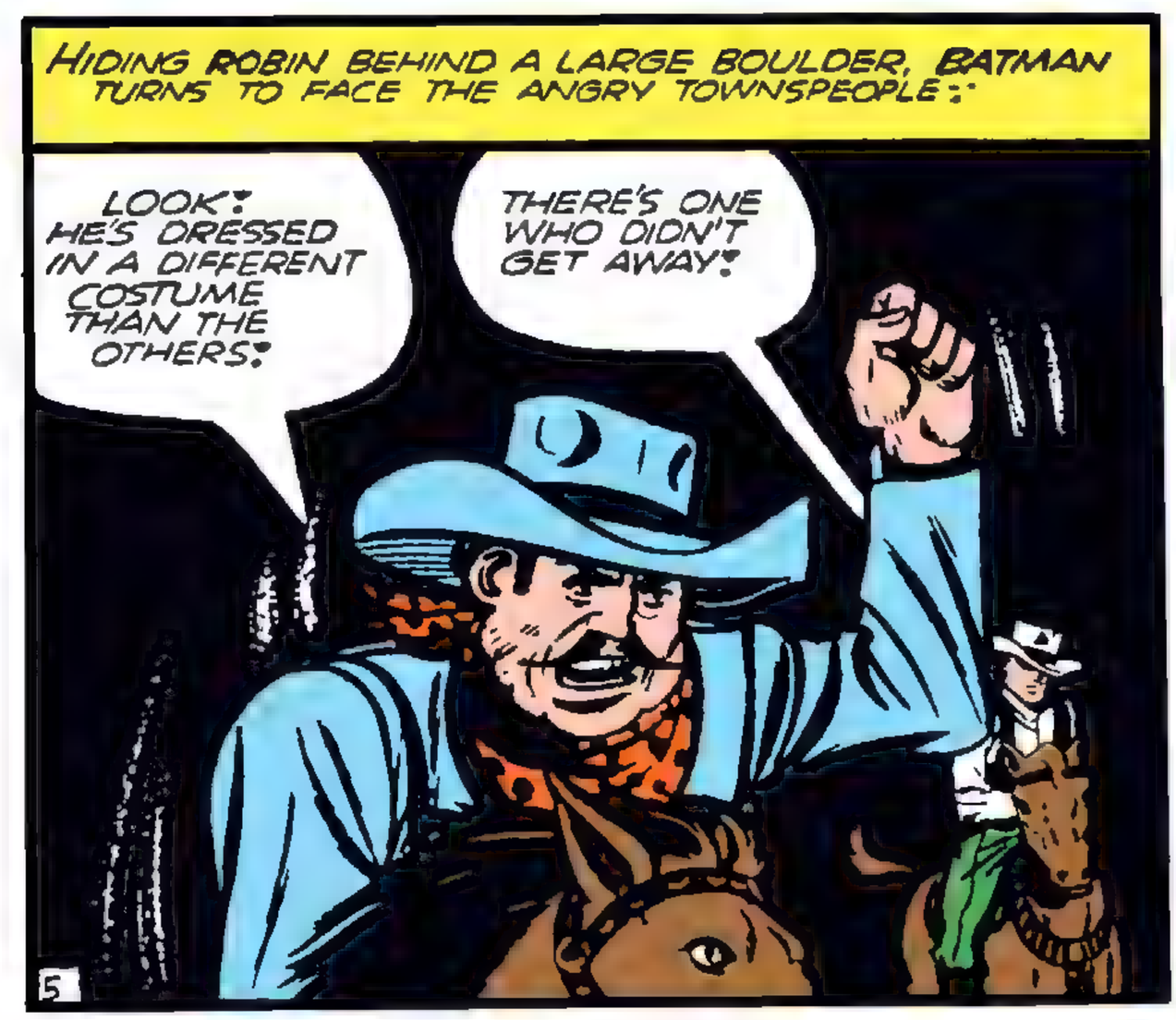

GREAT CLOAKS WHIPPING OUT BEHIND THEM, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THUNDER AFTER THE FLEEING BANDITS!
THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH THEM?
I DON'T KNOW! THEY'VE GOT FAST HORSES AND THEY'RE YARDS AHEAD OF US!

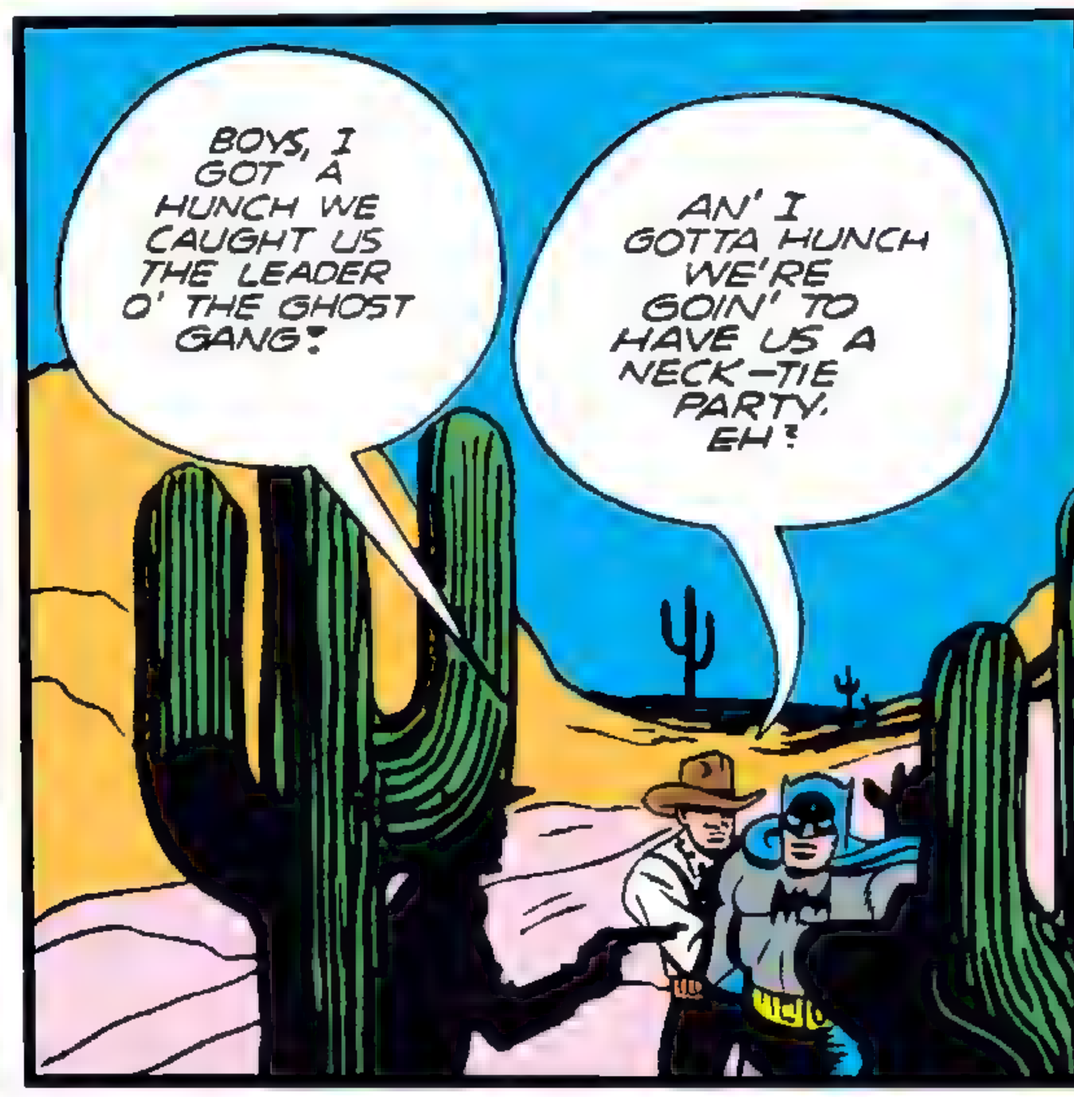
THEIR HORSES' HOOVES RAPIDLY EATING UP THE DISTANCE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ROUND A MOUNTAIN TRAIL TO FIND---
THEY'RE GONE! THE BANDITS ARE GONE!
BUT WE WERE RIGHT BEHIND THEM! THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE HERE-- DON'T TELL ME THEY REALLY ARE GHOSTS!

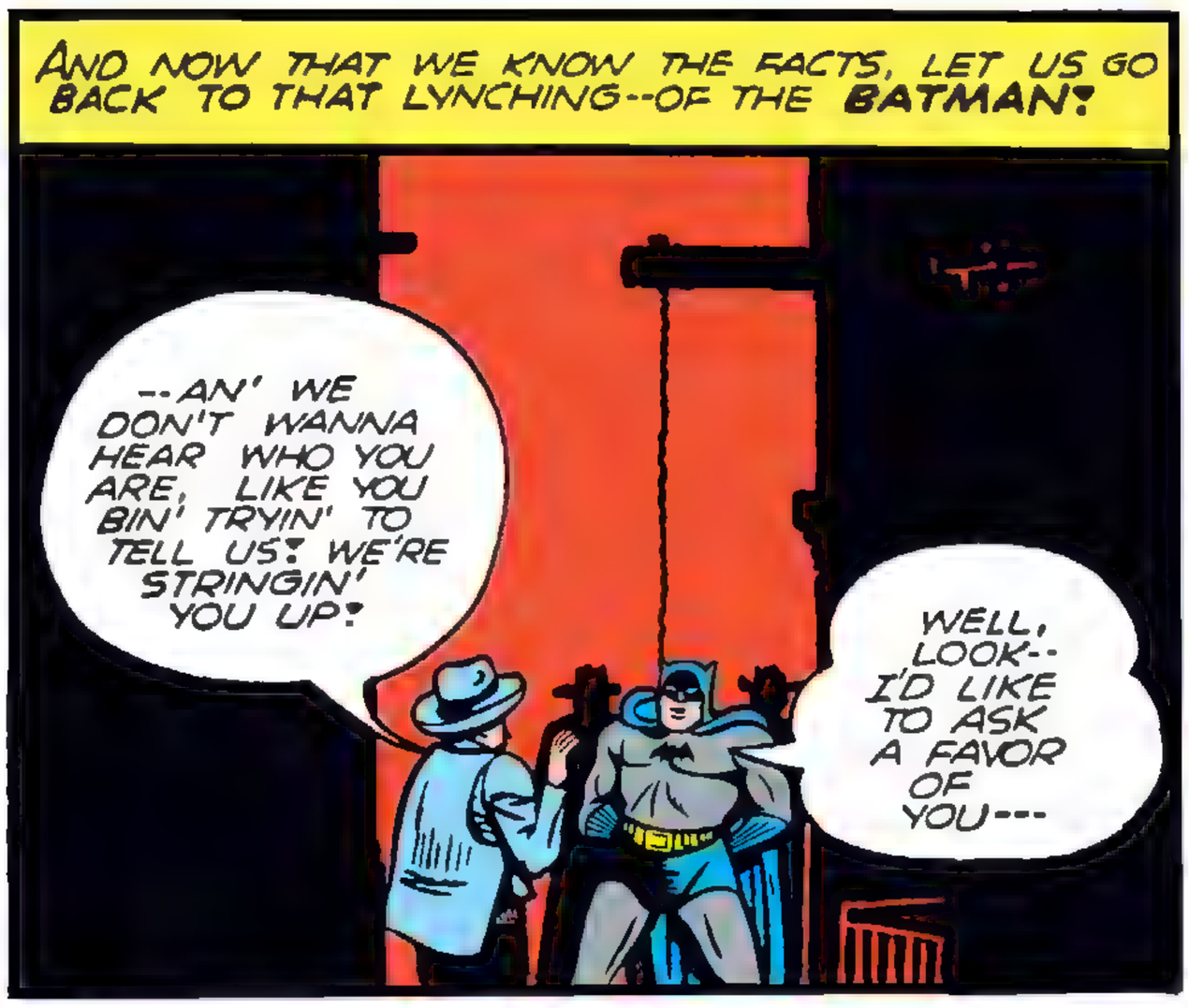
LISTEN! HOOF BEATS AND VOICES! THAT WOULD BE OUR IRATE CITIZENS FROM THE TOWN! THEY'RE AFTER US!
BUT ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS TELL WHO YOU ARE!

IF I KNOW THEM. THEY'RE TOO HOT-HEADED AT THE MOMENT FOR COOL LOGIC! ROBIN----- YOU HIDE WHILE I HANDLE THEM!
NOT ME! IF YOU'RE IN DANGER I WANT TO BE IN ON IT WITH YOU. I'M YOUR PAL!

SORRY, ROBIN-- BUT THIS IS ONE FIGHT I WANT YOU OUT OF!

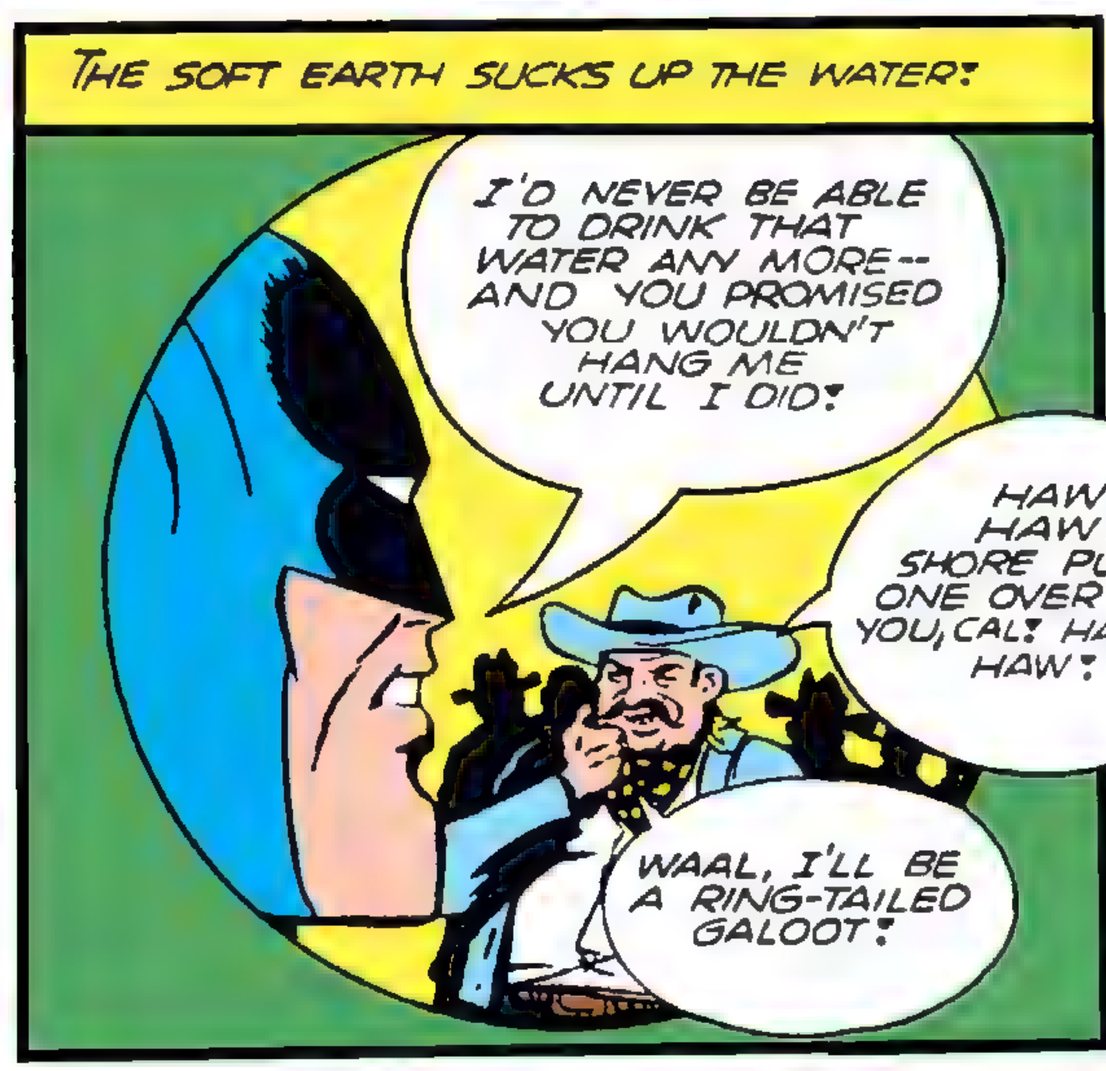

HIDING ROBIN BEHIND A LARGE BOULDER, BATMAN TURNS TO FACE THE ANGRY TOWNSPEOPLE:
LOOK! HE'S DRESSED IN A DIFFERENT COSTUME THAN THE OTHERS!
THERE'S ONE WHO DIDN'T GET AWAY!

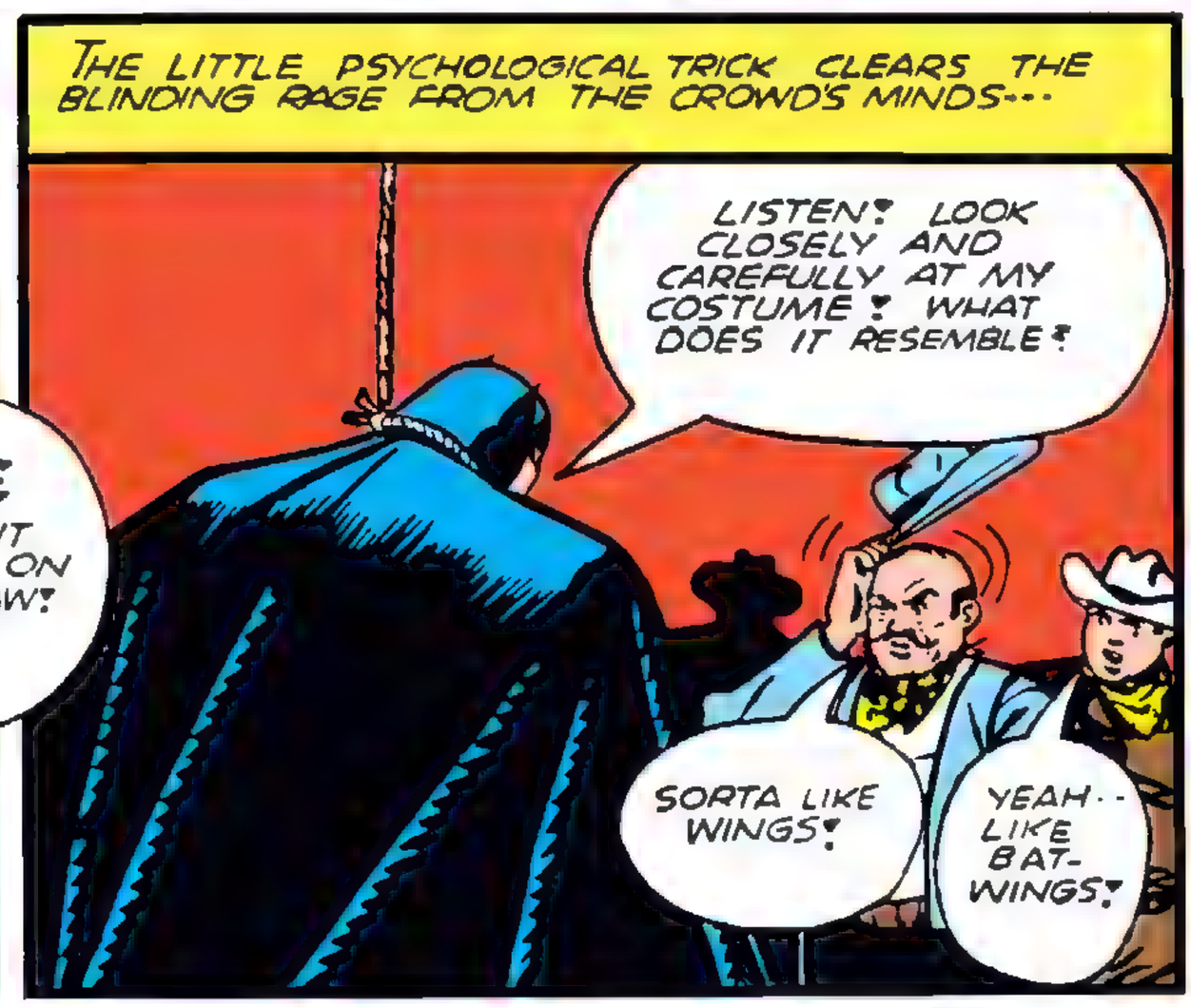

BOYS, I GOT A HUNCH WE CAUGHT US THE LEADER O' THE GHOST GANG!
AN' I GOTTA HUNCH WE'RE GOIN' TO HAVE US A NECK-TIE PARTY, EH?


AND NOW THAT WE KNOW THE FACTS, LET US GO BACK TO THAT LYNCHING--OF THE BATMAN!
--AN' WE DON'T WANNA HEAR WHO YOU ARE, LIKE YOU BIN' TRYIN' TO TELL US! WE'RE STRINGIN' YOU UP!
WELL, LOOK-- I'D LIKE TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU---

...WILL YOU BRING ME A GLASS OF WATER.... AND PROMISE NOT TO HANG ME UNTIL I FINISH DRINK'ING THE WATER IN THAT GLASS?
WAAL--I GUESS THERE'S NO HARM IN THET. I PROMISE!

THE GLASS OF WATER IS BROUGHT TO THE BATMAN'S LIPS, WHEN SUDDENLY..
HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?


THE SOFT EARTH SUCKS UP THE WATER!
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO DRINK THAT WATER ANY MORE-- AND YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T HANG ME UNTIL I DID!
HAW! HAW! SHORE PUT ONE OVER ON YOU, CAL! HAW! HAW!
WAAL, I'LL BE A RING-TAILED GALOOT!


THE LITTLE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRICK CLEARS THE BLINDING RAGE FROM THE CROWD'S MINDS...
LISTEN! LOOK CLOSELY AND CAREFULLY AT MY COSTUME! WHAT DOES IT RESEMBLE?
SORTA LIKE WINGS!
YEAH.. LIKE BAT-WINGS!

EXACTLY! I'M THE BATMAN!
SHORE, THET'S HIM ALL RIGHT! ... AND TO THINK WE ALMOST STRUNG UP THE BATMAN!
6

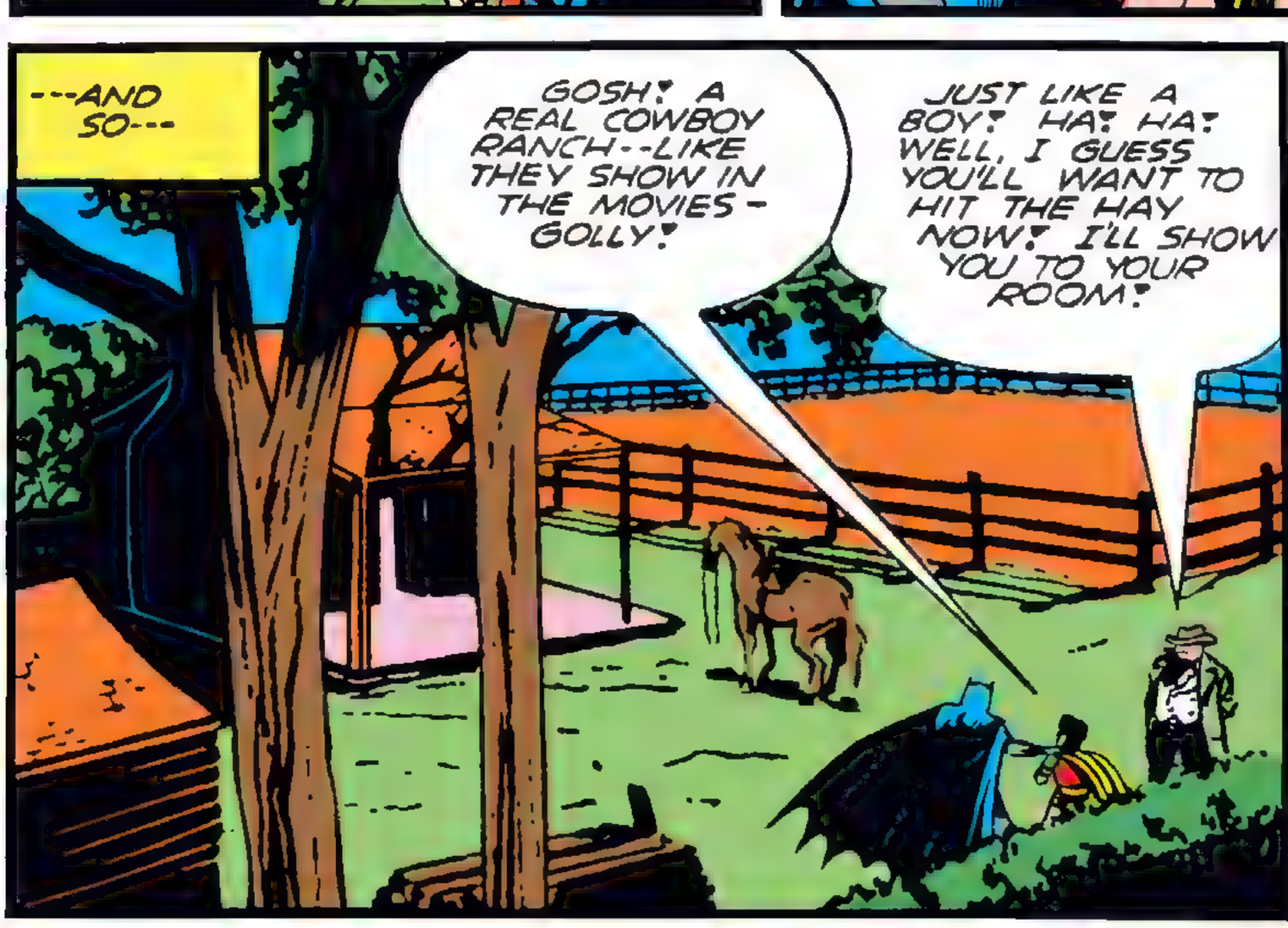
THE BATMAN IS FREED OF HIS BONDS...
SAY... YOU COME OUT HERE TO BUST UP THIS HERE GHOST GANG?
NOT ORIGINALLY, BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, I INTEND TO CLEAN UP THE GHOST GANG!

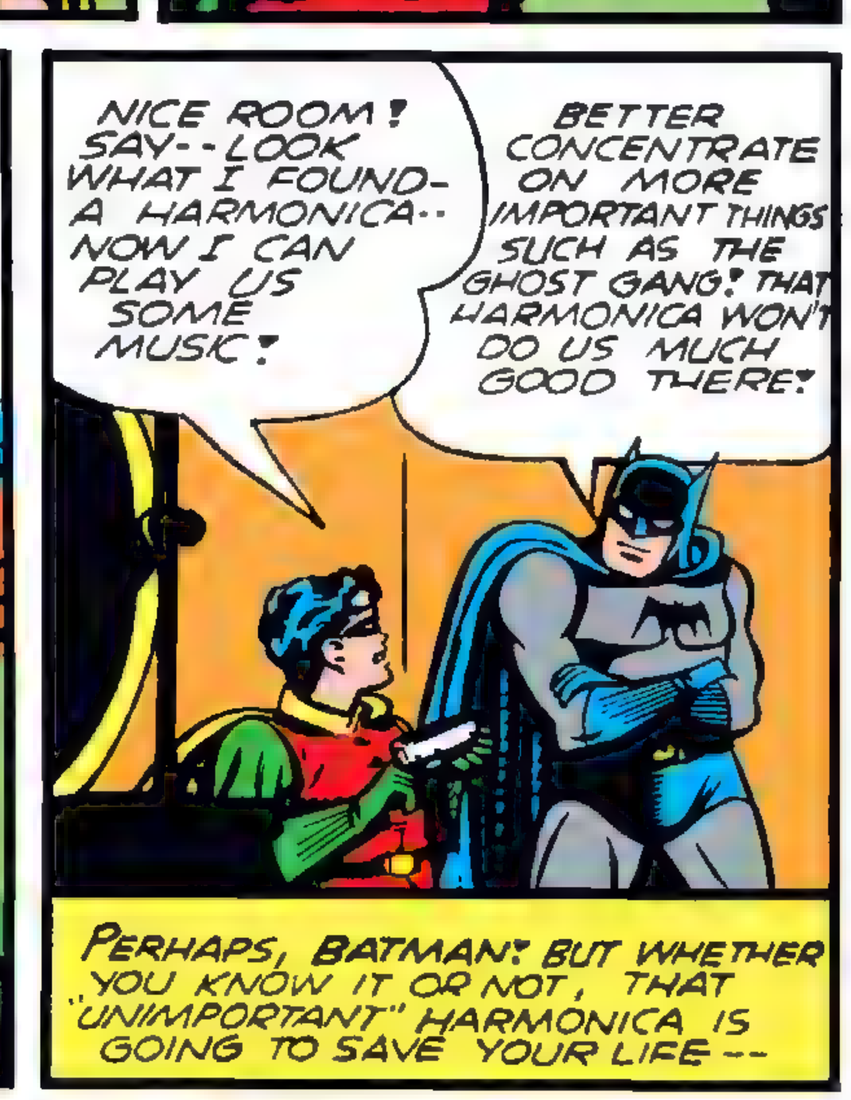
...NOW IF I CAN FIND A HOTEL AROUND HERE TO PUT ME UP FOR MY STAY!
NO NEED FOR A HOTEL, BATMAN! I'D BE RIGHT HONORED IF YOU BUNKED OUT AT MY PLACE!

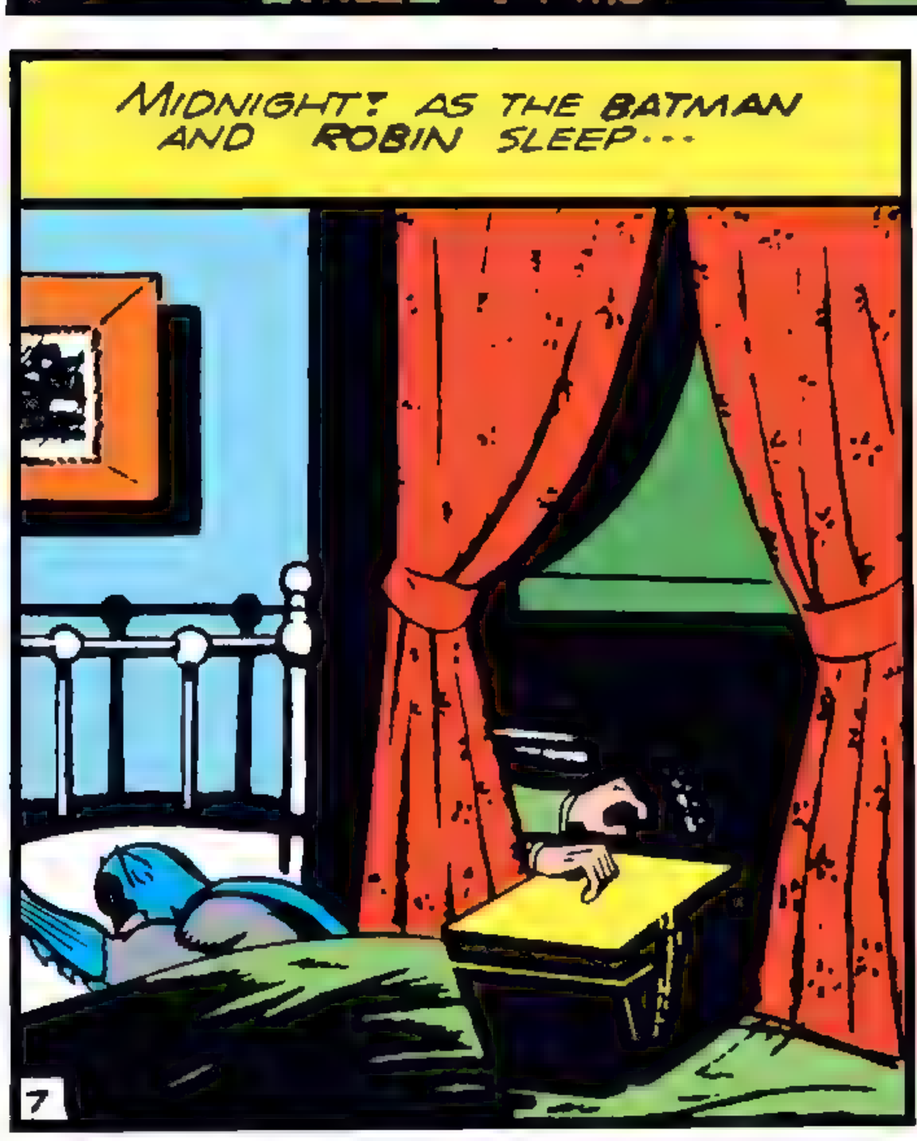
MEET LAFE BRUNT! HE OWNS JUST ABOUT THE BIGGEST RANCH 'ROUND HERE, THE BAR X!
MY HOME IS YOUR HOME AS LONG AS YOU AIM TO STAY HERE, BATMAN!
THANK YOU! I BELIEVE I'LL ACCEPT YOUR KIND OFFER! I'LL BE OVER LATER!

SOMETIME AFTER, BATMAN STEALS BACK TO ROBIN---
GOSH--I'M SORRY, ROBIN-- BUT ONE OF US HAD TO THINK WITH A CLEAR HEAD--
FORGET IT! WOW! YOU CERTAINLY PACK A PUNCH! I'M GLAD I'M PLAYING ON YOUR SIDE! MY JAW! OHHH!

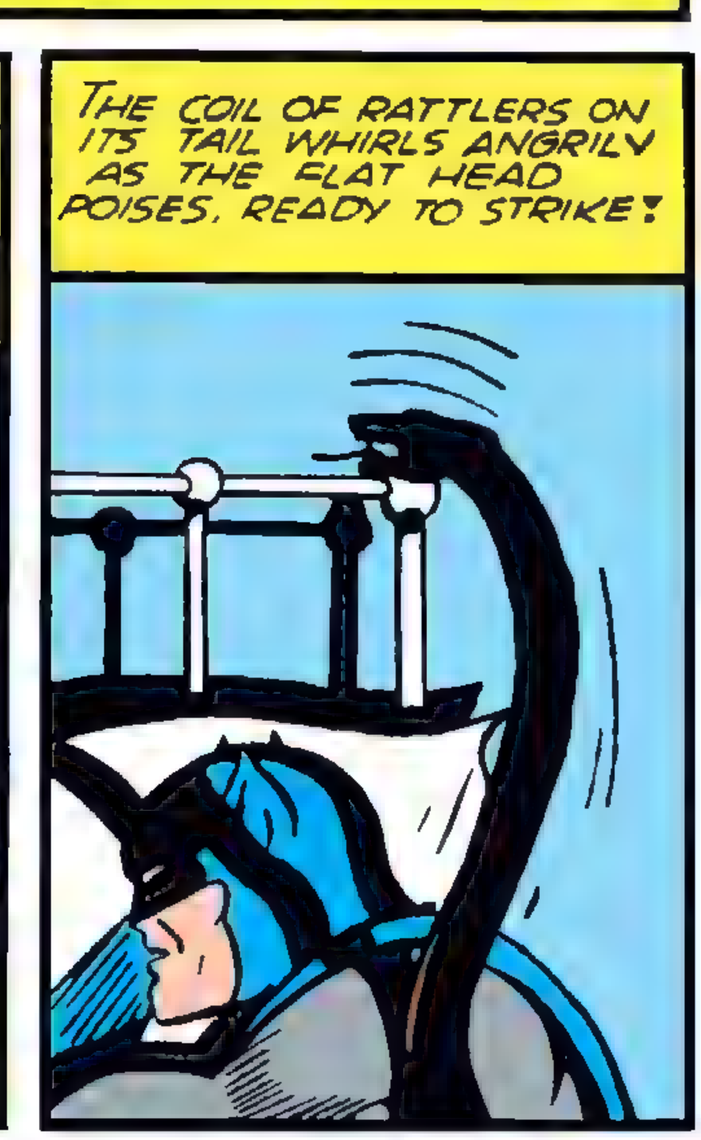
BATMAN ACQUAINTS ROBIN WITH THE SITUATION--
BUT IF EVERYONE KNOWS WE'RE STAYING AT BRUNT'S RANCH, THAT MEANS THE GHOST GANG--
-IS SURE TO LEARN IT AND TRY TO KILL US BEFORE WE DISCOVER TOO MUCH ABOUT THEM! WE'RE GOING TO BE BAIT TO BRING THEM INTO THE OPEN!


---AND SO---
GOSH! A REAL COWBOY RANCH--LIKE THEY SHOW IN THE MOVIES - GOLLY!
JUST LIKE A BOY! HA! HA! WELL, I GUESS YOU'LL WANT TO HIT THE HAY NOW! I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!

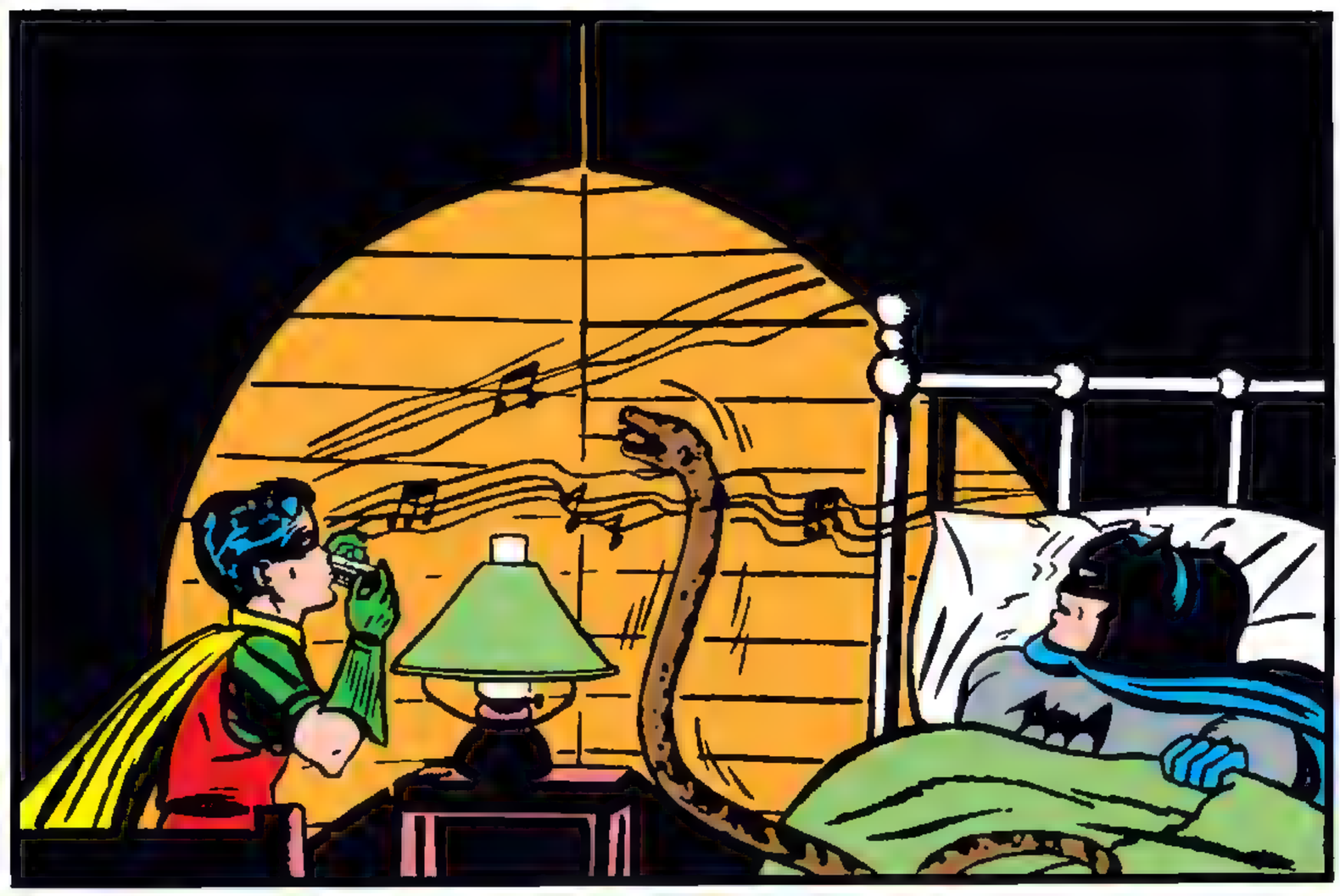

NICE ROOM! SAY--LOOK WHAT I FOUND- A HARMONICA-- NOW I CAN PLAY US SOME MUSIC!
BETTER CONCENTRATE ON MORE IMPORTANT THINGS SUCH AS THE GHOST GANG! THAT HARMONICA WON'T DO US MUCH GOOD THERE!
PERHAPS, BATMAN! BUT WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, THAT "UNIMPORTANT" HARMONICA IS GOING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE--

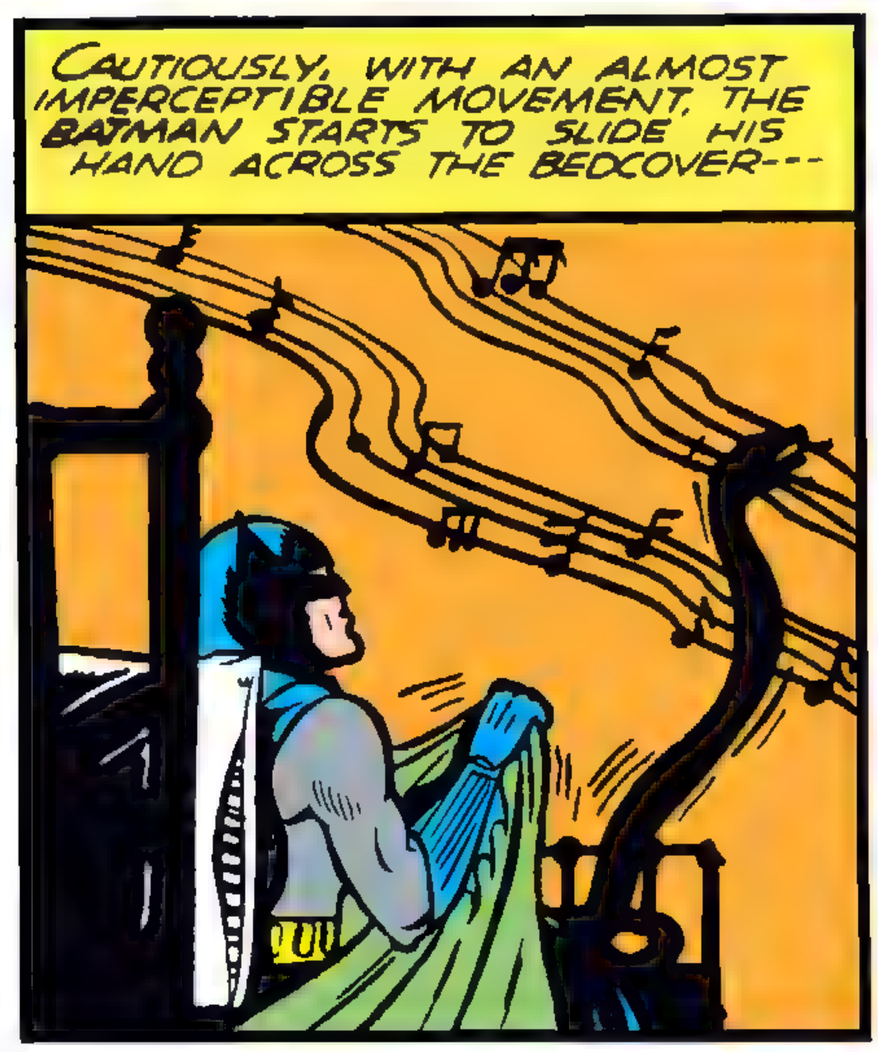

MIDNIGHT! AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SLEEP---
7

THE BOX LID SLOWLY LIFTS, AND THEN A SLIM SOMETHING SLIDES SINUOUSLY TOWARD THE SLEEPING BATMAN, A SNAKE! A MONSTER RATTLESNAKE!

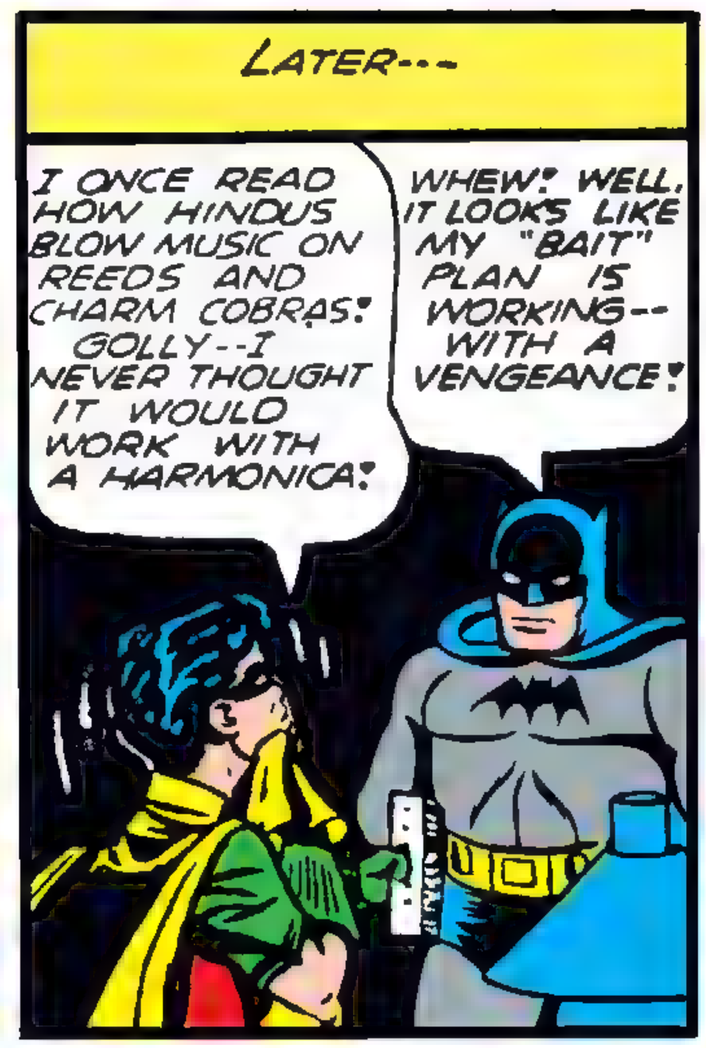

THE COIL OF RATTLERS ON ITS TAIL WHIRLS ANGRILY AS THE FLAT HEAD POISES, READY TO STRIKE!

THEN A MAD, CRAZY THING HAPPENS. SOMEBODY STARTS PLAYING MUSIC!



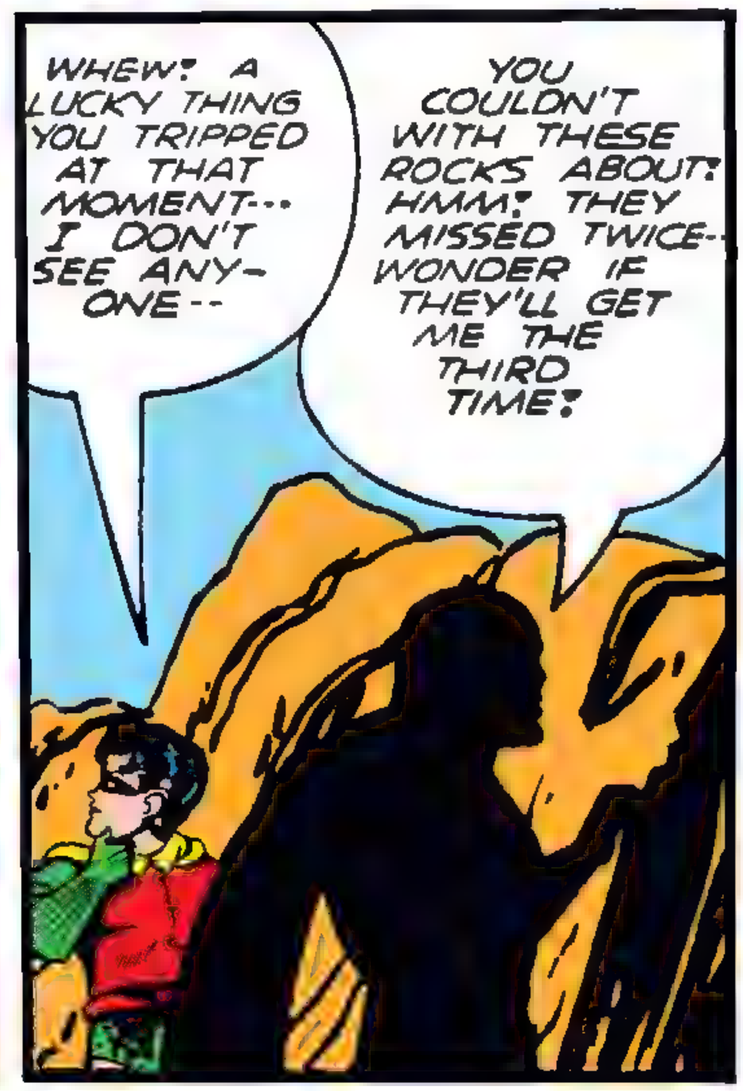

CAUTIOUSLY, WITH AN ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT, THE BATMAN STARTS TO SLIDE HIS HAND ACROSS THE BEDCOVER---

GOTCHA!


LATER---
I ONCE READ HOW HINDUS BLOW MUSIC ON REEDS AND CHARM COBRAS! GOLLY--I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD WORK WITH A HARMONICA!
WHEW! WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE MY "BAIT" PLAN IS WORKING--WITH A VENGEANCE!

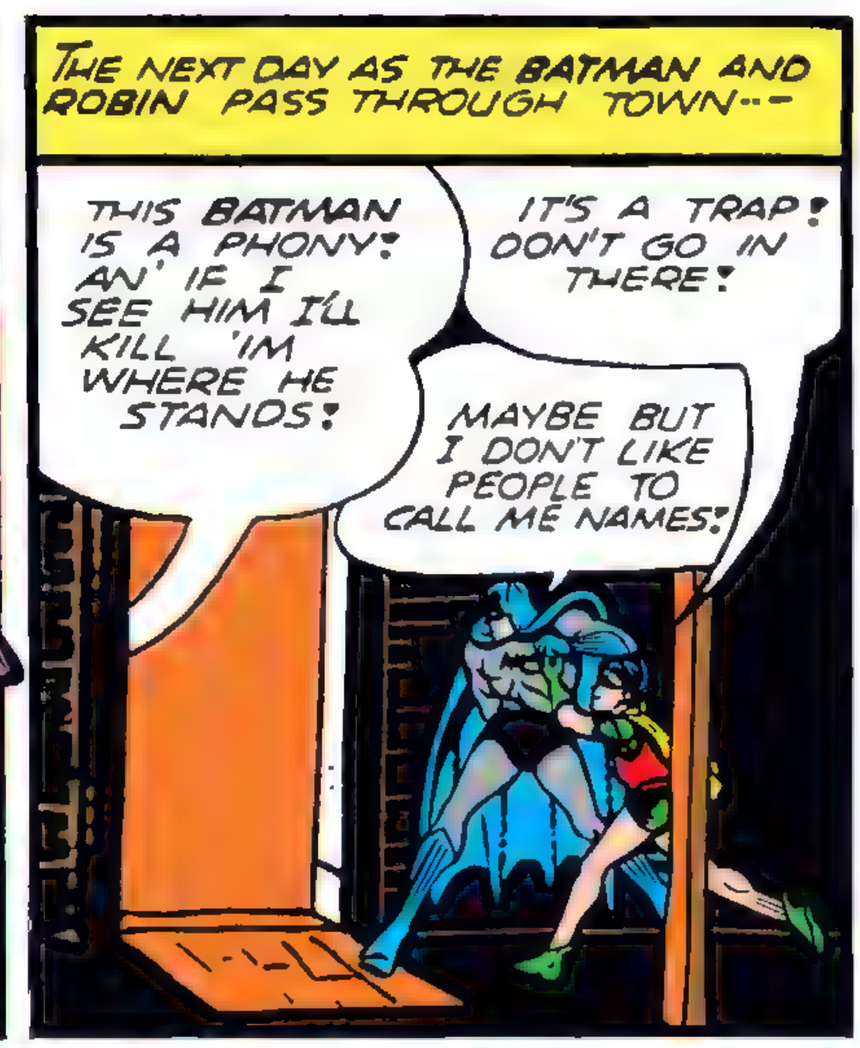
WHY--WHAT HAPPENED--WHAT--??
NOTHING MUCH! SOMEBODY IS AFTER MY HIDE--- HE MISSED THIS TIME BUT I'VE A HUNCH HE'LL TRY AGAIN!

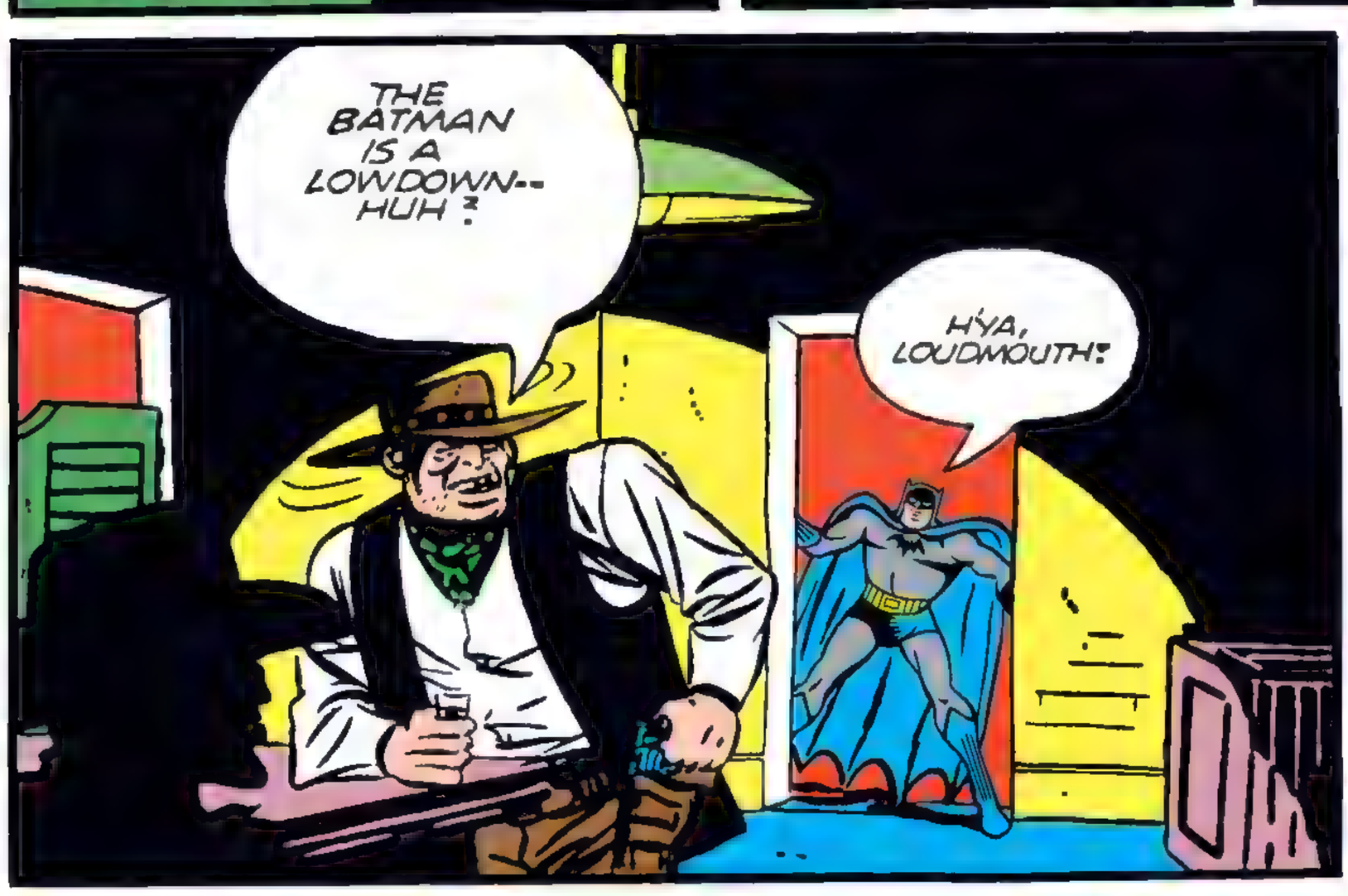
AND THEY DO TRY AGAIN, FOR THE NEXT DAY---
CRACK!
LOOK OUT FOR THAT ROCK!


WHEW! A LUCKY THING YOU TRIPPED AT THAT MOMENT--- I DON'T SEE ANYONE--
YOU COULDN'T WITH THESE ROCKS ABOUT! HMM! THEY MISSED TWICE--WONDER IF THEY'LL GET ME THE THIRD TIME!

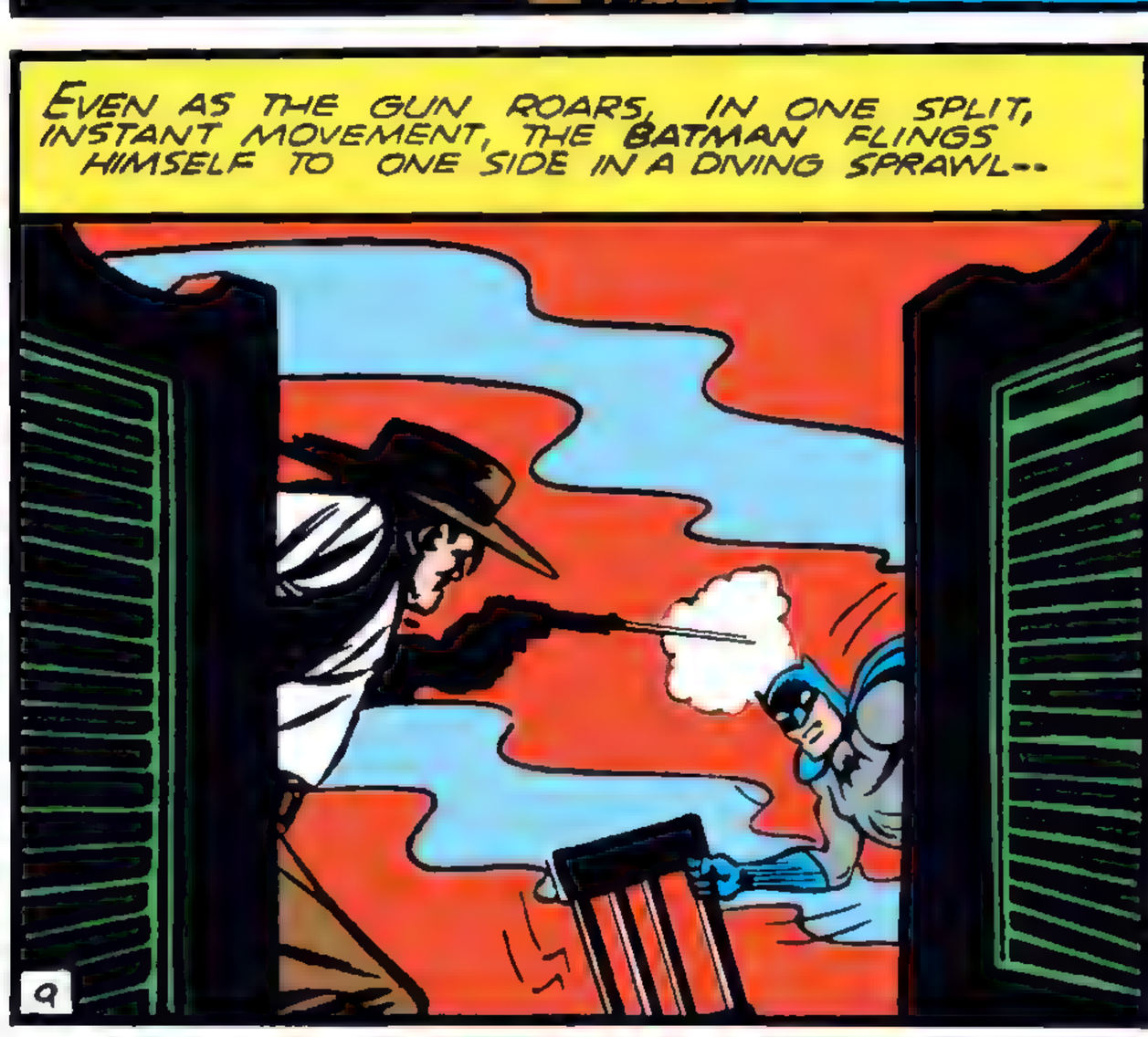
LATER--IN A SECRET HIDEOUT--
YOU JUST CAN'T KILL THAT GUY!
HE'S GOTTA BE KILLED BEFORE HE FINDS OUT THAT WE'RE THE GHOST GANG!

WE GOTTA TRAP THE BATMAN AND I KNOW HOW! TOMORROW HE'S GOIN' TO TALK WITH THE SHERIFF-- NOW LISTEN--

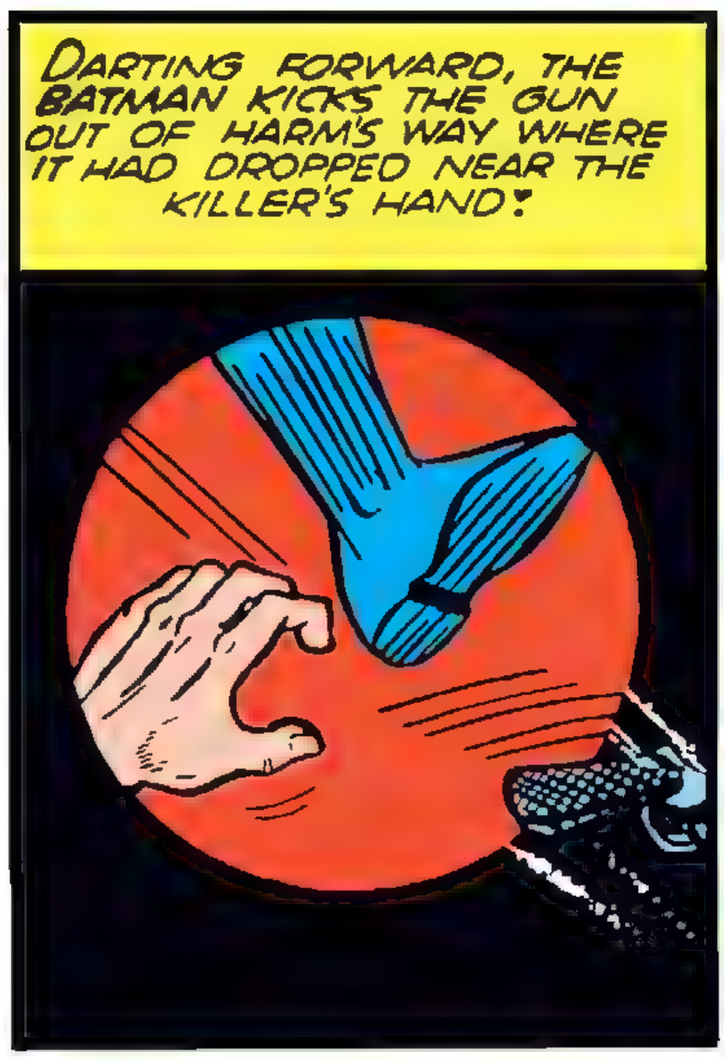

THE NEXT DAY AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN PASS THROUGH TOWN--
THIS BATMAN IS A PHONY! AN' IF I SEE HIM I'LL KILL 'IM WHERE HE STANDS!
IT'S A TRAP! DON'T GO IN THERE!
MAYBE BUT I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE TO CALL ME NAMES!


THE BATMAN IS A LOWDOWN-- HUH?
HI'YA, LOUDMOUTH!

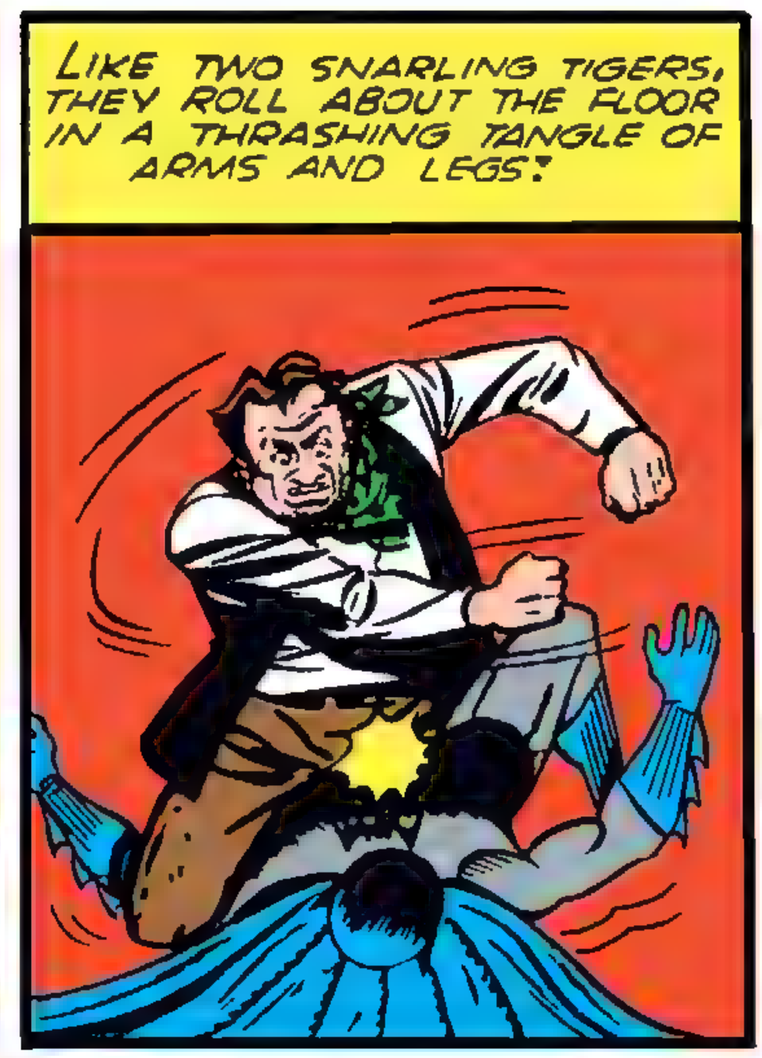
OH, IT'S YOU, EH? OKAY-- COME AND GET IT!
I'M COMING!

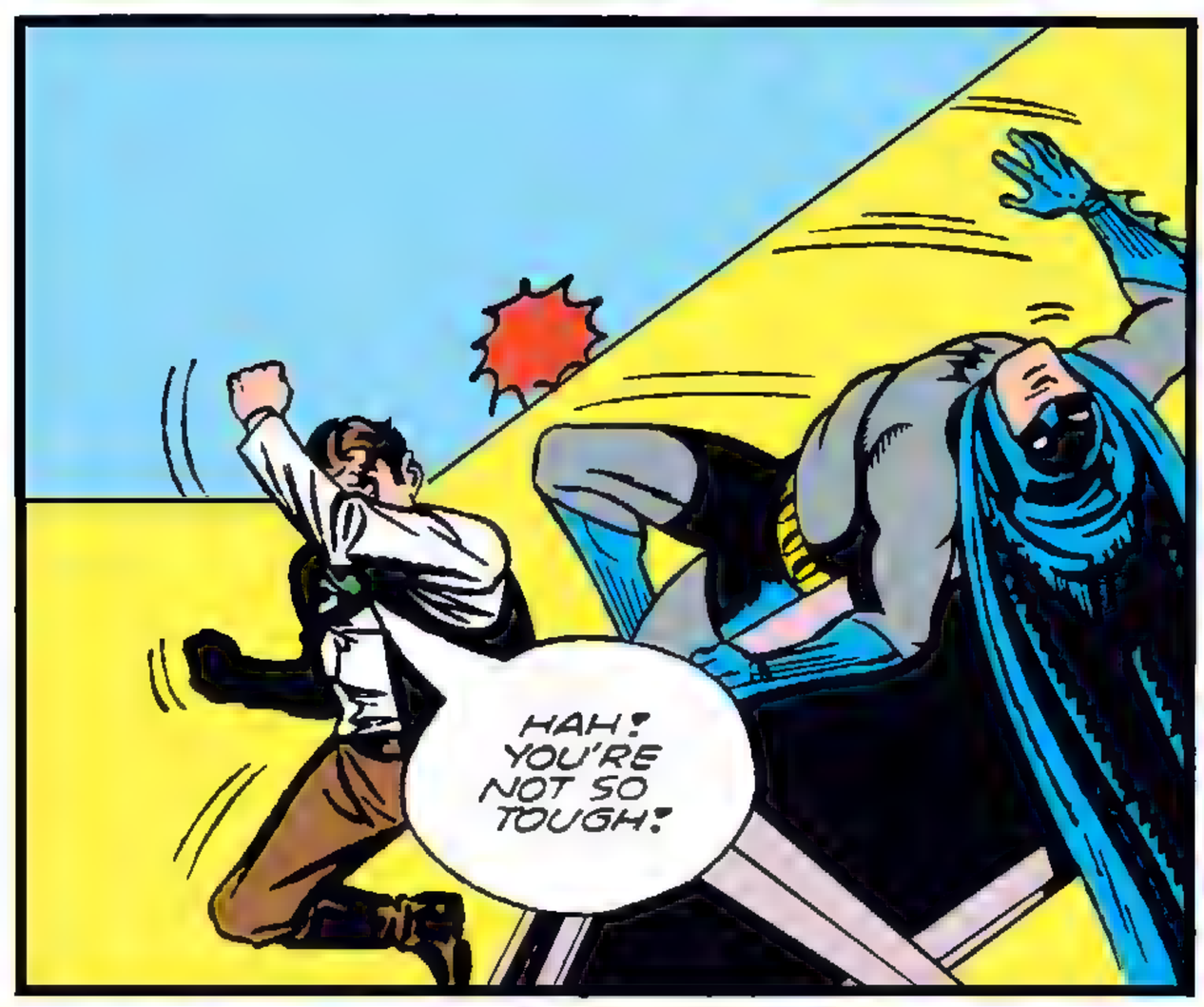

EVEN AS THE GUN ROARS, IN ONE SPLIT, INSTANT MOVEMENT, THE BATMAN FLINGS HIMSELF TO ONE SIDE IN A DIVING SPRAWL--

DROP THE ARTILLERY-- AND WE'LL TALK IT OVER-- MY WAY!

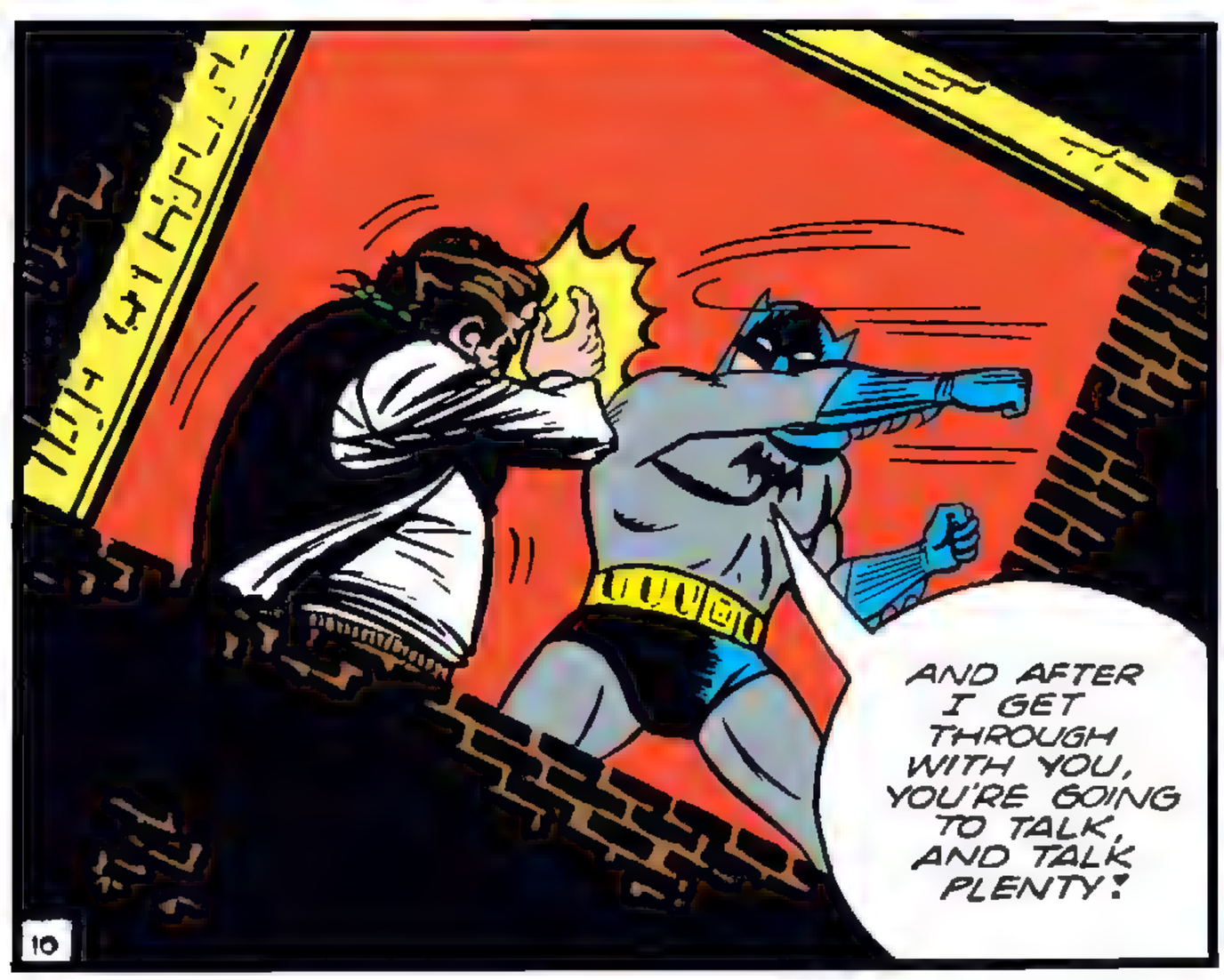

DARTING FORWARD, THE BATMAN KICKS THE GUN OUT OF HARM'S WAY WHERE IT HAD DROPPED NEAR THE KILLER'S HAND!

LET'S MAKE IT A NICE EVEN FIGHT, EH?
THAT SUITS ME FINE!

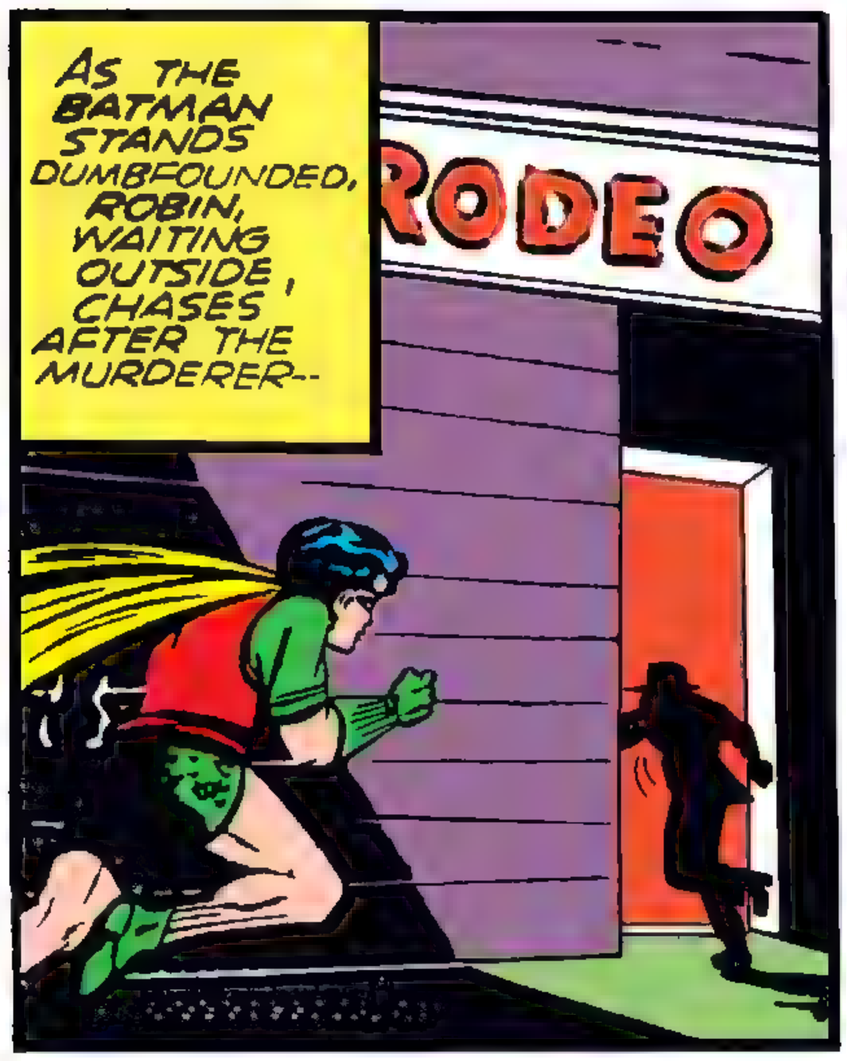

LIKE TWO SNARLING TIGERS, THEY ROLL ABOUT THE FLOOR IN A THRASHING TANGLE OF ARMS AND LEGS!

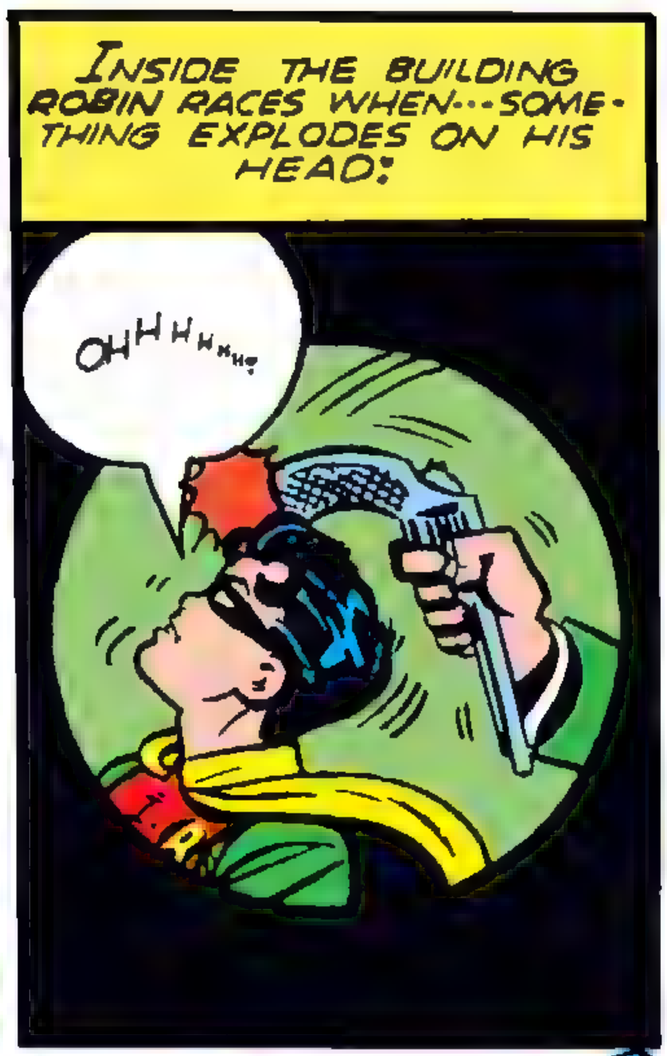

HAH! YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH!

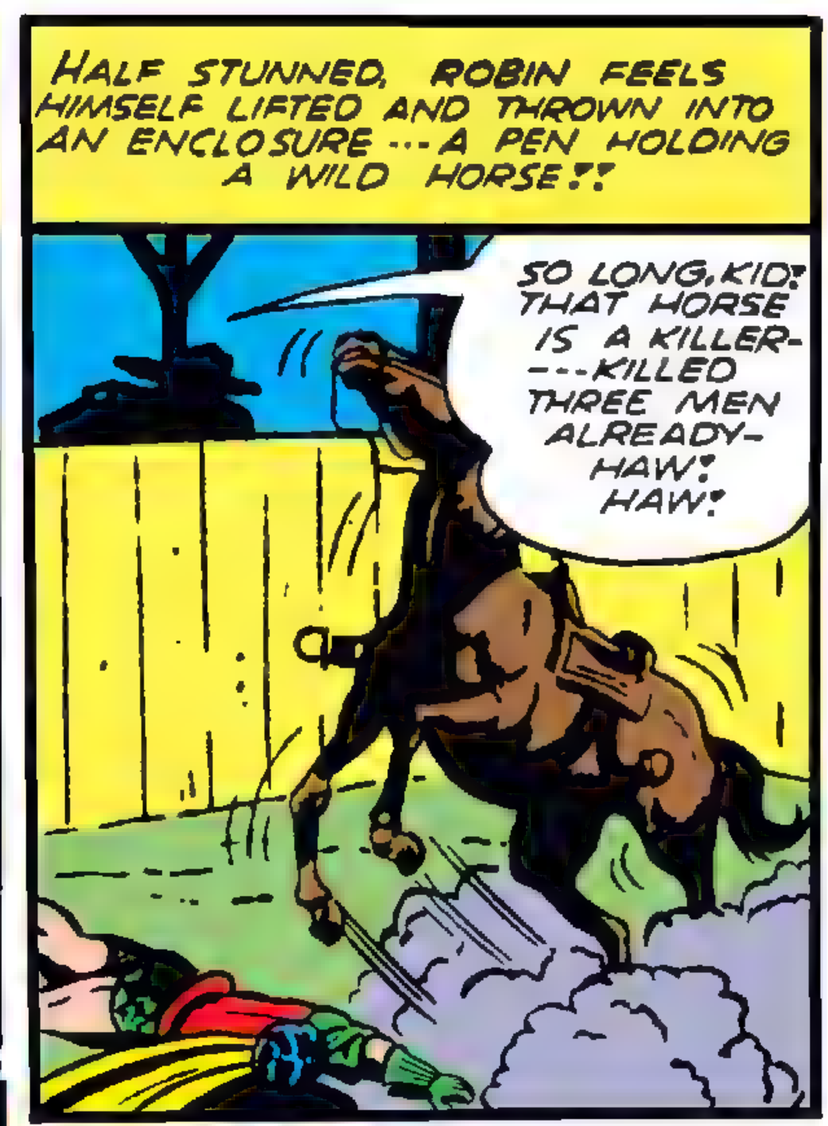
AND YOU'RE JUST A BIT TOO OPTIMISTIC!

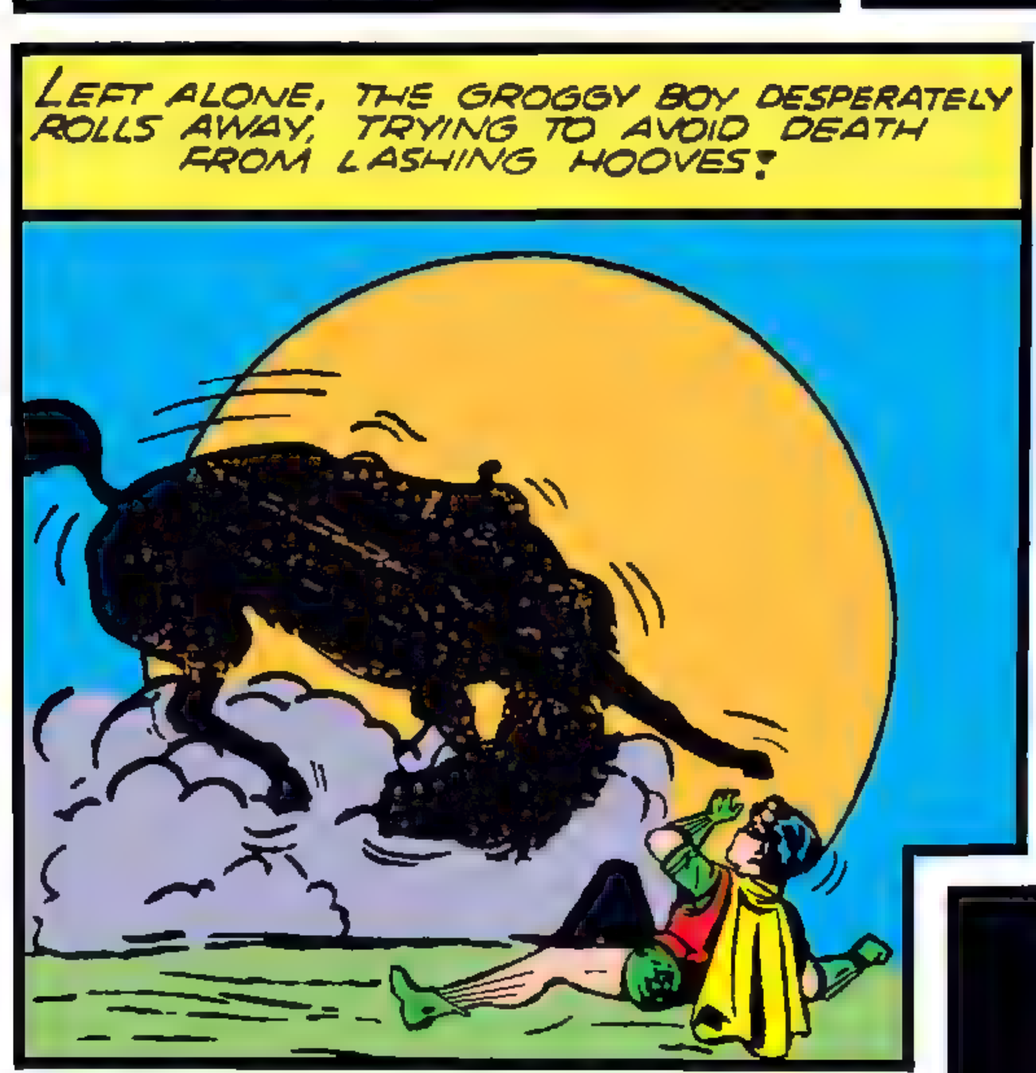

AND AFTER I GET THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU'RE GOING TO TALK, AND TALK PLENTY!
10

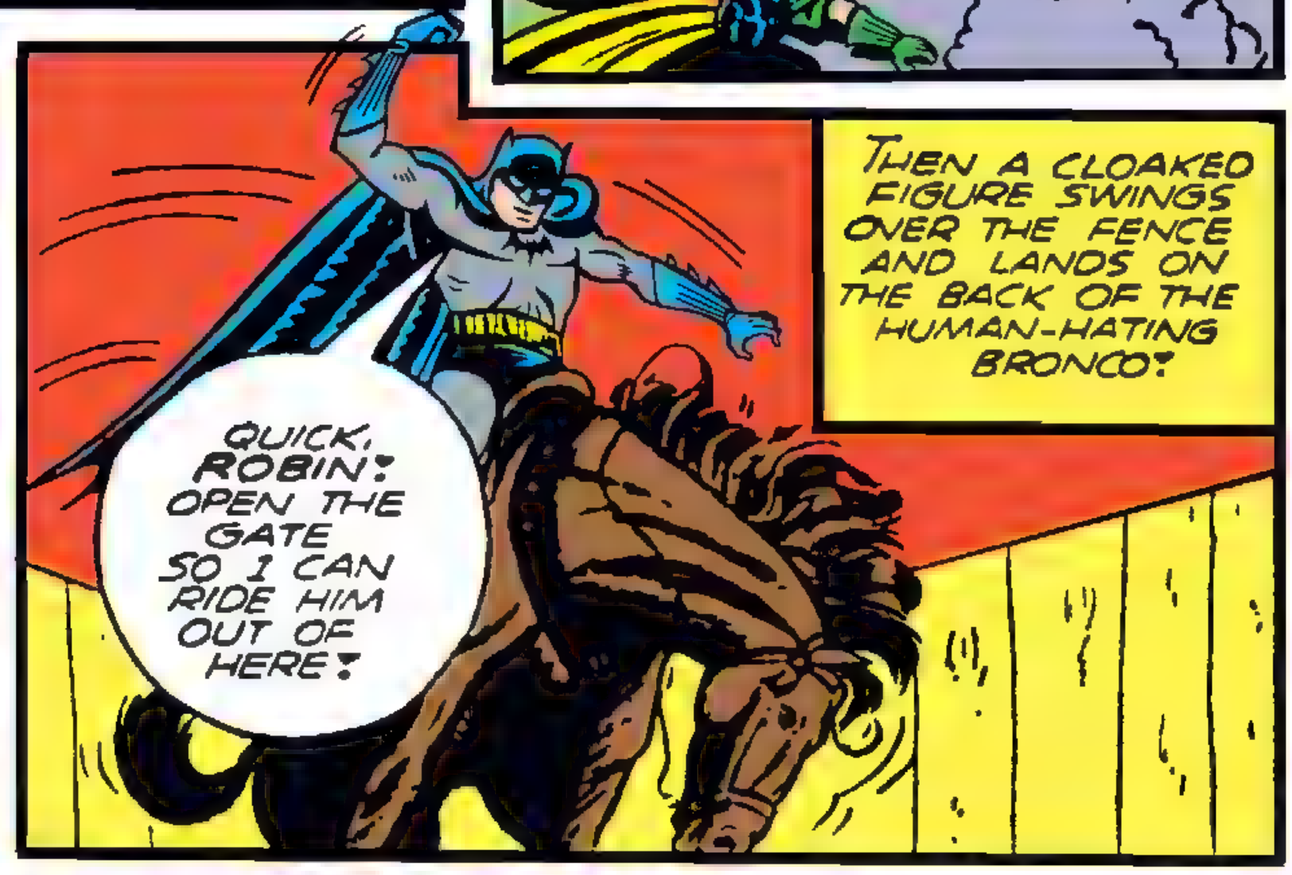
WITHOUT WARNING---THE CRACK OF A GUN!
UGH! I'M SHOT!

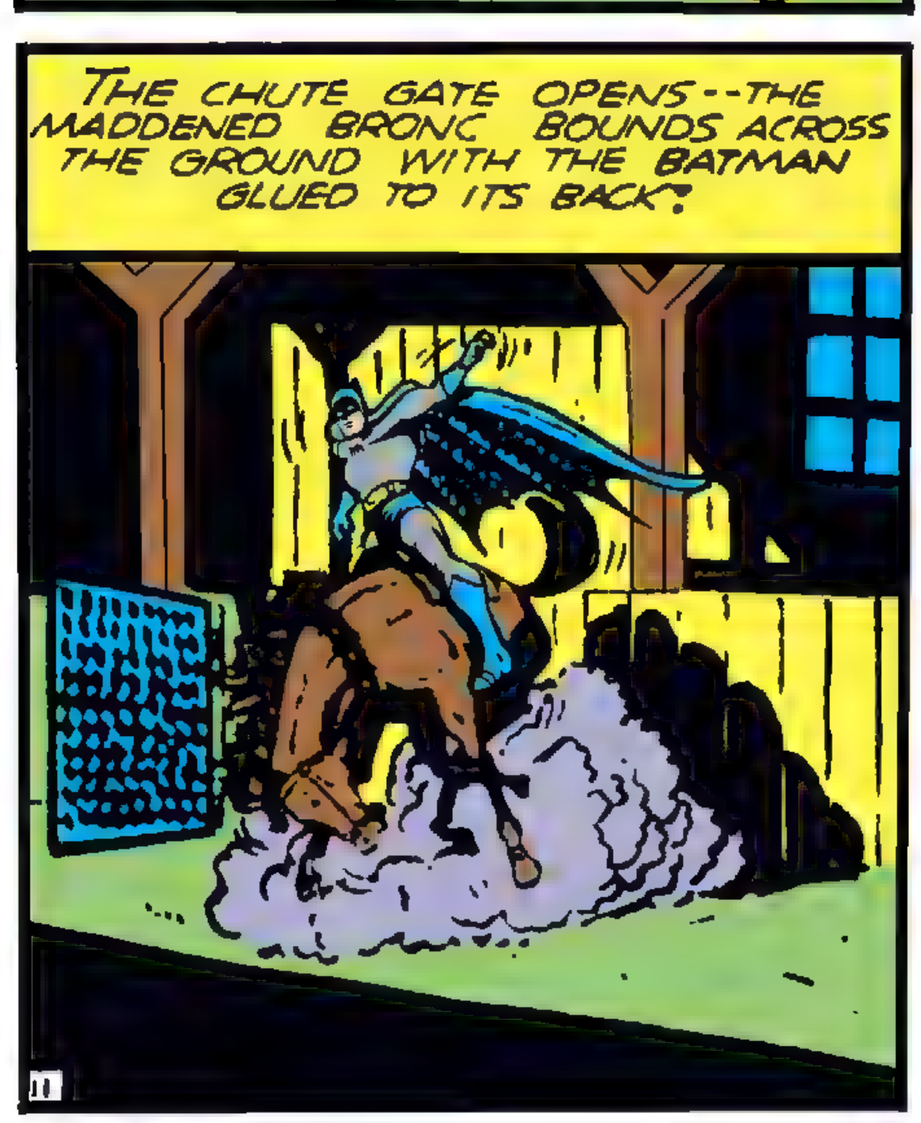

AS THE BATMAN STANDS DUMBFOUNDED, ROBIN, WAITING OUTSIDE, CHASES AFTER THE MURDERER--
RODEO

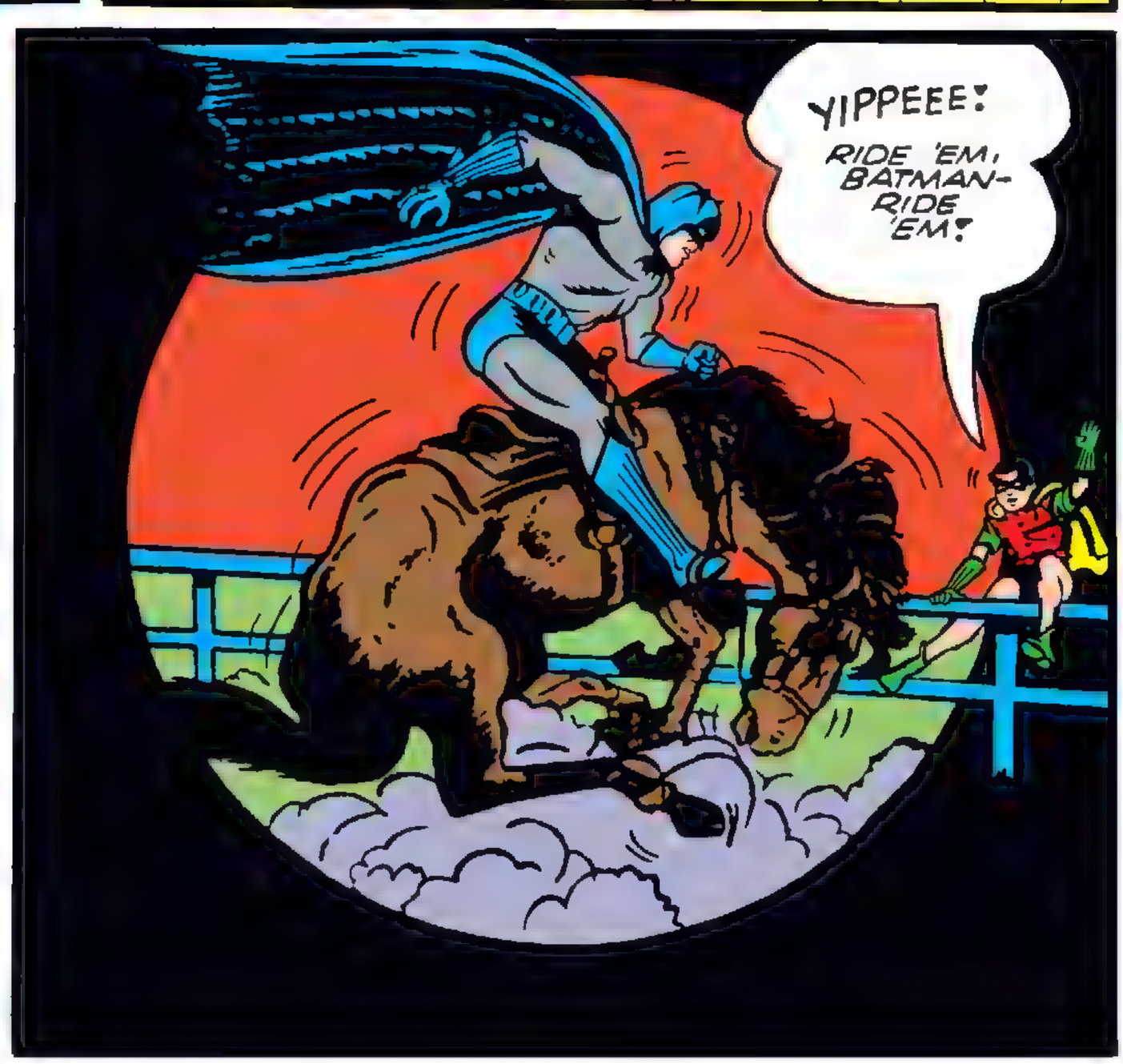

INSIDE THE BUILDING ROBIN RACES WHEN---SOMETHING EXPLODES ON HIS HEAD!
OHHHHHH!

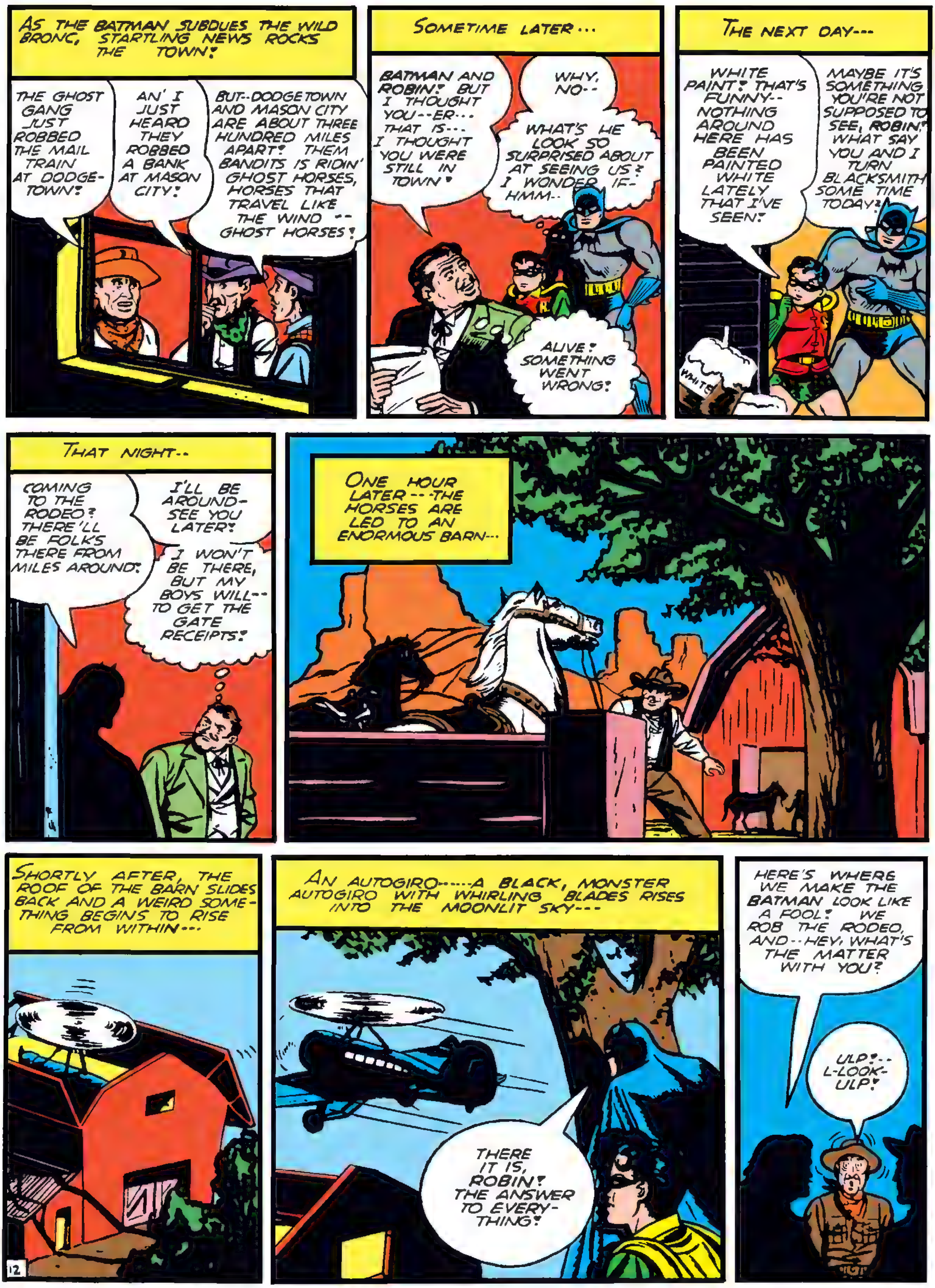

HALF STUNNED, ROBIN FEELS HIMSELF LIFTED AND THROWN INTO AN ENCLOSURE---A PEN HOLDING A WILD HORSE!!
SO LONG, KID! THAT HORSE IS A KILLER---KILLED THREE MEN ALREADY-HAW! HAW!

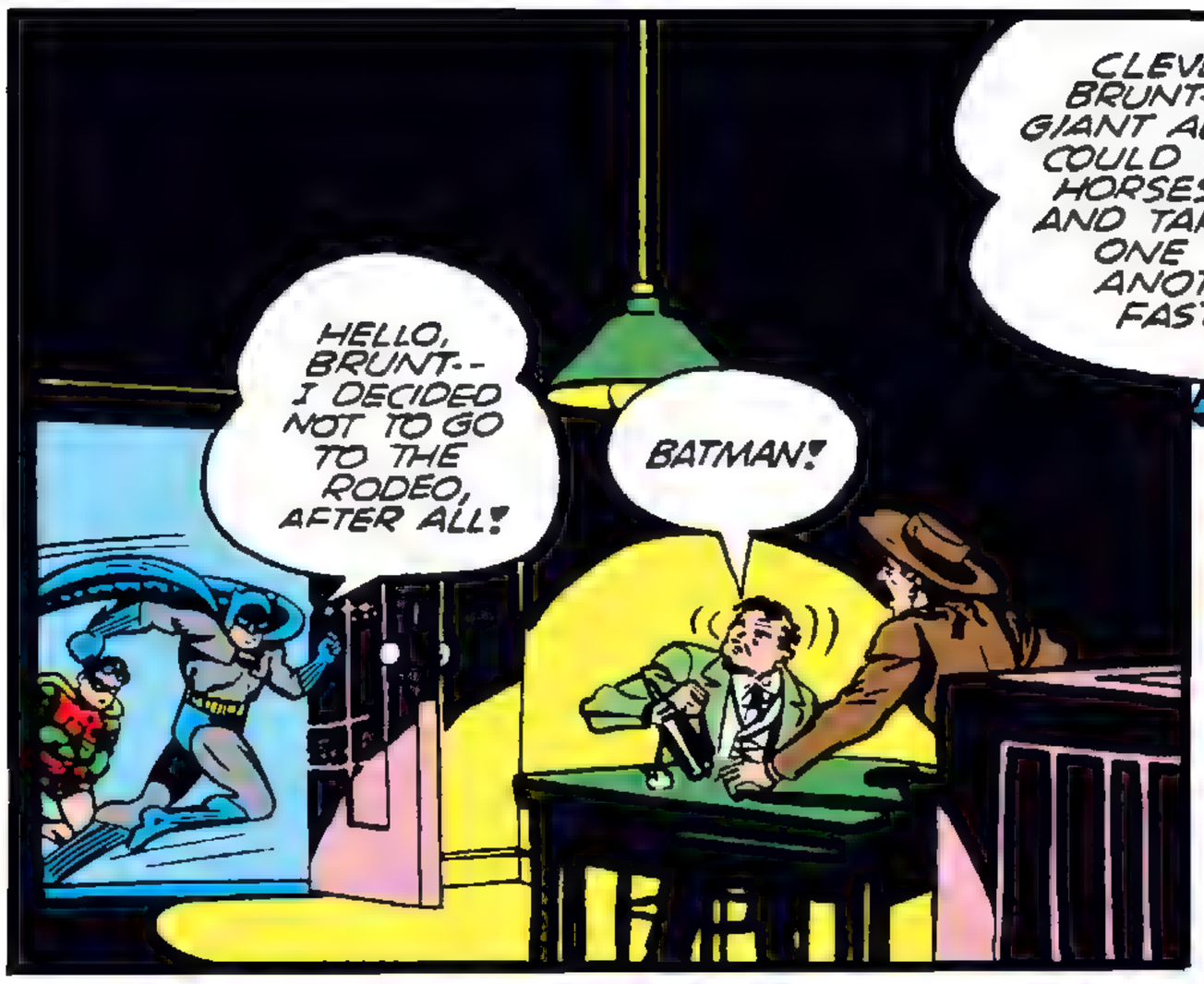

LEFT ALONE, THE GROGGY BOY DESPERATELY ROLLS AWAY, TRYING TO AVOID DEATH FROM LASHING HOOVES!


THEN A CLOAKED FIGURE SWINGS OVER THE FENCE AND LANDS ON THE BACK OF THE HUMAN-HATING BRONCO!
QUICK, ROBIN! OPEN THE GATE SO I CAN RIDE HIM OUT OF HERE!

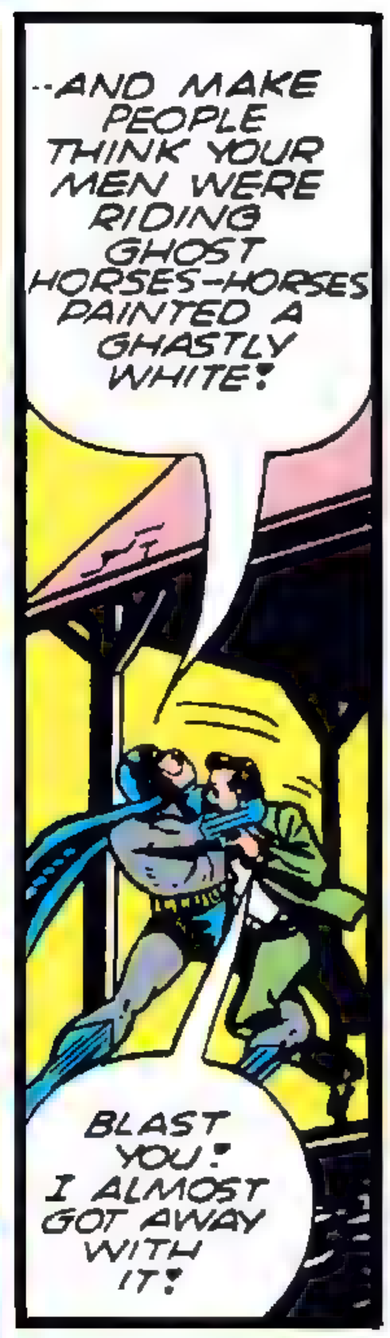

THE CHUTE GATE OPENS--THE MADDENED BRONC BOUNDS ACROSS THE GROUND WITH THE BATMAN GLUED TO ITS BACK!

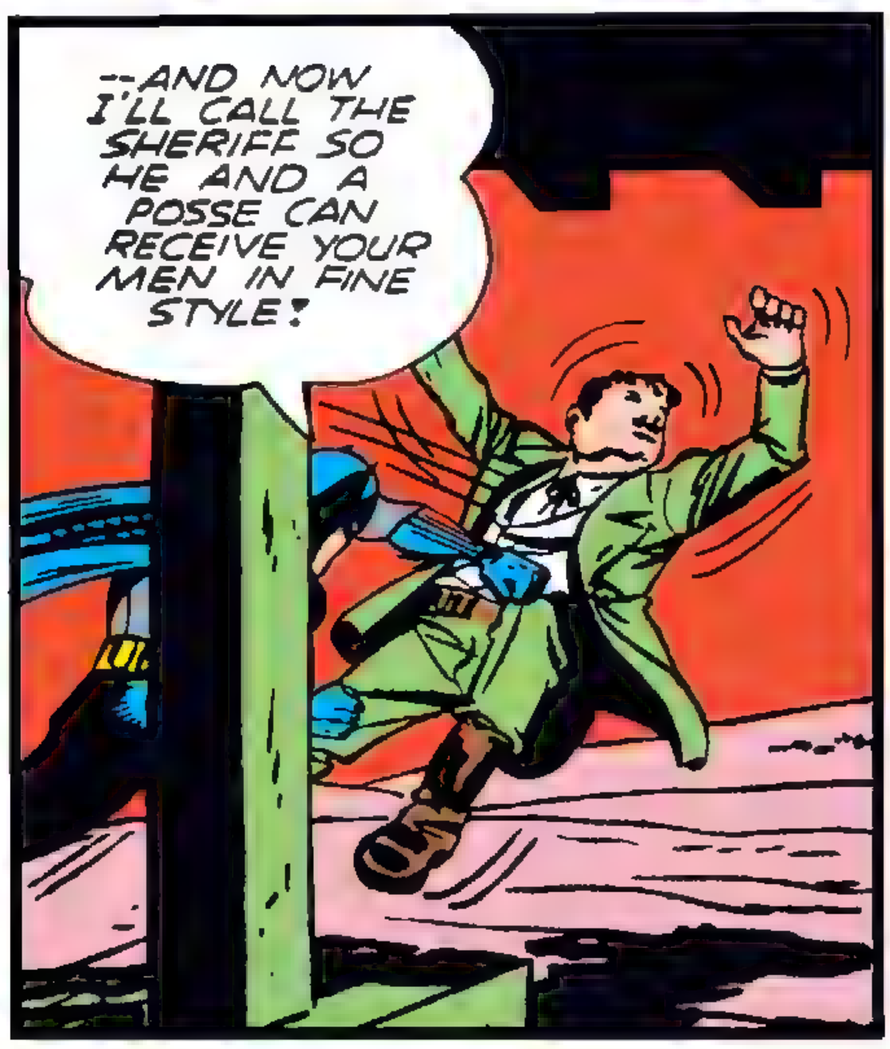

YIPPEEE! RIDE 'EM, BATMAN-RIDE 'EM!

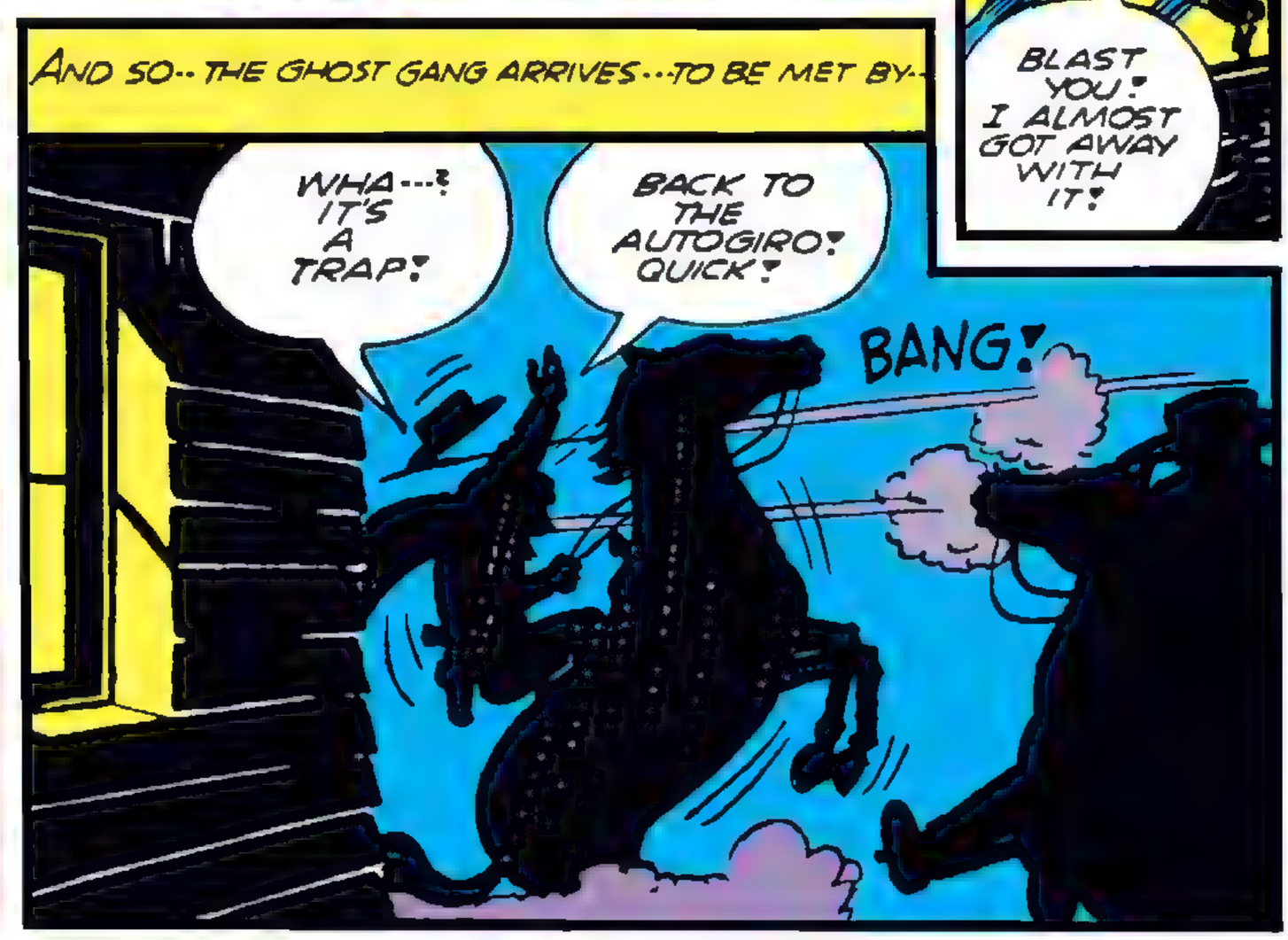

AS THE BATMAN SUBDUES THE WILD BRONC, STARTLING NEWS ROCKS THE TOWN!
THE GHOST GANG JUST ROBBED THE MAIL TRAIN AT DODGE-TOWN!
AN' I JUST HEARD THEY ROBBED A BANK AT MASON CITY!
BUT--DODGETOWN AND MASON CITY ARE ABOUT THREE HUNDRED MILES APART! THEM BANDITS IS RIDIN' GHOST HORSES, HORSES THAT TRAVEL LIKE THE WIND -- GHOST HORSES!
SOMETIME LATER...
BATMAN AND ROBIN! BUT I THOUGHT YOU--ER... THAT IS... I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL IN TOWN!
WHY, NO--
WHAT'S HE LOOK SO SURPRISED ABOUT AT SEEING US? I WONDER IF- HMM..
ALIVE! SOMETHING WENT WRONG!
THE NEXT DAY---
WHITE PAINT! THAT'S FUNNY-- NOTHING AROUND HERE HAS BEEN PAINTED WHITE LATELY THAT I'VE SEEN!
MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE, ROBIN! WHAT SAY YOU AND I TURN BLACKSMITH SOME TIME TODAY?
WHITE
THAT NIGHT--
COMING TO THE RODEO? THERE'LL BE FOLK'S THERE FROM MILES AROUND!
I'LL BE AROUND- SEE YOU LATER!
I WON'T BE THERE, BUT MY BOYS WILL-- TO GET THE GATE RECEIPTS!
ONE HOUR LATER---THE HORSES ARE LED TO AN ENORMOUS BARN...
SHORTLY AFTER, THE ROOF OF THE BARN SLIDES BACK AND A WEIRD SOME-THING BEGINS TO RISE FROM WITHIN...
12
AN AUTOGIRO-----A BLACK, MONSTER AUTOGIRO WITH WHIRLING BLADES RISES INTO THE MOONLIT SKY---
THERE IT IS, ROBIN! THE ANSWER TO EVERY-THING!
HERE'S WHERE WE MAKE THE BATMAN LOOK LIKE A FOOL! WE ROB THE RODEO, AND--HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
ULP!.. L-LOOK- ULP!

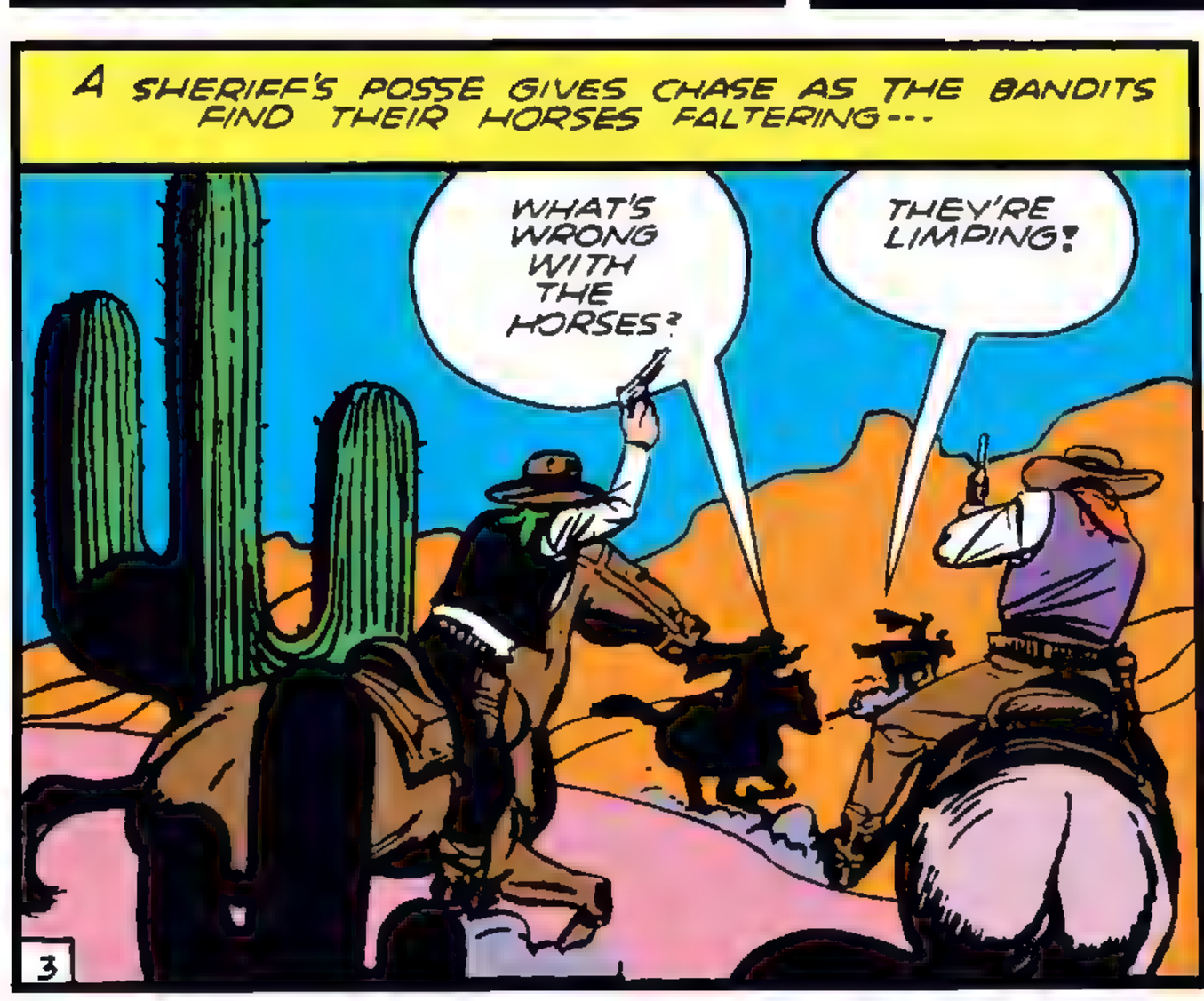

HELLO, BRUNT-- I DECIDED NOT TO GO TO THE RODEO, AFTER ALL!
BATMAN!

CLEVER STUNT, BRUNT--HAVING A GIANT AUTOGIRO THAT COULD CARRY SOME HORSES AND MEN-- AND TAKE THEM FROM ONE TOWN TO ANOTHER IN FAST TIME--


--AND MAKE PEOPLE THINK YOUR MEN WERE RIDING GHOST HORSES--HORSES PAINTED A GHASTLY WHITE!
BLAST YOU! I ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH IT!


--AND NOW I'LL CALL THE SHERIFF SO HE AND A POSSE CAN RECEIVE YOUR MEN IN FINE STYLE!

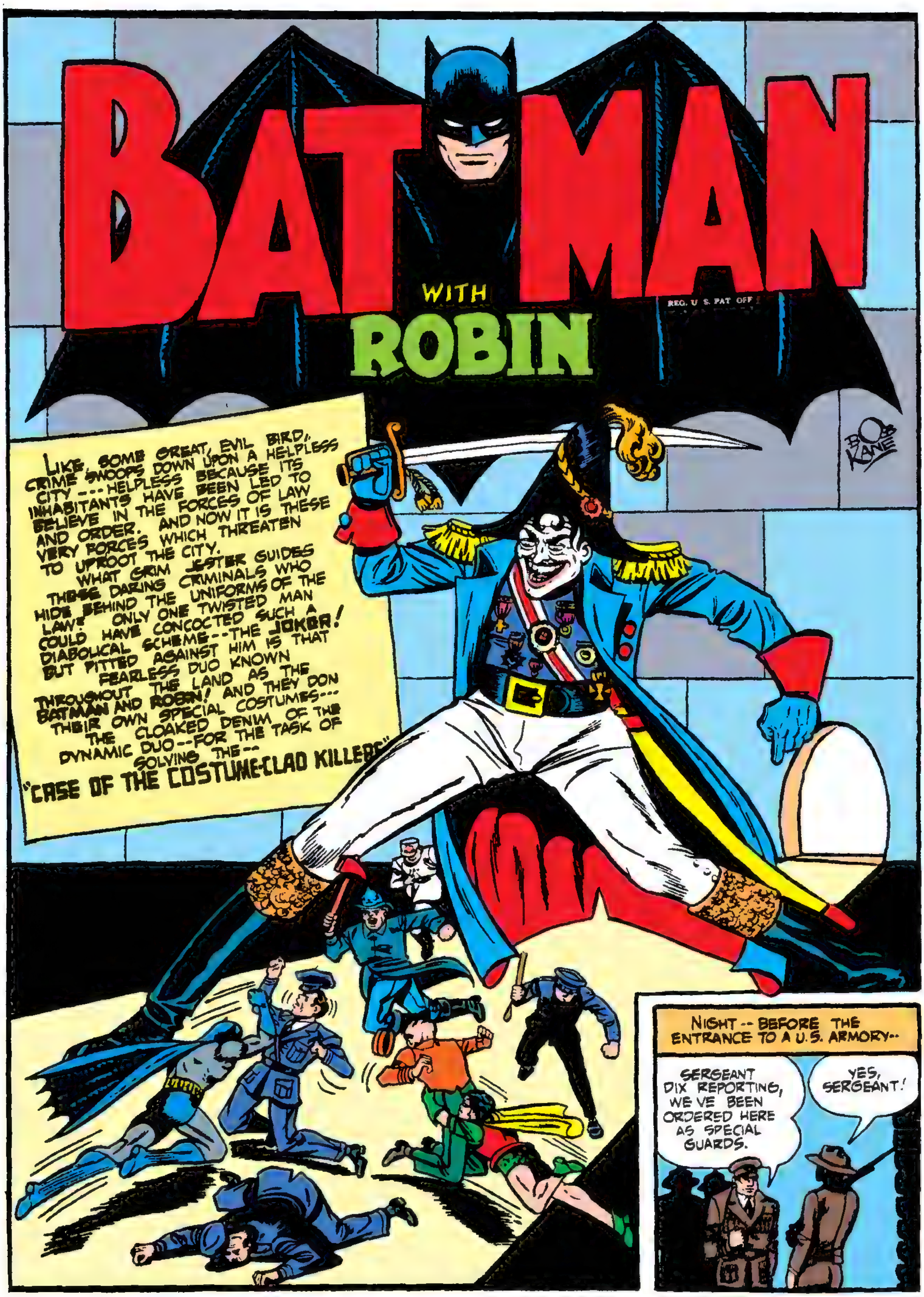

AND SO-- THE GHOST GANG ARRIVES--TO BE MET BY--
WHA---? IT'S A TRAP!
BACK TO THE AUTOGIRO! QUICK!
BANG!


A SHERIFF'S POSSE GIVES CHASE AS THE BANDITS FIND THEIR HORSES FALTERING---
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE HORSES?
THEY'RE LIMPING!
3

WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP TO THE SHERIFF RIGHT NOW! THESE HORSES CAN'T CARRY US ANY FURTHER!

SOMEBODY REMOVED THE HORSES' SHOES FROM THEIR HOOVES!
GOLLY. I WISH I COULD SEE THE FACES OF THOSE BANDITS WHEN THEY FIND THE HORSES WITHOUT SHOES!
TSK! TSK!

No. 60
The BATMAN
Detective
REG U S PAT OFF
FEB.
COMICS
A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION
IND


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
BOB KANE
LIKE SOME GREAT, EVIL BIRD, CRIME SWOOPS DOWN UPON A HELPLESS CITY --- HELPLESS BECAUSE ITS INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE IN THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER. AND NOW IT IS THESE VERY FORCES WHICH THREATEN TO UPROOT THE CITY.
WHAT GRIM JESTER GUIDES THESE DARING CRIMINALS WHO HIDE BEHIND THE UNIFORMS OF THE LAW? ONLY ONE TWISTED MAN COULD HAVE CONCOCTED SUCH A DIABOLICAL SCHEME--THE JOKER! BUT PITTED AGAINST HIM IS THAT FEARLESS DUO KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE LAND AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND THEY DON THEIR OWN SPECIAL COSTUMES--- THE CLOAKED DENIM OF THE DYNAMIC DUO--FOR THE TASK OF SOLVING THE--
"CASE OF THE COSTUME-CLAD KILLERS"
NIGHT -- BEFORE THE ENTRANCE TO A U.S. ARMORY--
SERGEANT DIX REPORTING, WE'VE BEEN ORDERED HERE AS SPECIAL GUARDS.
YES, SERGEANT!

A GUARD QUESTIONS THE SOLDIERS INSIDE THE ARMORY, WHEN--

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF-- UGH!

SPECIAL GUARDS, THE SERGEANT TOLD YA! SPECIAL, FOR US!

GRIM VANDALS ON THE PROWL, THE COUNTERFEIT-CLAD SOLDIERS LOOT THE ARMORY'S ARSENAL--

NOTHING LIKE A UNIFORM TO GET YOU PLACES! HA! HA!

THAT'S THE LAST LOAD, MEN -- WE'VE GOT ENOUGH STUFF TO EQUIP AN ARMY! TOMORROW WE'LL WAKE THIS CITY UP!

THE NEXT DAY, TWO RADIO SQUAD CARS SCREECH TO A STOP BEFORE A LEADING BANK!

WATCH OUT FOR THE REAL COP ON THIS BEAT!

DON'T WORRY! MY GAT'S LOADED!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHO CALLED THE POLICE?

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WE DIDN'T HAVE A HOLDUP!

BUT YOU'VE GOT ONE NOW!

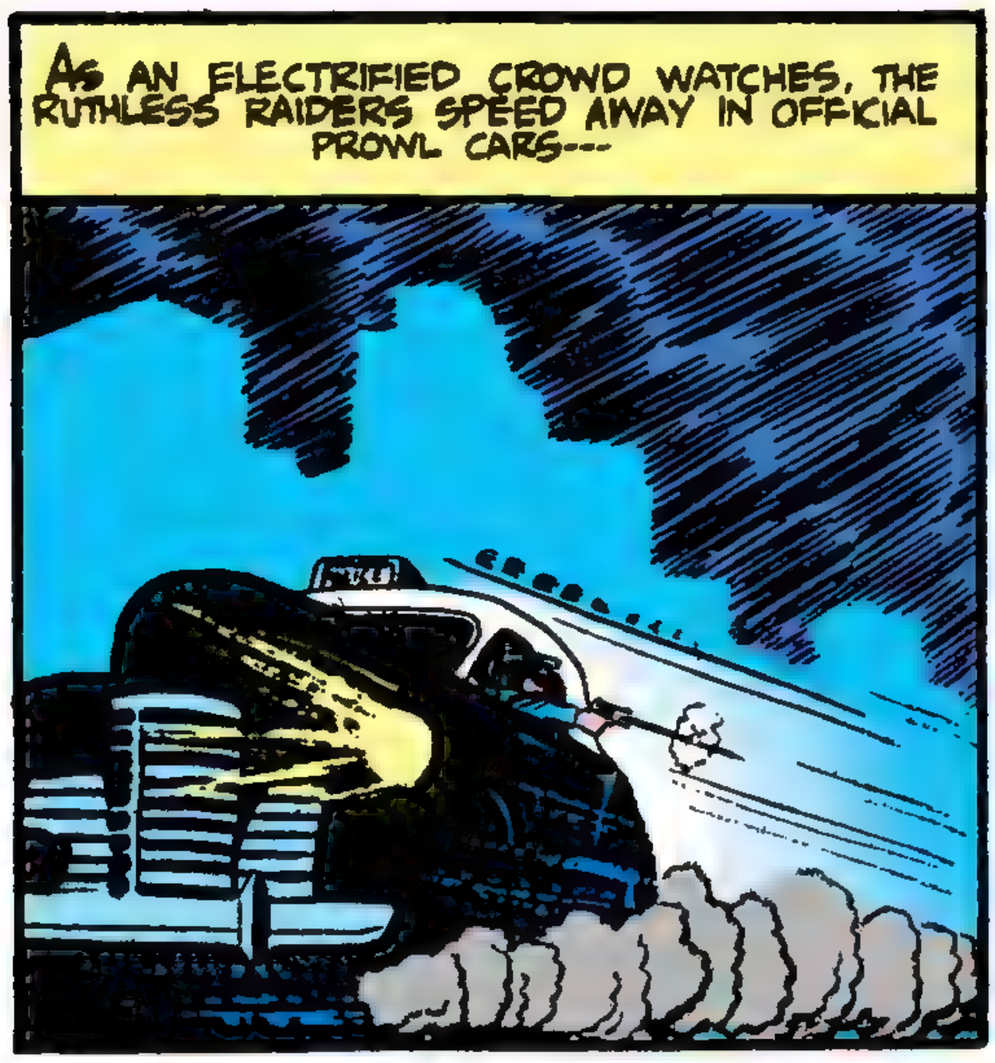
RAPIDLY, EFFICIENTLY, THE MASQUERADING KILLERS TAKE OVER!

COME ON-- GET BUSY HANDIN' OUT THAT DOUGH!

NAW, THIS AIN'T FOR A POLICEMAN'S FUND! IT'S FOR A ROBBERS' BENEFIT! HAW! HAW!

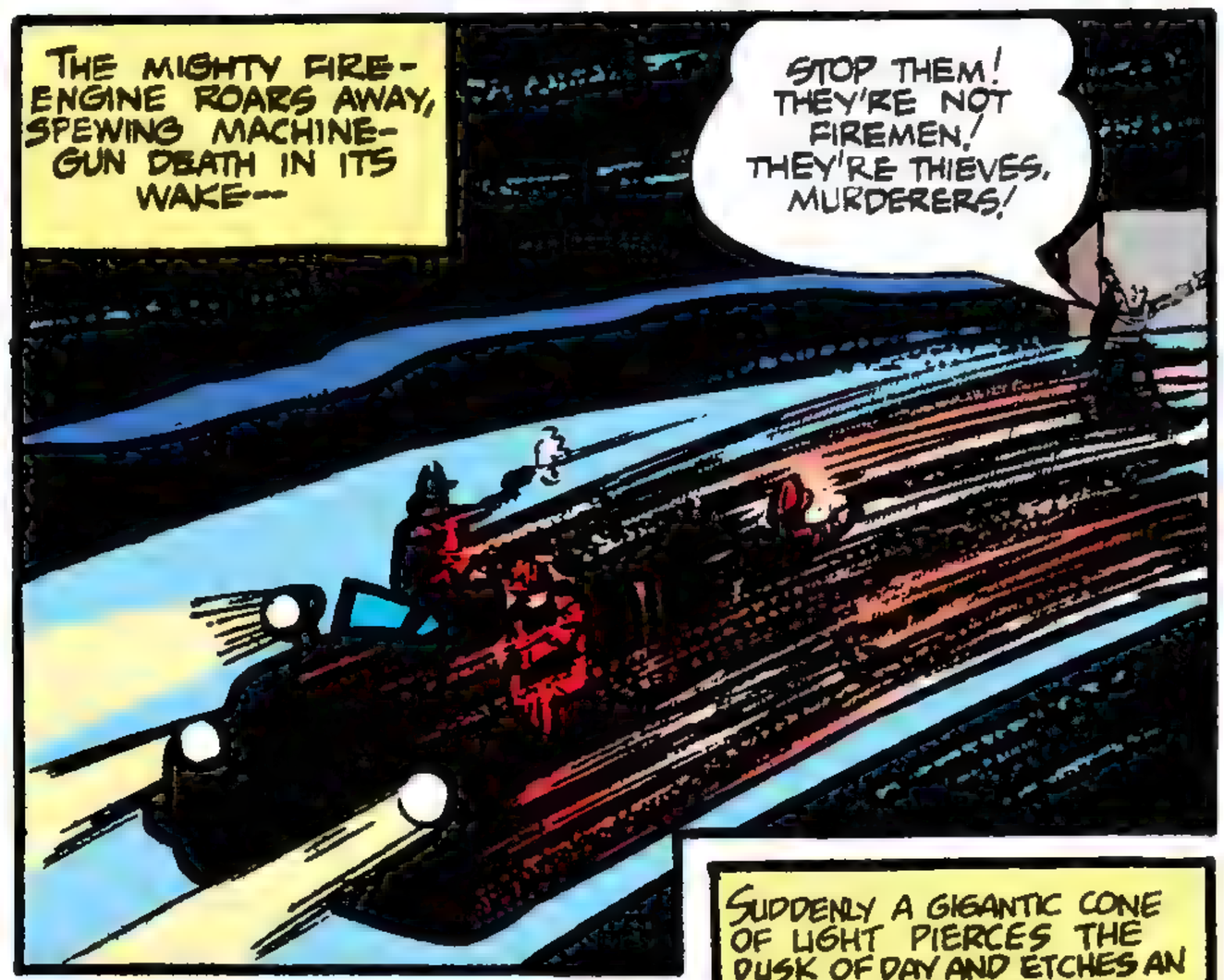
MAYBE YOU FEEL LIKE CRYING! HERE'S A TEAR GAS BOMB FOR YOU!

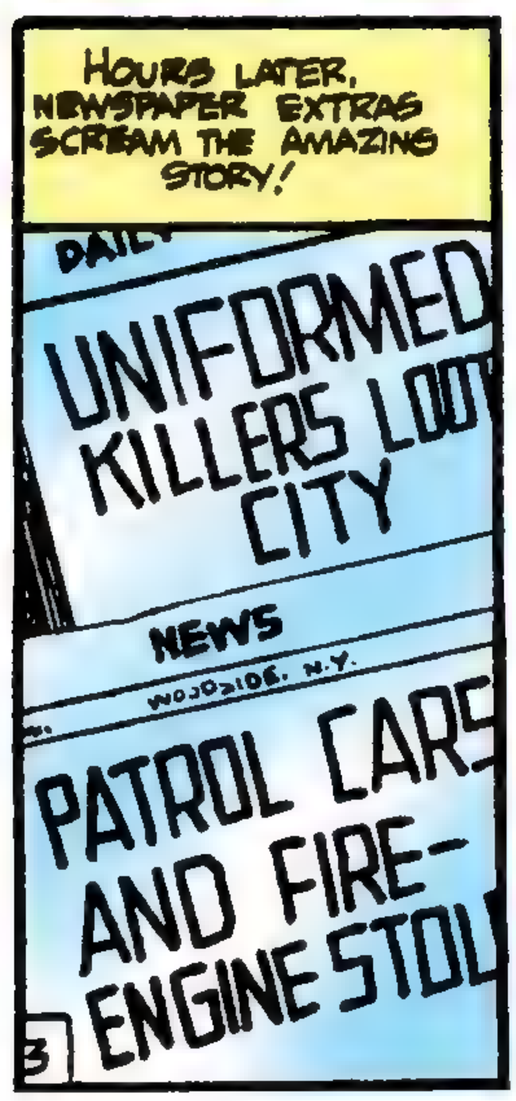
THIS GUY LOOKED HUNGRY, BOSS, SO I FED HIM SOME LEAD!


AS AN ELECTRIFIED CROWD WATCHES, THE RUTHLESS RAIDERS SPEED AWAY IN OFFICIAL PROWL CARS---

SOMETIME LATER, THE UNIFORMED KILLERS STRIKE IN STILL ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY---
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THOSE RUGS, BOYS!
HA! HA! THESE FIREMEN OUTFITS SURE ARE THE MC COY!

THESE ARE THE MOST VALUABLE, BOSS! WORTH A FEW GRAND APIECE!
NOT A BAD HAUL! NOT BAD AT ALL!

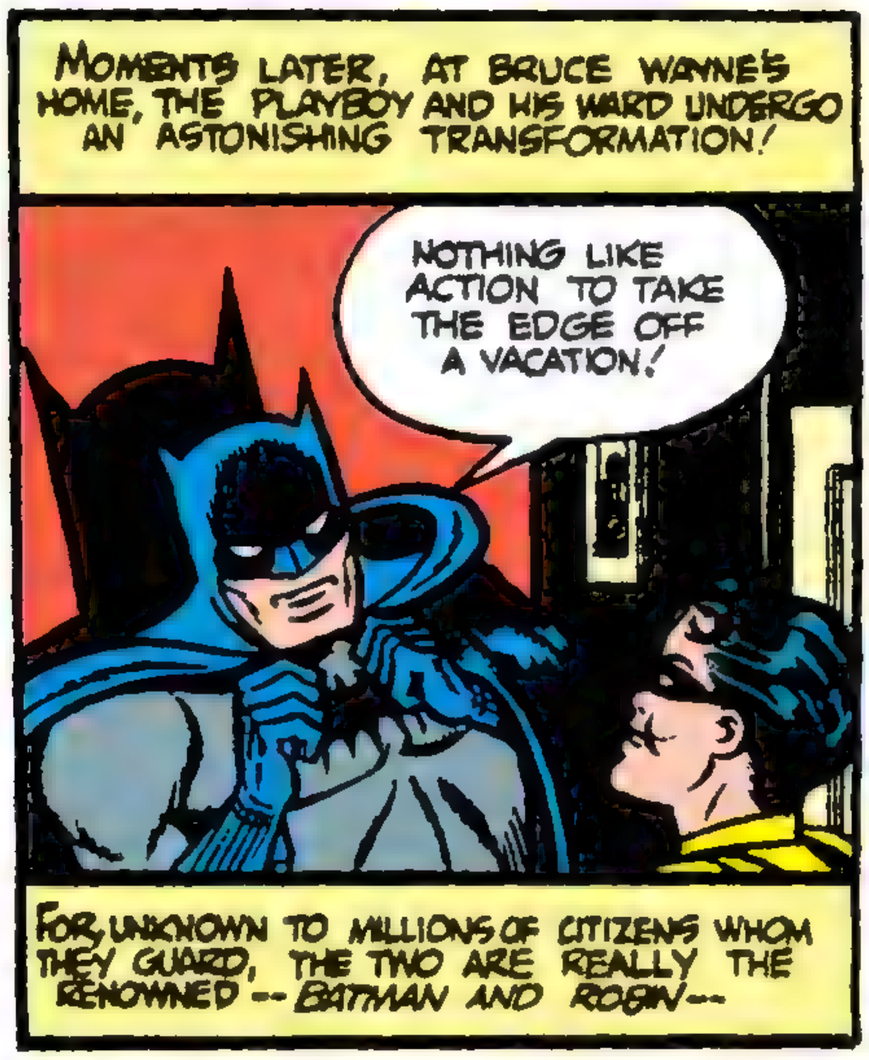

THE MIGHTY FIRE-ENGINE ROARS AWAY, SPEWING MACHINE-GUN DEATH IN ITS WAKE--
STOP THEM! THEY'RE NOT FIREMEN! THEY'RE THIEVES, MURDERERS!

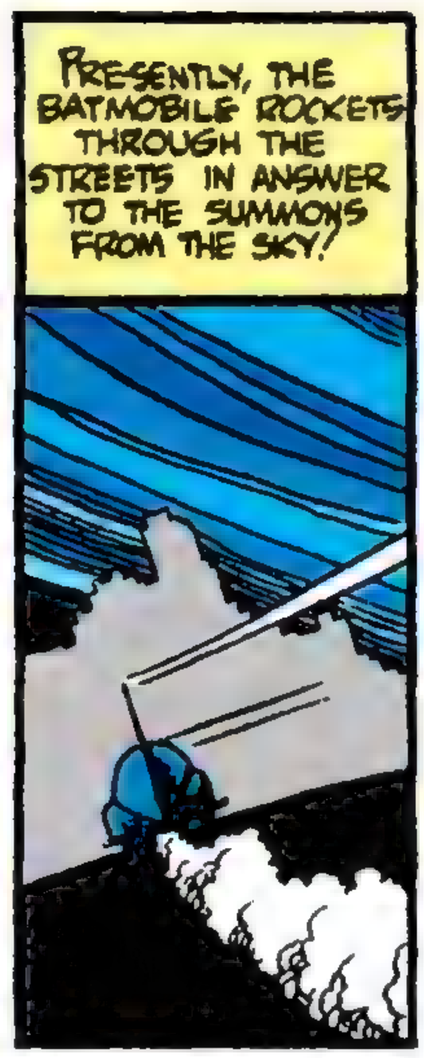

HOURS LATER, NEWSPAPER EXTRAS SCREAM THE AMAZING STORY!
DAILY
UNIFORMED KILLERS LOOT CITY
NEWS
WOODSIDE, N.Y.
PATROL CARS AND FIRE-ENGINE STOLE
3

RETURNING FROM A BRIEF VACATION, BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON READ THE STARTLING NEWS--
A CLEVER GANG! THEY SECURED UNIFORMS OF POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN--THEN IMPERSONATED THE OFFICIALS!
SMART PLANNING!

YOU KNOW, ROBIN, THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE GRIM HUMOR OF ONE MAN!
THE JOKER! BRUCE. MAYBE-- SAY, LOOK!

SUDDENLY A GIGANTIC CONE OF LIGHT PIERCES THE DUSK OF DAY AND ETCHES AN EERIE SYMBOL AGAINST A BLACK CLOUD-- THE SILHOUETTE OF A GIANT BAT!
THAT'S COMING FROM THE SEARCHLIGHT ON THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
YES-- THEY'RE CALLING THE BATMAN!
WE'VE GOT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO, DICK!


MOMENTS LATER, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S HOME, THE PLAYBOY AND HIS WARD UNDERGO AN ASTONISHING TRANSFORMATION!
NOTHING LIKE ACTION TO TAKE THE EDGE OFF A VACATION!
FOR, UNKNOWN TO MILLIONS OF CITIZENS WHOM THEY GUARD, THE TWO ARE REALLY THE RENOWNED -- BATMAN AND ROBIN --

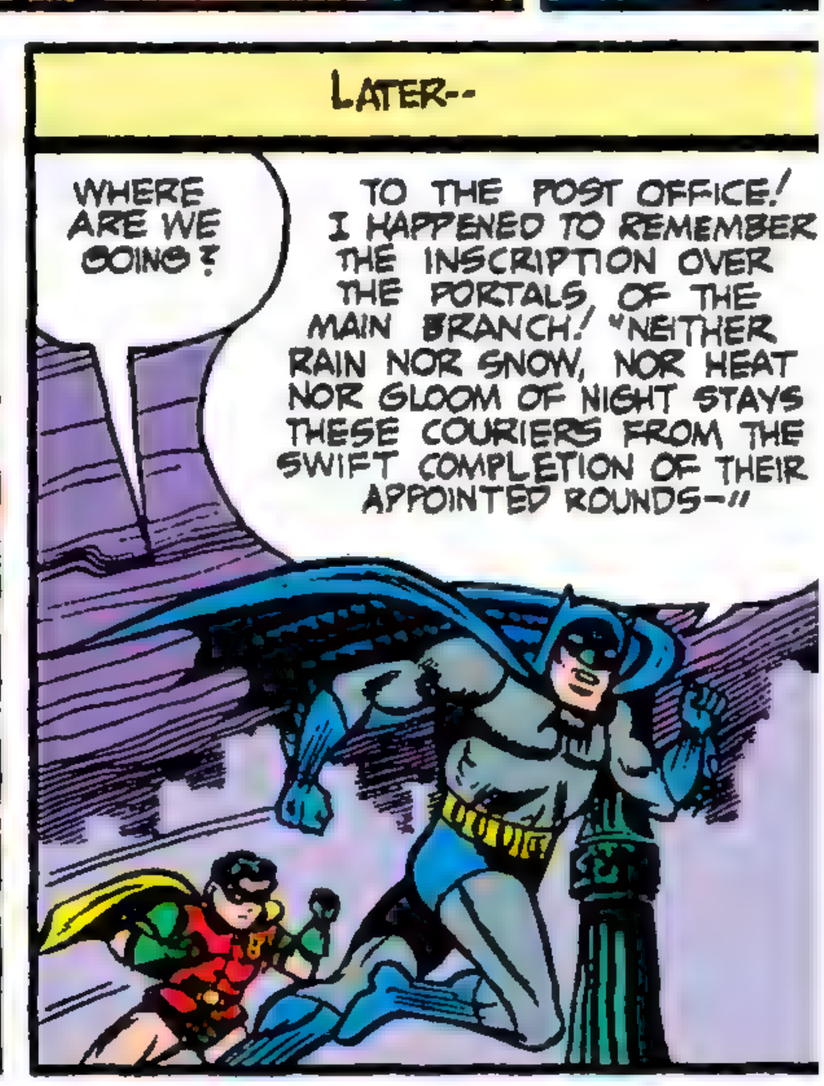

PRESENTLY, THE BATMOBILE ROCKETS THROUGH THE STREETS IN ANSWER TO THE SUMMONS FROM THE SKY!

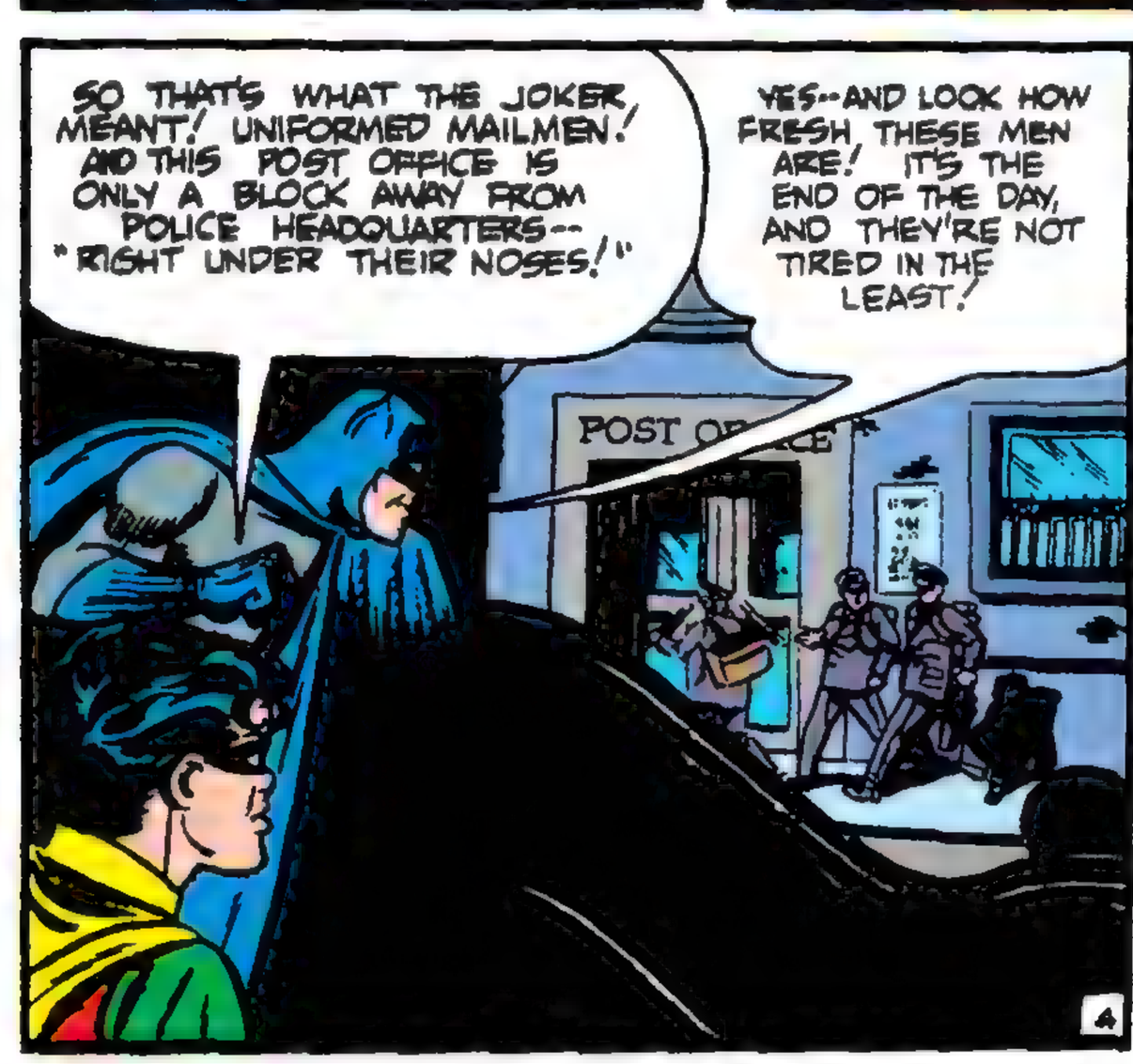
IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PRIVATE OFFICE, BRUCE WAYNE'S SHREWD HUNCH IS CONFIRMED--
THE JOKER'S BEHIND THESE HOLDUPS! LOOK AT THIS!

THE SIGN OF THE JOKER-
JOKER
HA! HA! HA! SOLDIERS! POLICEME FIREMEN! HA! HA!
...AND THE WEATHE WON'T STOP ME FROM TAKING FORTUNE FRO UNDER YOUR NO

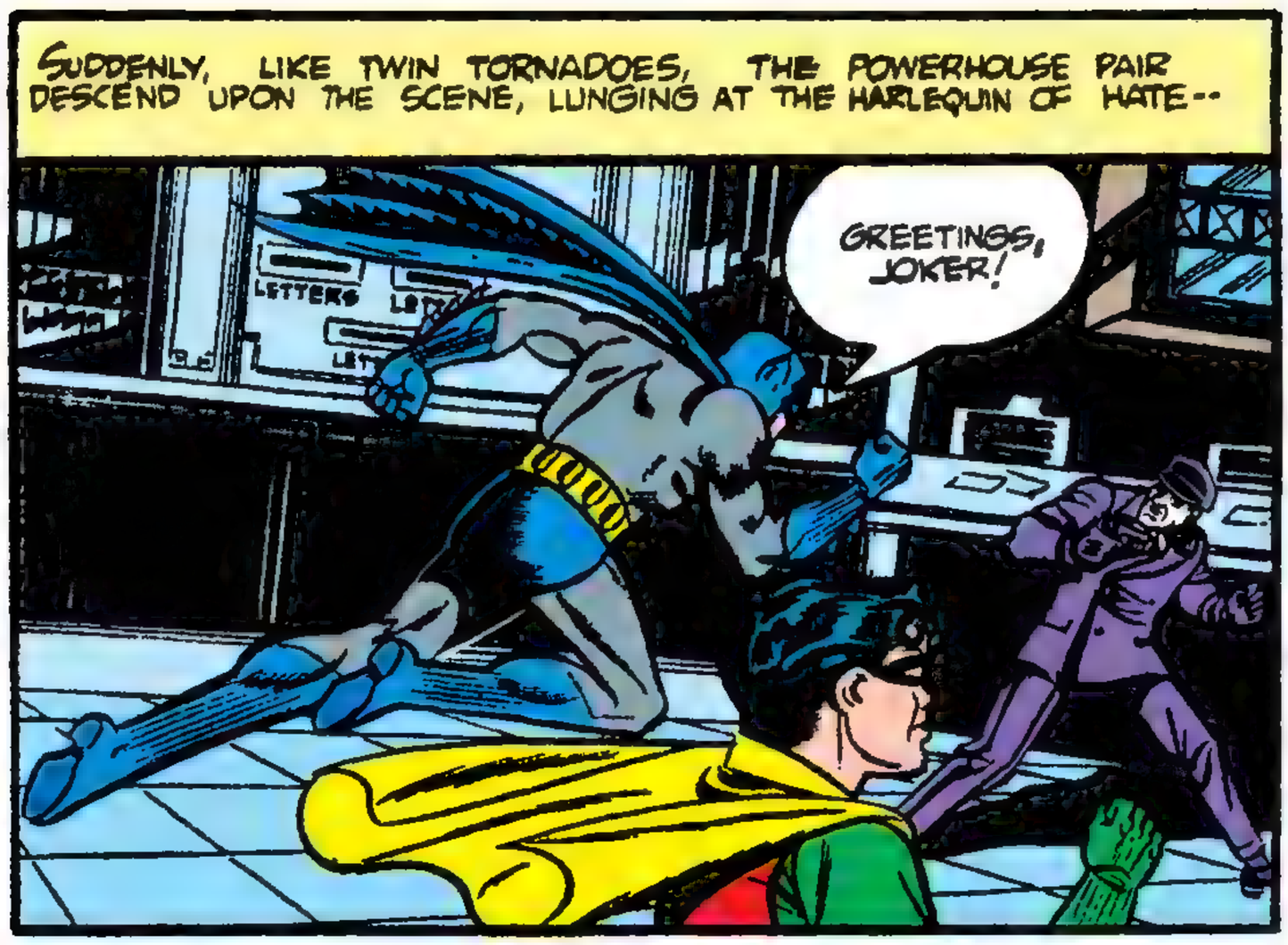
THE WEATHER? HMM-- THE WEATHER REPORT FOR TODAY IS "POSSIBLE LIGHT SNOW!" WHY SHOULD SNOW STOP THE JOKER? I DON'T GET HIS CRYPTIC HUMOR!

WAIT A MINUTE! "WEATHER -- SNOW!" "UNIFORMED KILLERS!" "RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSES." THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE THAT FITS THE PICTURE! COME ON, ROBIN!
NOW WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
SNAP!


LATER--
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO THE POST OFFICE! I HAPPENED TO REMEMBER THE INSCRIPTION OVER THE PORTALS OF THE MAIN BRANCH! "NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW, NOR HEAT NOR GLOOM OF NIGHT STAYS THESE COURIERS FROM THE SWIFT COMPLETION OF THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS--"


SO THAT'S WHAT THE JOKER MEANT! UNIFORMED MAILMEN! AND THIS POST OFFICE IS ONLY A BLOCK AWAY FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS-- "RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES!"
YES--AND LOOK HOW FRESH THESE MEN ARE! IT'S THE END OF THE DAY, AND THEY'RE NOT TIRED IN THE LEAST!
POST OFFICE
4

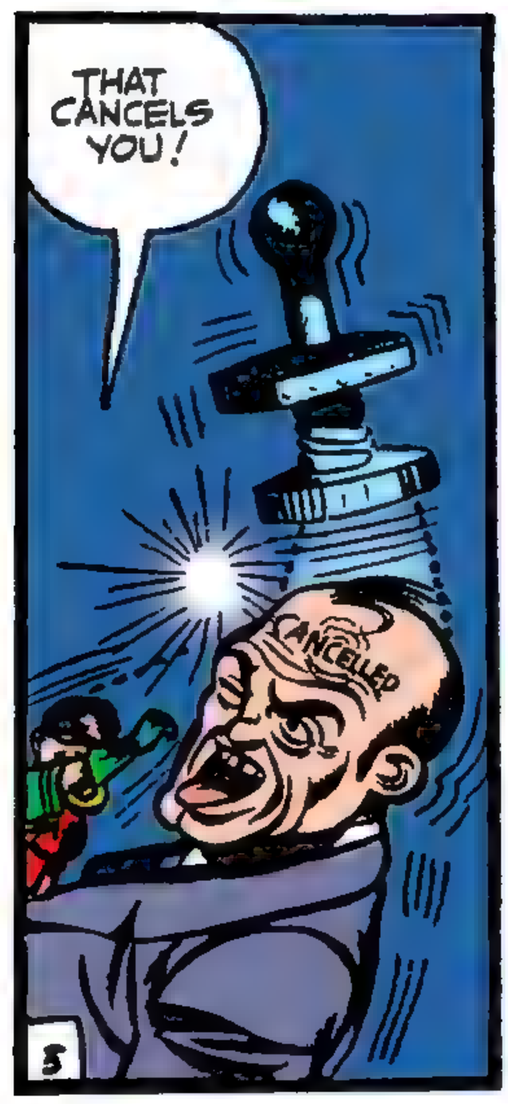
INSIDE THE POST OFFICE, THE MASQUERADING KILLERS EXECUTE THEIR LATEST COUP--
OPEN THAT SAFE--AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!


SUDDENLY, LIKE TWIN TORNADOES, THE POWERHOUSE PAIR DESCEND UPON THE SCENE, LUNGING AT THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE--
GREETINGS, JOKER!
LETTERS

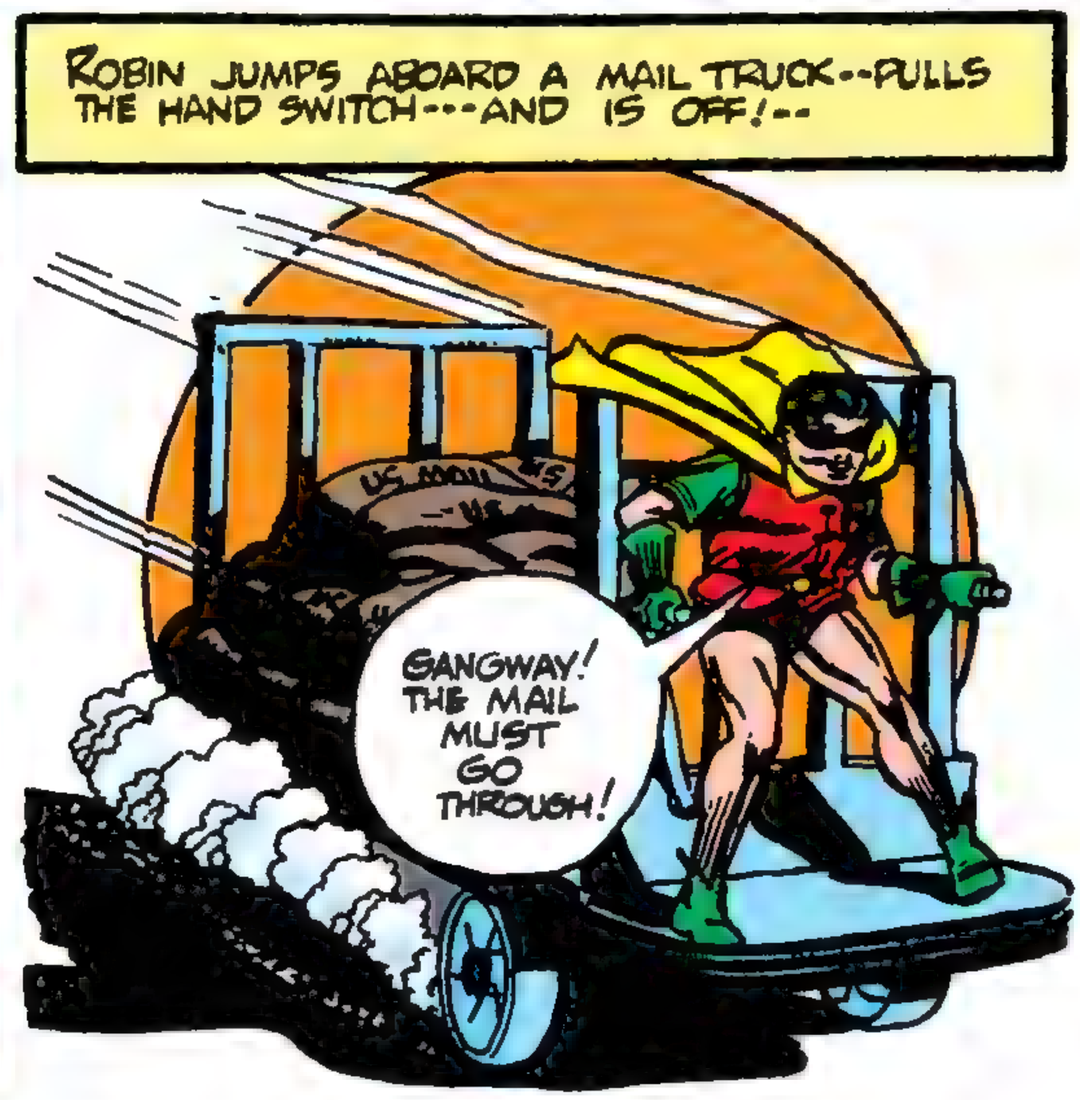
SPECIAL DELIVERY-- AT YOUR SERVICE! THE WEATHER DIDN'T STOP ME, EITHER!

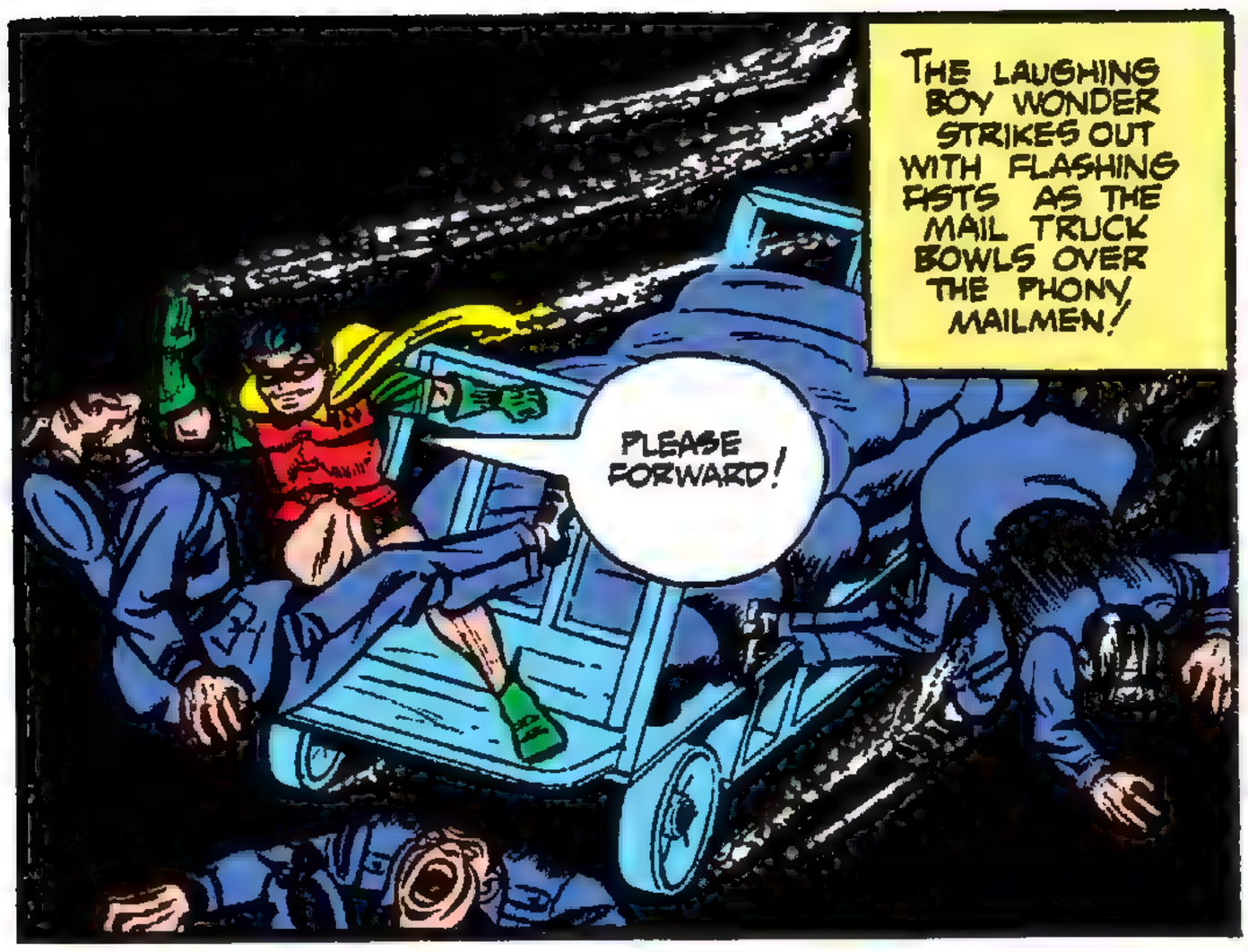
BACK TO THE DEAD LETTER DEPARTMENT FOR YOU!

LED BY THE DARING DUO, THE POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES WHIP INTO THEIR CAPTORS---
OPENED BY MISTAKE!
ADDRESS UNKNOWN!
C'MON, MEN! THE BATMAN'S ON OUR SIDE!
U.S. MAIL
OUTGOING MAIL
U.S. MAIL
U.S. MAIL

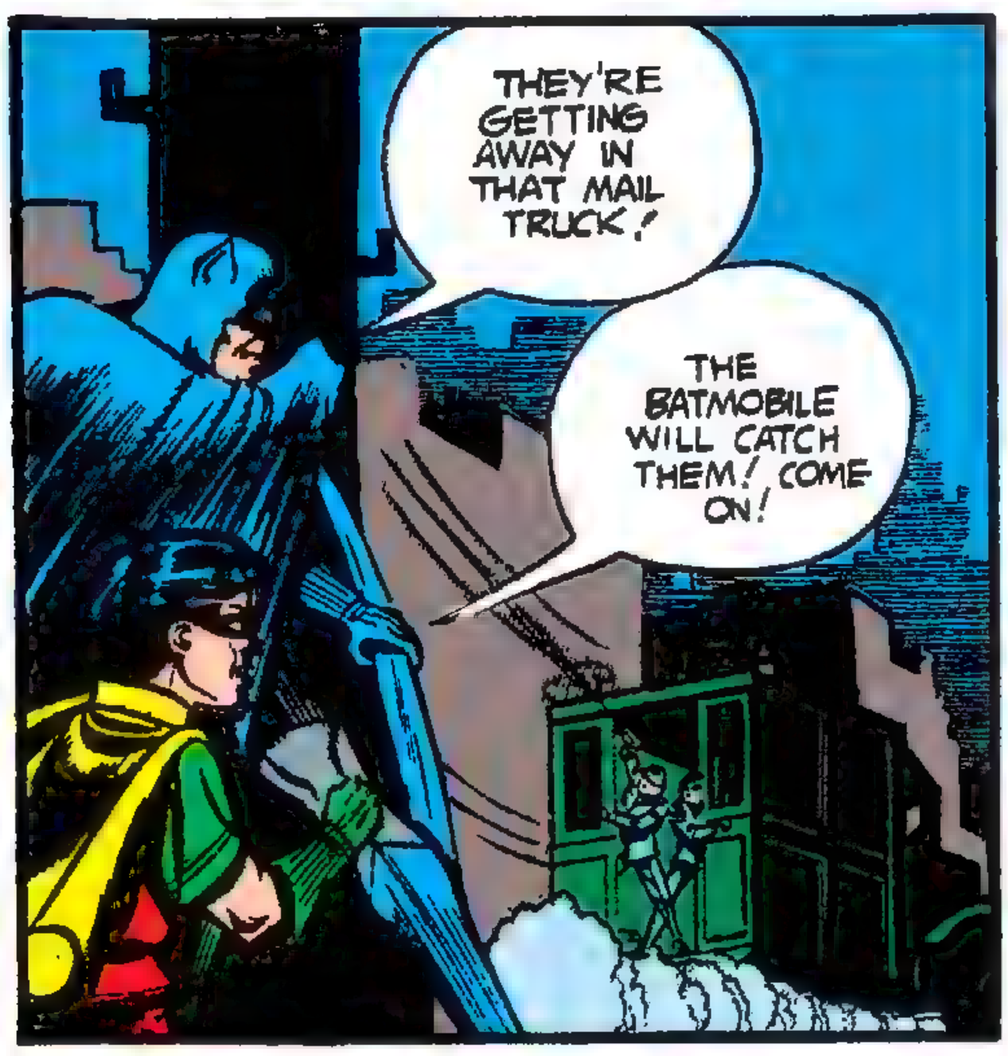

THAT CANCELS YOU!
CANCELLED

YOU CAN START A STAMP COLLECTION WITH THESE, JOKER!
STAMP

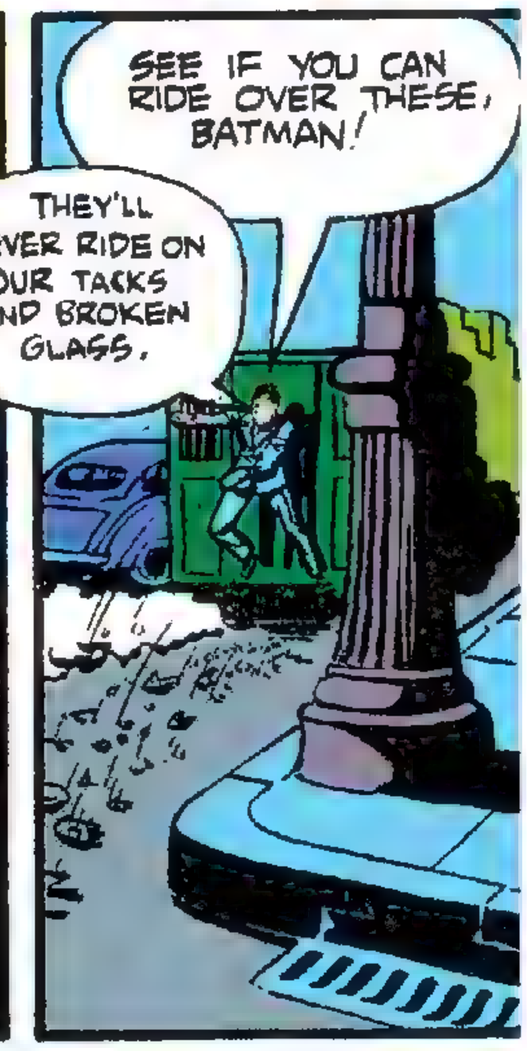

ROBIN JUMPS ABOARD A MAIL TRUCK--PULLS THE HAND SWITCH---AND IS OFF!--
GANGWAY! THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH!


THE LAUGHING BOY WONDER STRIKES OUT WITH FLASHING FISTS AS THE MAIL TRUCK BOWLS OVER THE PHONY MAILMEN!
PLEASE FORWARD!

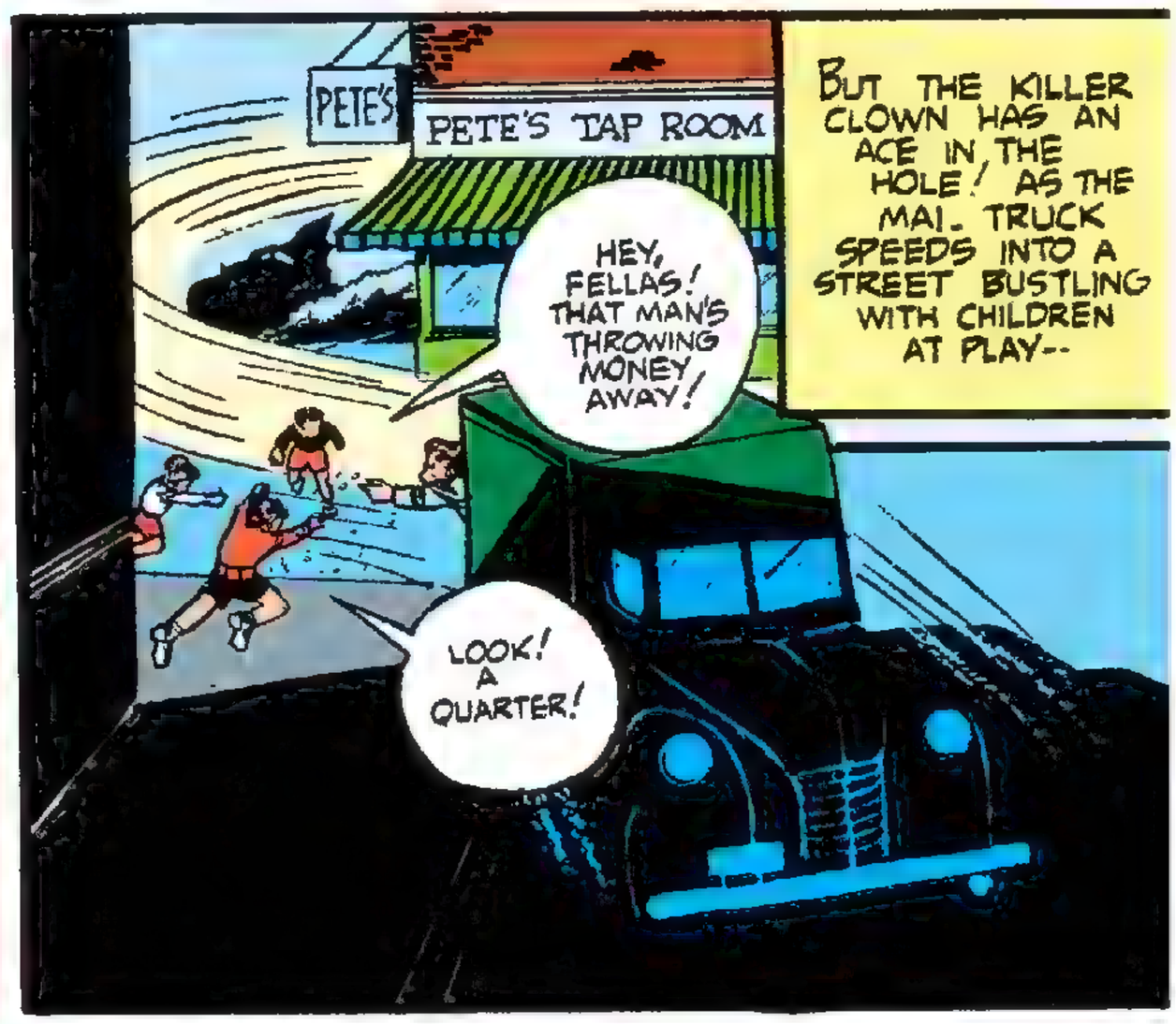
TERSELY SNAPPING ORDERS, THE CUNNING CRIME CLOWN LEADS HIS PACK OF JACKALS IN A HASTY RETREAT---
COME ON, MEN- TO OUR TRUCK! THIS ROUND'S THE BATMAN'S!

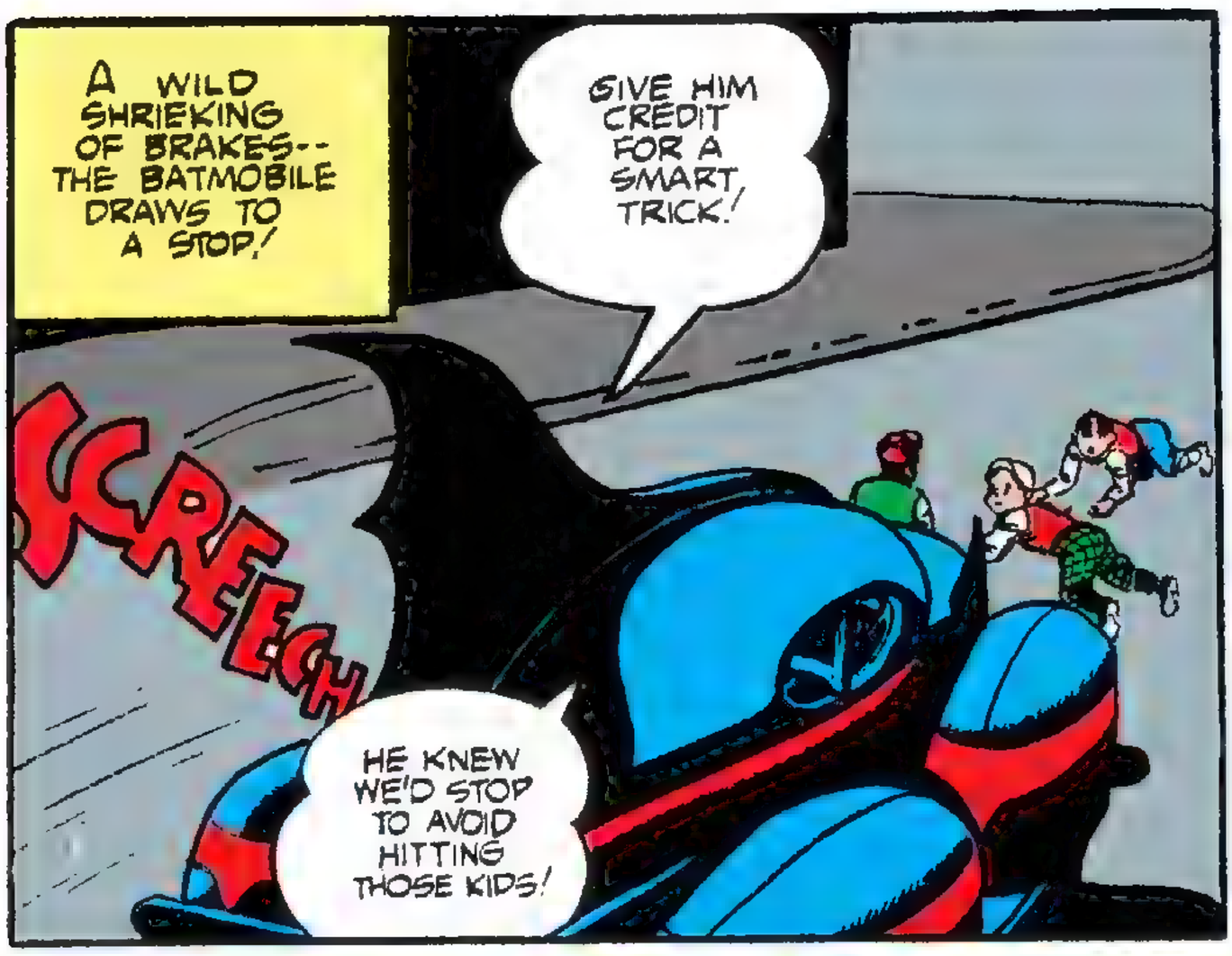

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY IN THAT MAIL TRUCK!
THE BATMOBILE WILL CATCH THEM! COME ON!

A MOMENT LATER THE BAT-MOBILE ROARS IN THE WAKE OF THE UNIFORMED KILLERS!


SEE IF YOU CAN RIDE OVER THESE, BATMAN!
THEY'LL NEVER RIDE ON OUR TACKS AND BROKEN GLASS.

TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO RIP OUR SPECIAL TIRES!
6


PETE'S
PETE'S TAP ROOM
HEY, FELLAS! THAT MAN'S THROWING MONEY AWAY!
LOOK! A QUARTER!
BUT THE KILLER CLOWN HAS AN ACE IN THE HOLE! AS THE MAIL TRUCK SPEEDS INTO A STREET BUSTLING WITH CHILDREN AT PLAY--


A WILD SHRIEKING OF BRAKES-- THE BATMOBILE DRAWS TO A STOP!
GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR A SMART TRICK!
SCREECH
HE KNEW WE'D STOP TO AVOID HITTING THOSE KIDS!

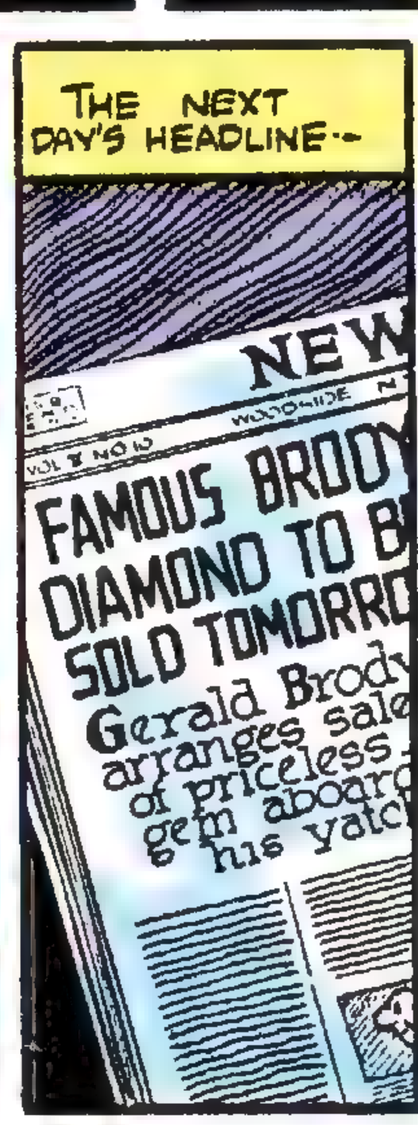
AGAIN AND AGAIN THE LEERING HARLEQUIN OF HATE UNLEASHES HIS COSTUME-CLAD KILLERS! ON THE CENTRAL RAILROAD EXPRESS---
NO, LADY- I'M NOT THE REAL CONDUCTOR! GIMME THOSE PEARLS!

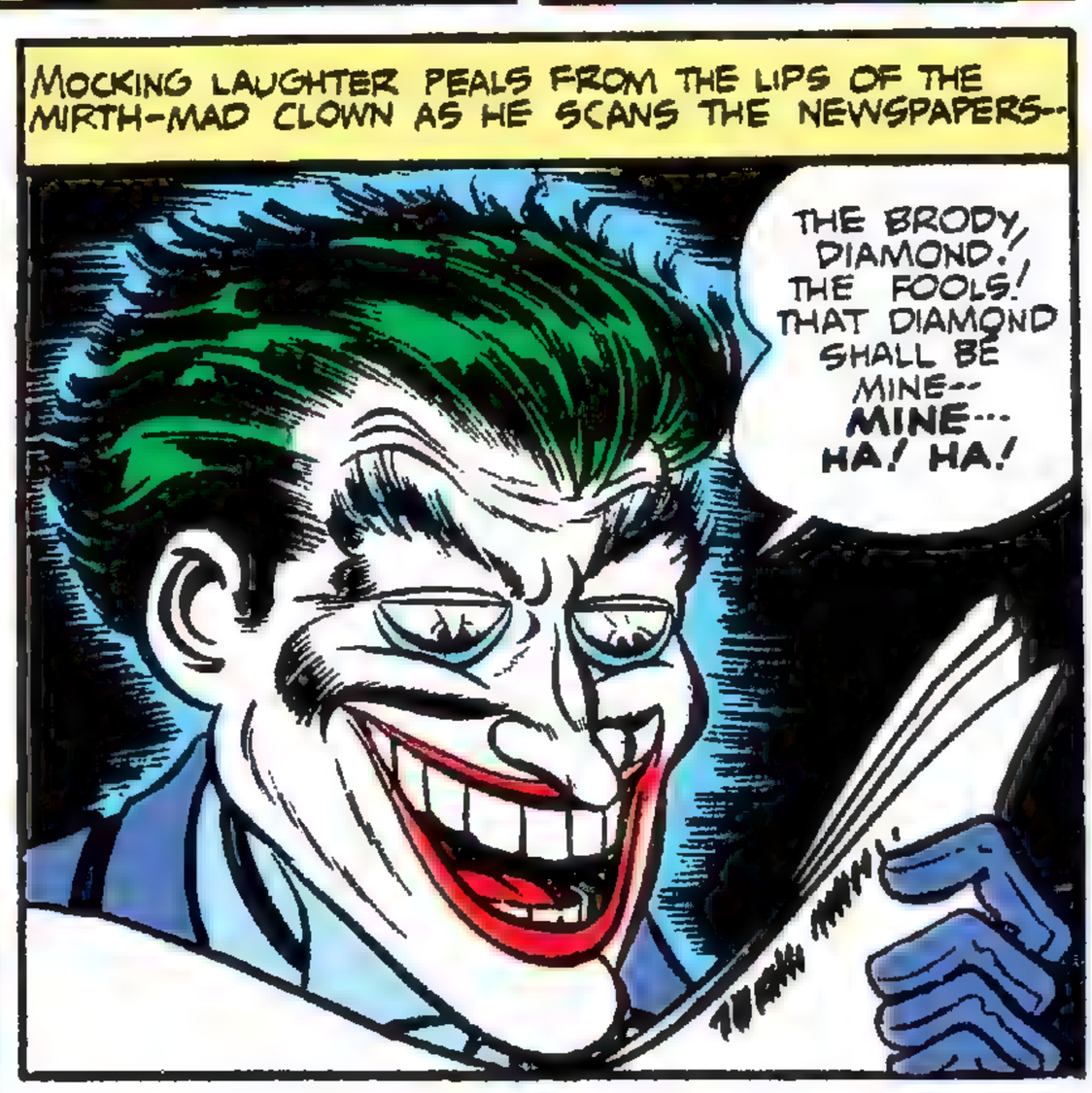
THE TWISTED BRAIN OF THE GRIM JESTER PLANS COUP AFTER COUP--DARING AND DIABOLICAL!
THEY THOUGHT I WAS AN ELEVATOR OPERATOR! BUT THERE'S MORE MONEY IN MY RACKET!

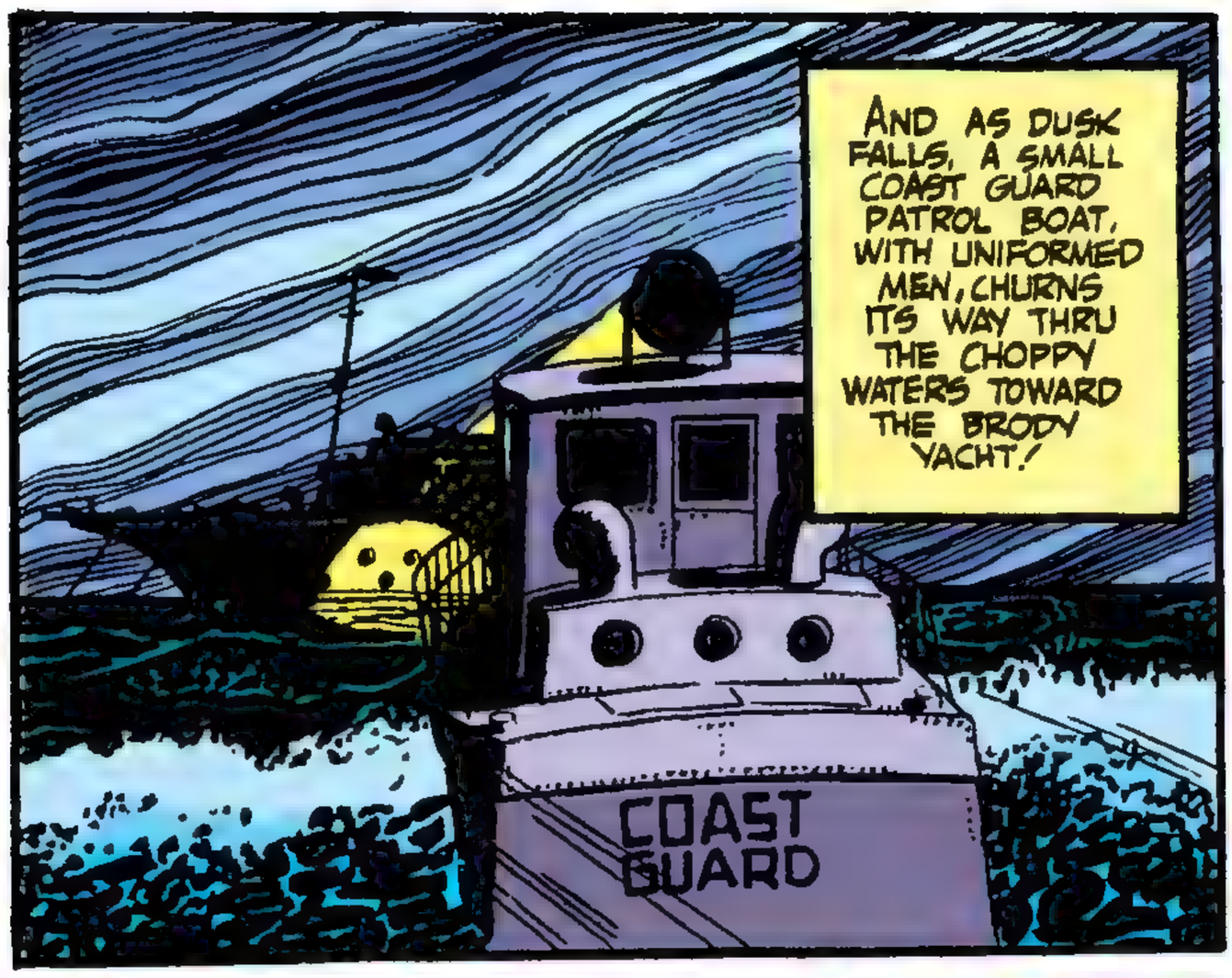
AND WILD, MACABRE LAUGHTER ROLLS FROM THE JOKER AS HARRIED POLICE ARE HELPLESS TO STEM THE CRIME PARADE!
THEY CAN'T STOP ME THIS TIME! I'VE OUTSMARTED THE BATMAN! HE CAN NEVER GUESS WHAT WE'RE PULLING NEXT!

ELSEWHERE, BATMAN AND ROBIN DISCUSS THE BRAZEN BUFFOON OF CRIME.
UNIFORMS, MORE UNIFORMS! THE JOKER HAS TO BE STOPPED.
IF WE ONLY KNEW WHERE HE WAS GOING TO STRIKE NEXT!

I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL OFFER THE JOKER SOME BAIT-- AND HOOK HIM! I KNOW HE LOVES JEWELRY, SO --
7

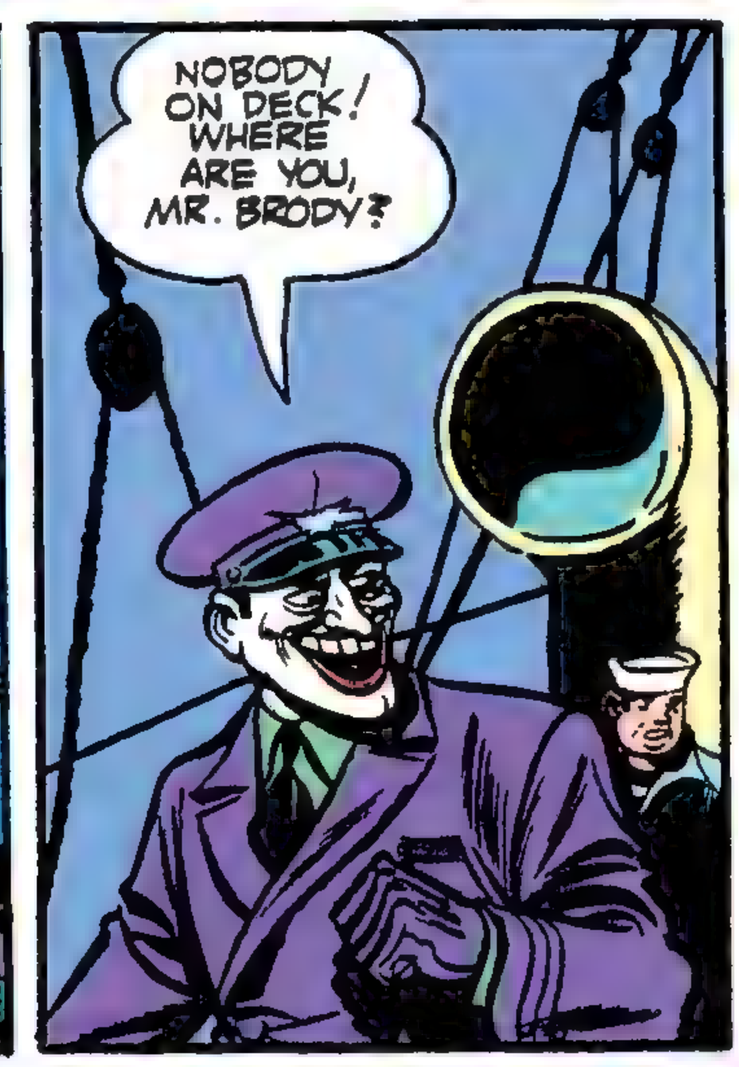

THE NEXT DAY'S HEADLINE--
NEW
FAMOUS BRODY DIAMOND TO B SOLD TOMORRO
Gerald Brody arranges sale of priceless gem aboard his yatc

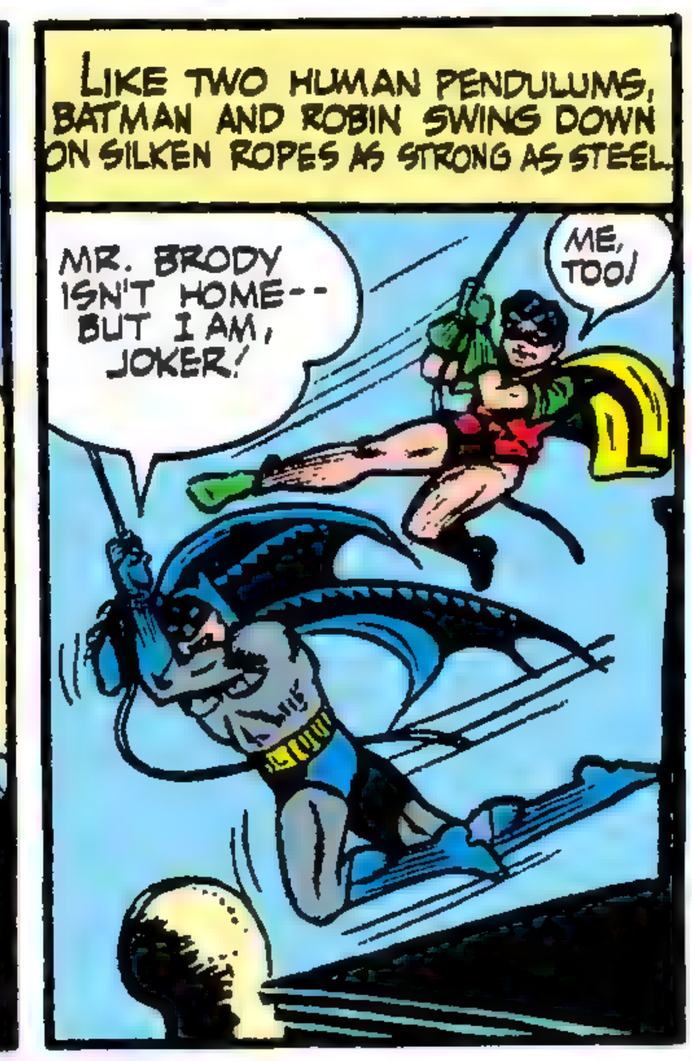

MOCKING LAUGHTER PEALS FROM THE LIPS OF THE MIRTH-MAD CLOWN AS HE SCANS THE NEWSPAPERS--
THE BRODY DIAMOND! THE FOOLS! THAT DIAMOND SHALL BE MINE-- MINE--- HA! HA!

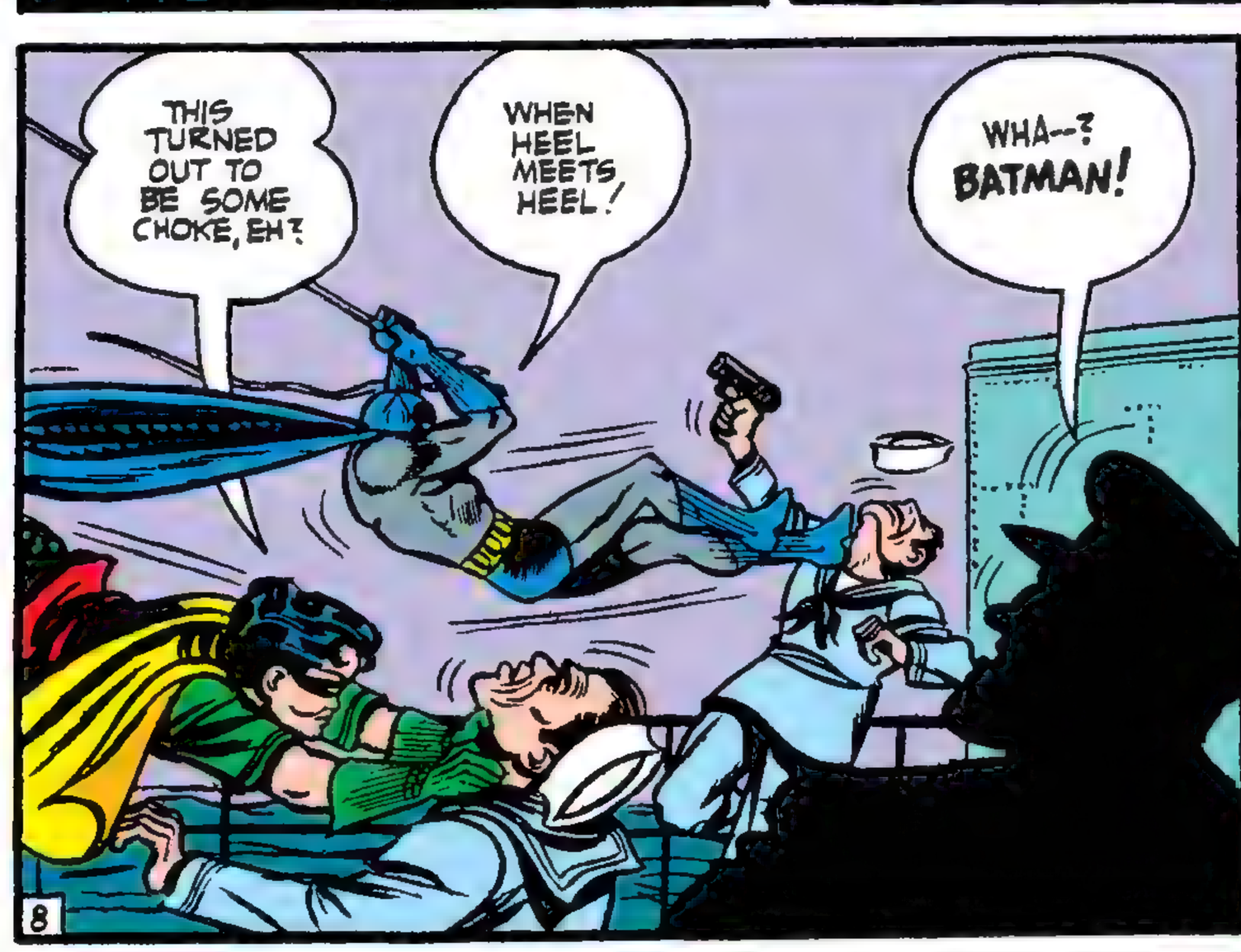

AND AS DUSK FALLS, A SMALL COAST GUARD PATROL BOAT, WITH UNIFORMED MEN, CHURNS ITS WAY THRU THE CHOPPY WATERS TOWARD THE BRODY YACHT!
COAST GUARD

ABOARD THE YACHT, TWO SENTINELS OF THE LAW STAND GRIM WATCH--BATMAN AND ROBIN!
HERE THEY COME! THE FISH BIT, ALL RIGHT!
WE'LL SHOW THEM A NEW KIND OF BAIT!

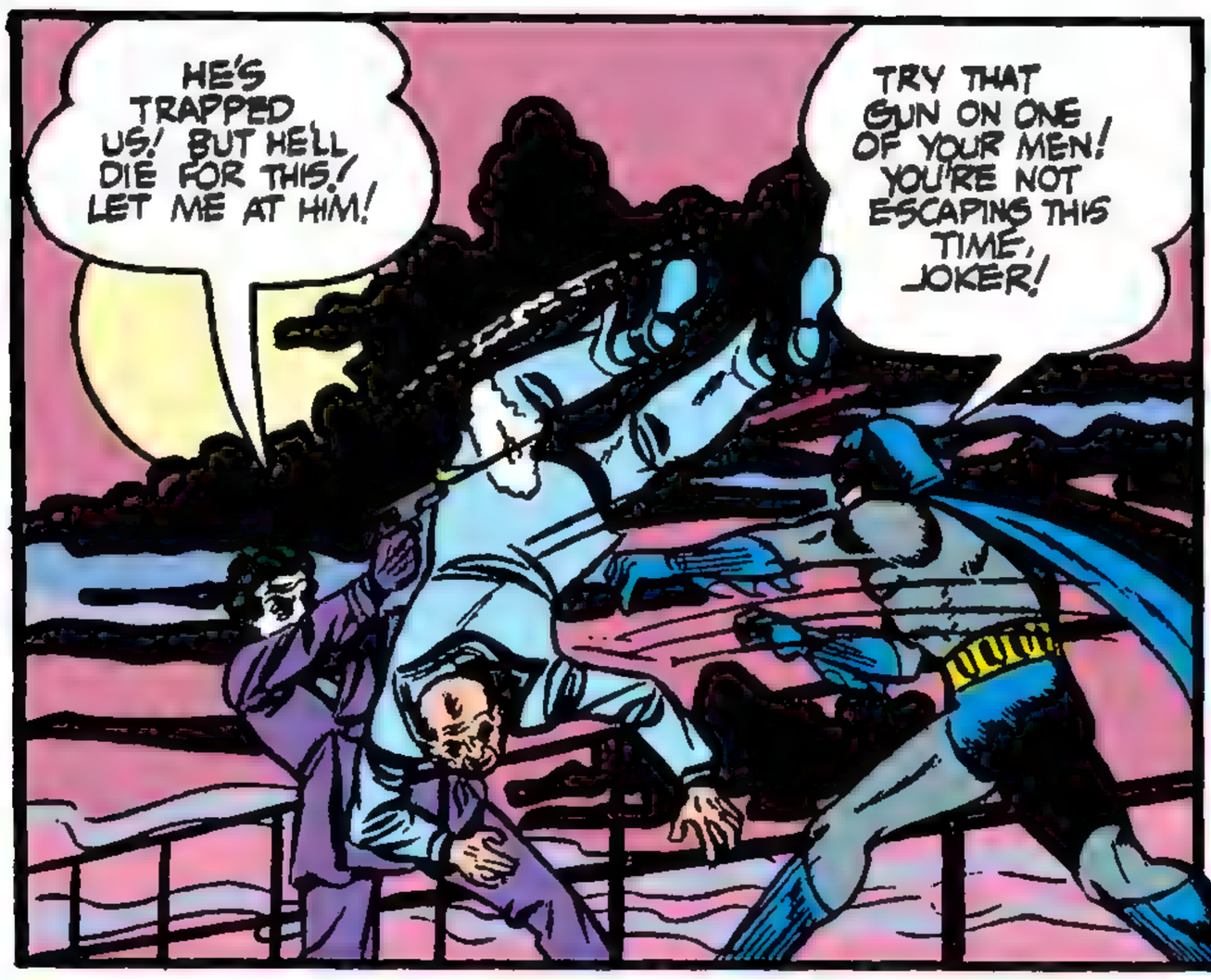
COME AHEAD! YOU'RE WELCOME!
COAST GUARD OFFICERS COMING ABOARD TO HELP GUARD YOUR DIAMOND, MR. BRODY!


NOBODY ON DECK! WHERE ARE YOU, MR. BRODY?


LIKE TWO HUMAN PENDULUMS, BATMAN AND ROBIN SWING DOWN ON SILKEN ROPES AS STRONG AS STEEL.
MR. BRODY ISN'T HOME-- BUT I AM, JOKER!
ME, TOO!


THIS TURNED OUT TO BE SOME CHOKE, EH?
WHEN HEEL MEETS HEEL!
WHA--? BATMAN!
8

YOU WOULDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A LITTLE FELLOW, WOULD YOU?


HE'S TRAPPED US! BUT HE'LL DIE FOR THIS! LET ME AT HIM!
TRY THAT GUN ON ONE OF YOUR MEN! YOU'RE NOT ESCAPING THIS TIME, JOKER!

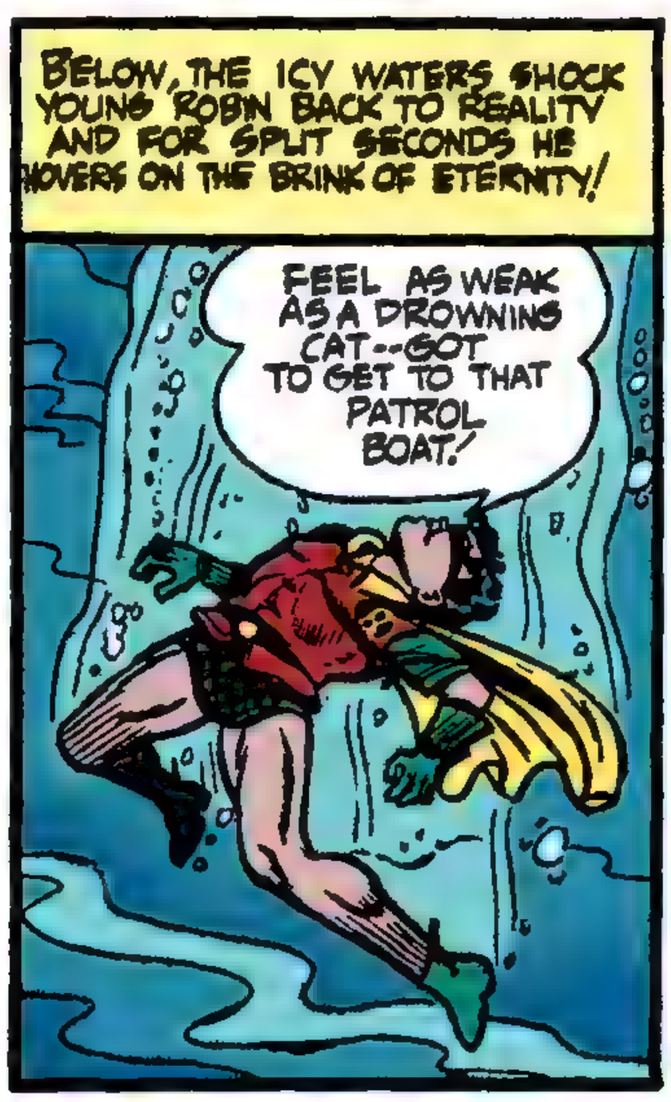
ONLY A FEW MORE OF YOU LEFT NOW--AND THEN WE'LL HAVE YOUR MASTER, THE JOKER!

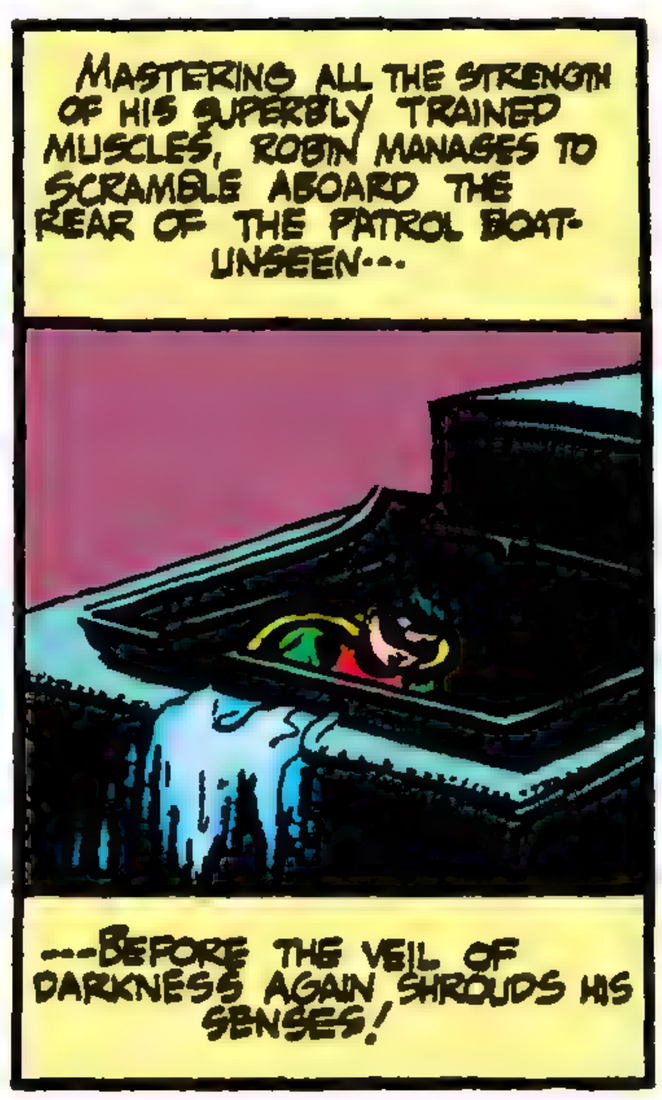
SUDDENLY, ROBIN TRIPS OVER A COIL OF ROPE AND FALLS MERCY TO THE KILLER CLOWN!
AH! I'VE GOT YOU NOW, YOU LITTLE SPITFIRE!

HERE'S A TICKET TO DAVY JONES' LOCKER! OVER THE SIDE YOU GO!

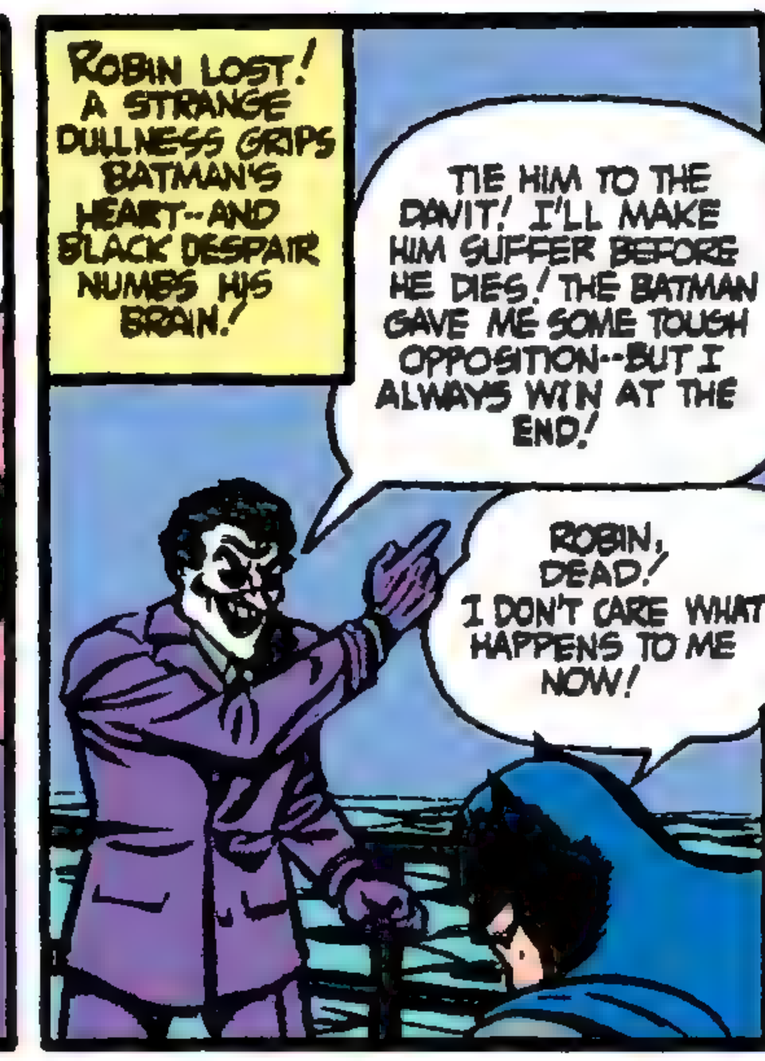
A RED HAZE OF FURY FILMS THE BATMAN'S EYES AS HE TURNS ABOUT TO SEE HIS YOUNG AIDE'S BODY TUMBLE OVERBOARD--
YOU MURDEROUS FIEND!

CAUGHT OFFGUARD AS HE LEAPS TO ROBIN'S RESCUE, THE BATMAN UNWITTINGLY LEAVES HIMSELF VULNERABLE TO ATTACK!
I GOT HIM, BOSS!


BELOW, THE ICY WATERS SHOCK YOUNG ROBIN BACK TO REALITY AND FOR SPLIT SECONDS HE HOVERS ON THE BRINK OF ETERNITY!
FEEL AS WEAK AS A DROWNING CAT--GOT TO GET TO THAT PATROL BOAT!

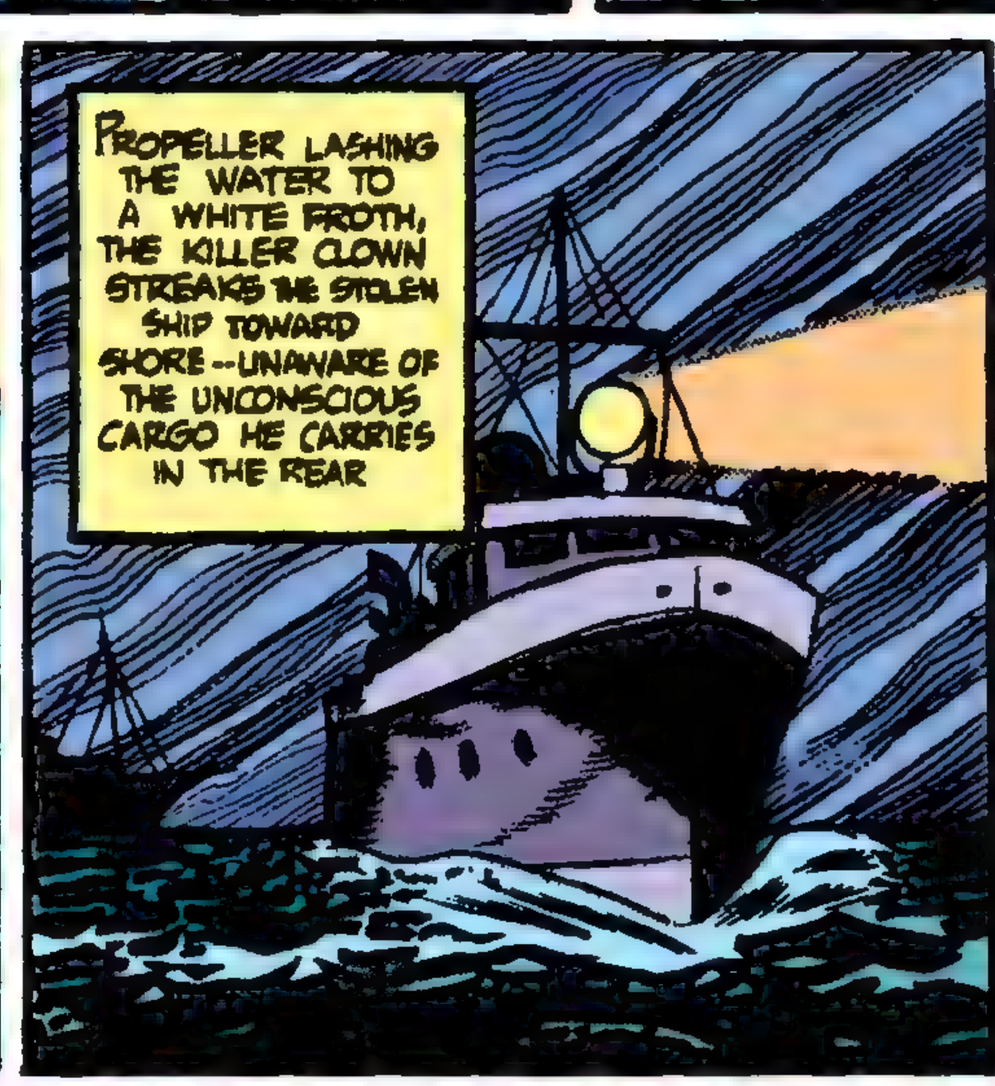

MASTERING ALL THE STRENGTH OF HIS SUPERBLY TRAINED MUSCLES, ROBIN MANAGES TO SCRAMBLE ABOARD THE REAR OF THE PATROL BOAT-UNSEEN...
---BEFORE THE VEIL OF DARKNESS AGAIN SHROUDS HIS SENSES!

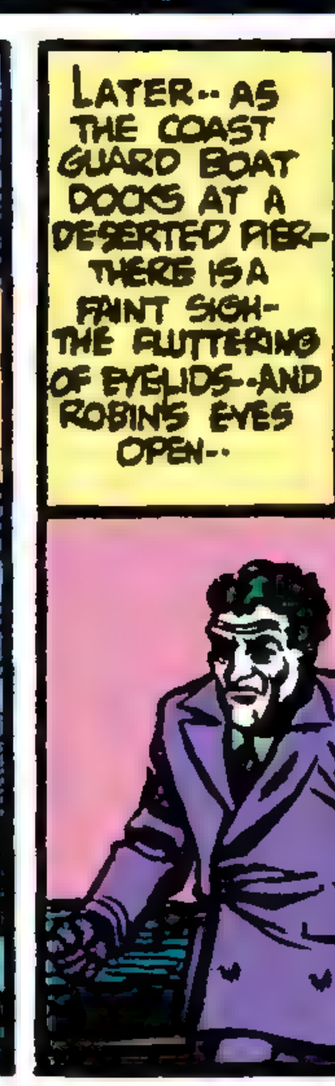
ABOARD THE YACHT, THE GRIM JESTER TRIUMPHANTLY FACES HIS GREAT ENEMY-- AND BRINGS THEIR FAMOUS DUEL OF WITS TO AN END...
LET'S TAKE HIM TO CHARLIE'S. WE'LL DRESS HIM UP TO KILL--HA! HA!
NO, WE'LL KILL HIM HERE! DROWN HIM! LIKE HIS CHUM!


ROBIN LOST! A STRANGE DULLNESS GRIPS BATMAN'S HEART--AND BLACK DESPAIR NUMBS HIS BRAIN!
TIE HIM TO THE DAVIT! I'LL MAKE HIM SUFFER BEFORE HE DIES! THE BATMAN GAVE ME SOME TOUGH OPPOSITION--BUT I ALWAYS WIN AT THE END!
ROBIN, DEAD! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW!

WHEN THE BURNING FUSE REACHES THE ROPE-- WELL--I HATE TO SAY IT!
SH-H-H-H

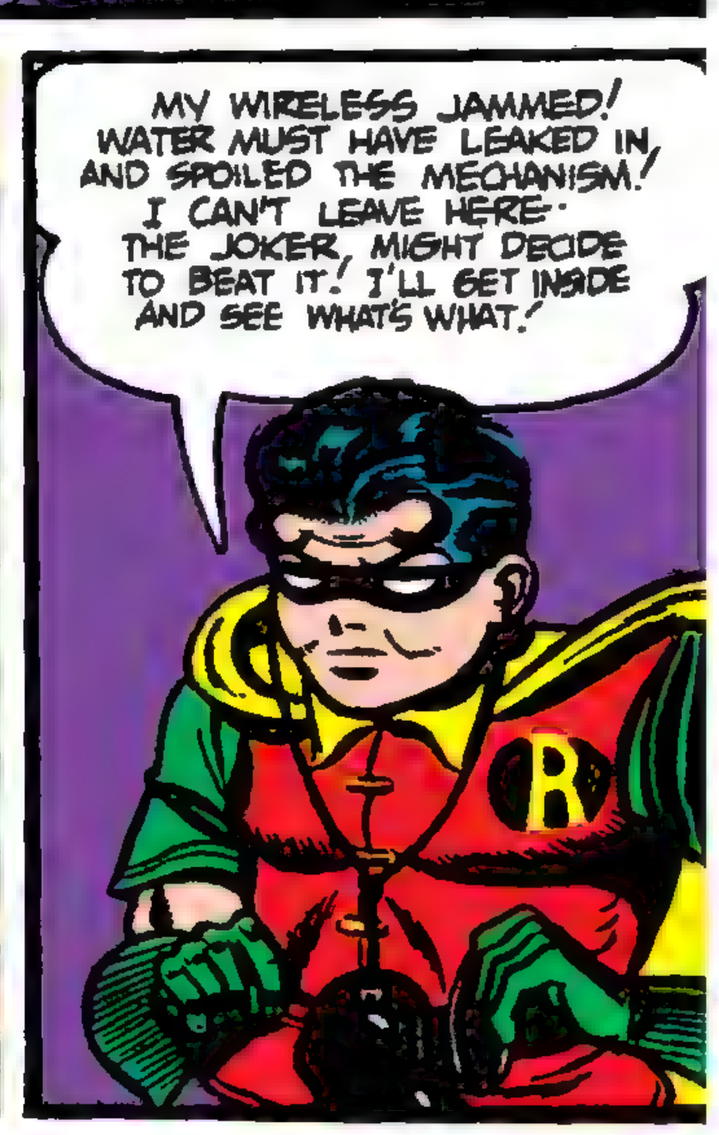
THE FLAME LICKS NEARER AND NEARER-- UNTIL-- THE FIRST STRANDS OF THE ROPE ARE IGNITED!

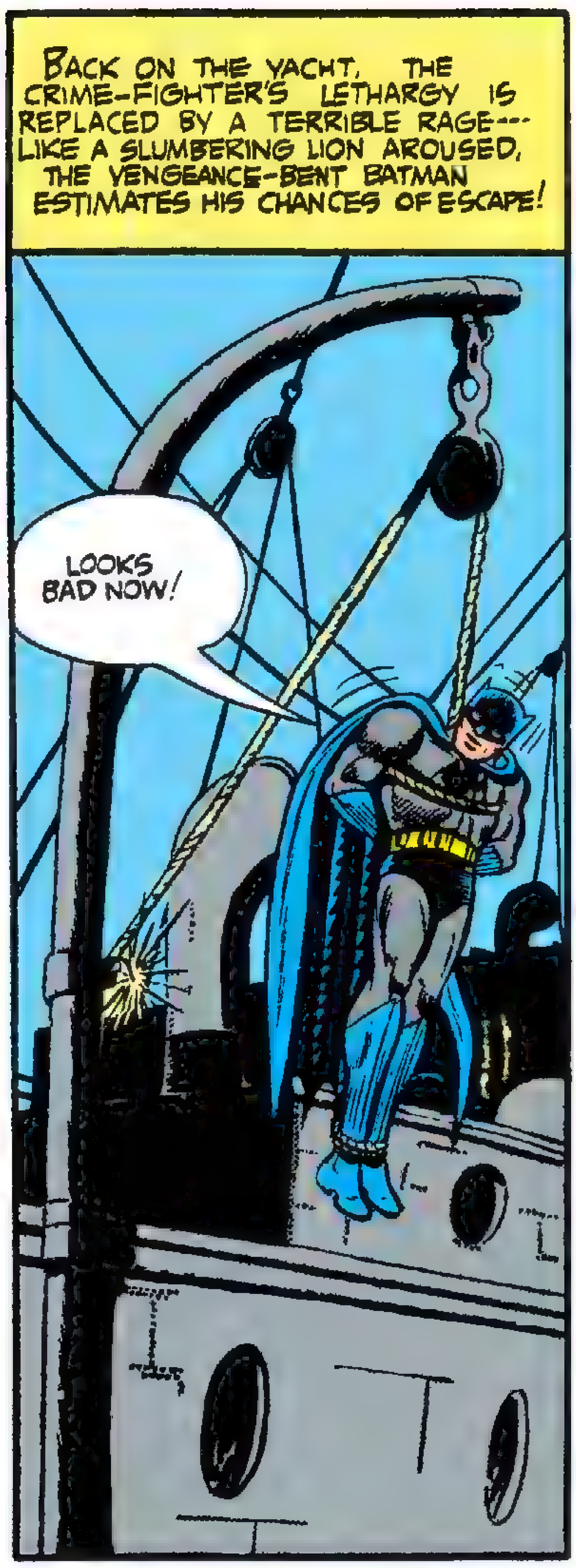

PROPELLER LASHING THE WATER TO A WHITE FROTH, THE KILLER CLOWN STREAKS THE STOLEN SHIP TOWARD SHORE--UNAWARE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS CARGO HE CARRIES IN THE REAR

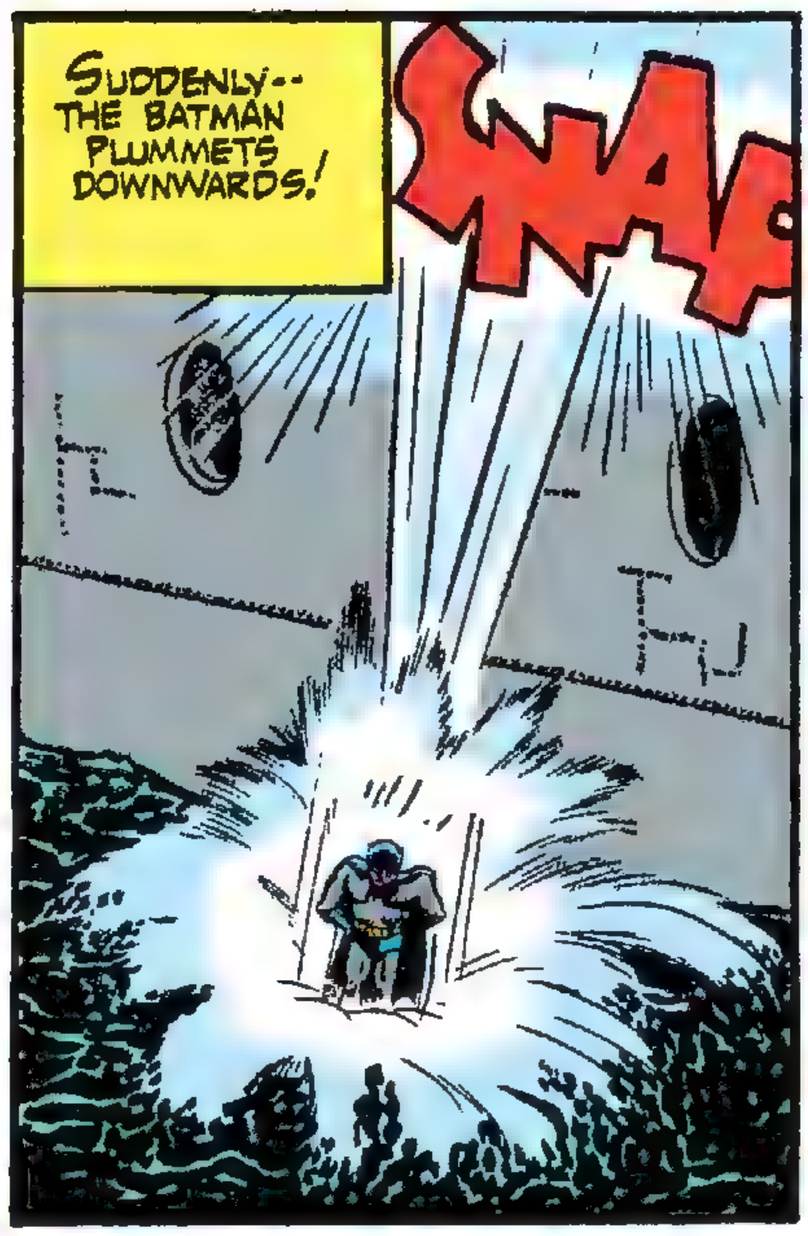

LATER-- AS THE COAST GUARD BOAT DOCKS AT A DESERTED PIER-- THERE IS A FAINT SIGH-- THE FLUTTERING OF EYELIDS--AND ROBIN'S EYES OPEN--
WHERE AM I? OH, YES--I REMEMBER--GOSH! THEY GOT AWAY FROM THE YACHT! I'LL FOLLOW THEM--

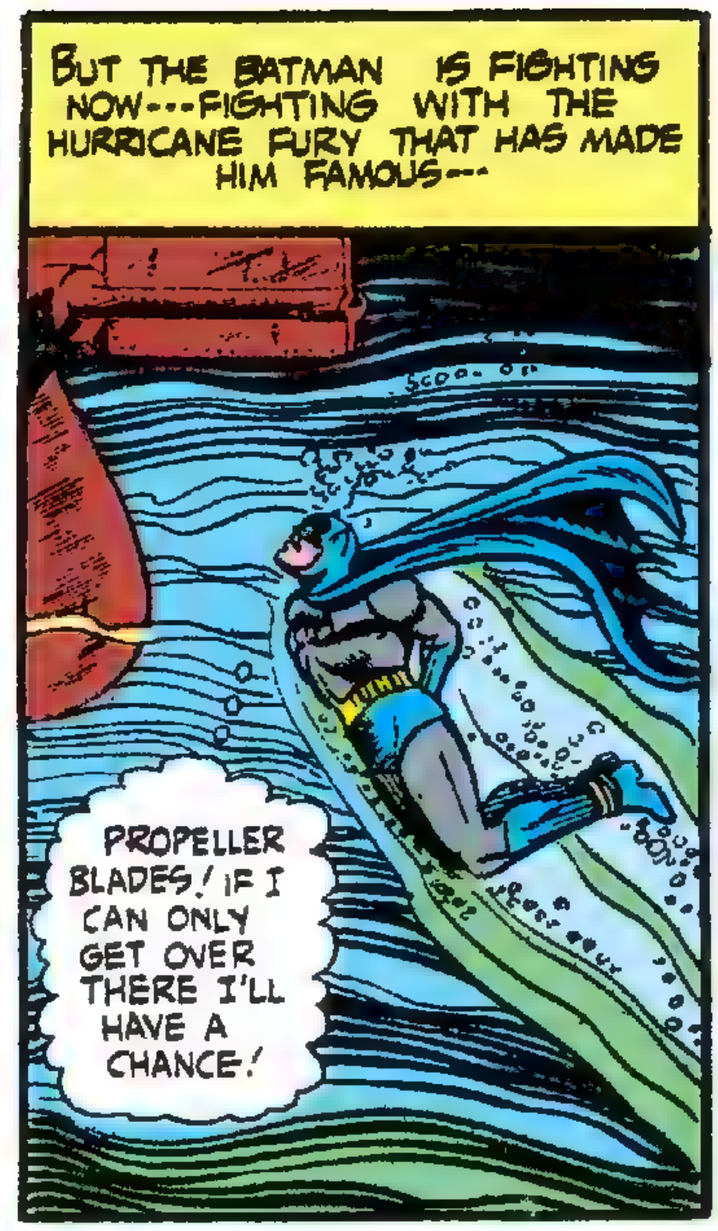
WON'T THE BATMAN BE SURPRISED WHEN I LOCATE THE JOKER!
LITTLE DOES ROBIN REALIZE THAT AT THIS VERY MOMENT THE BATMAN IS ENGAGED IN A GRIM CONTEST WITH DEATH!
10

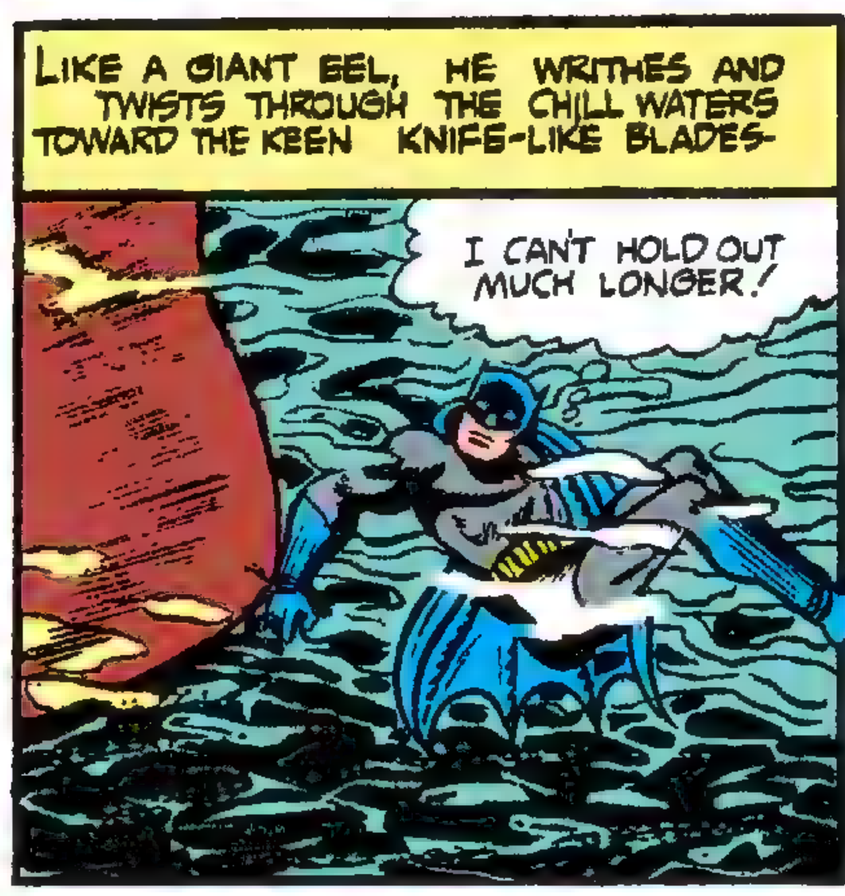
LATER--
SO THAT'S THE JOKER'S HIDEOUT! I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE BATMAN!


MY WIRELESS JAMMED! WATER MUST HAVE LEAKED IN, AND SPOILED THE MECHANISM! I CAN'T LEAVE HERE- THE JOKER, MIGHT DECIDE TO BEAT IT! I'LL GET INSIDE AND SEE WHAT'S WHAT!
R

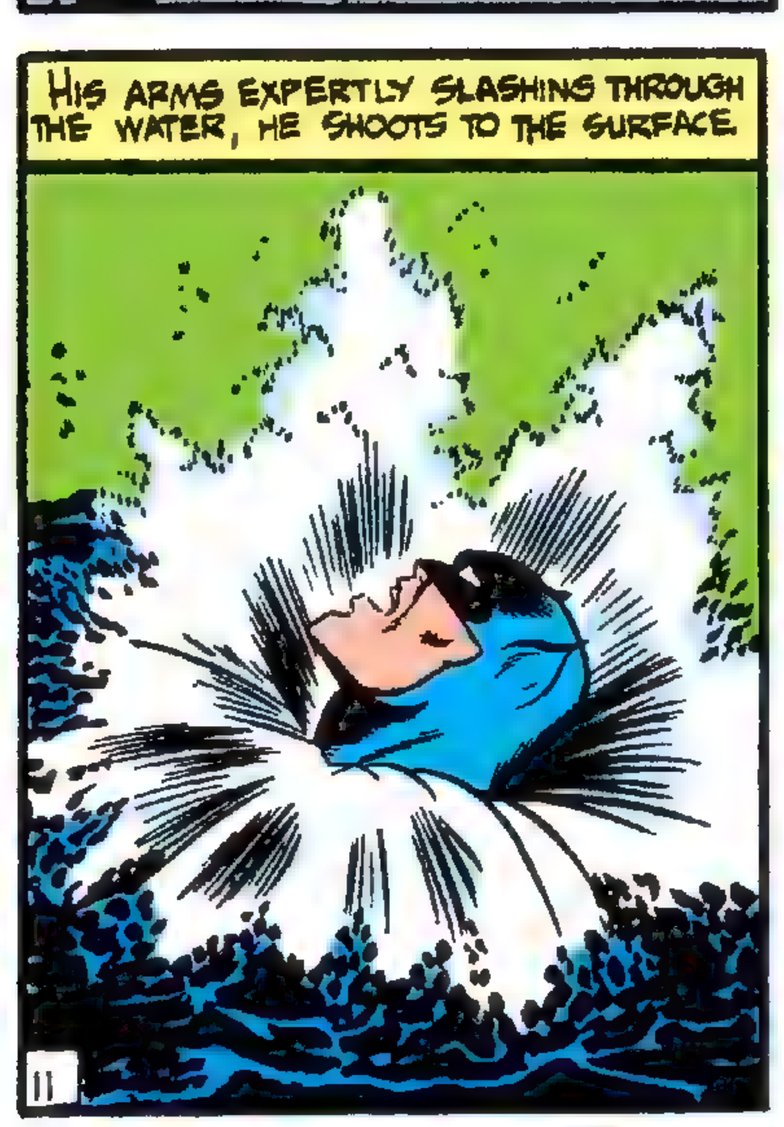

BACK ON THE YACHT, THE CRIME-FIGHTER'S LETHARGY IS REPLACED BY A TERRIBLE RAGE--- LIKE A SLUMBERING LION AROUSED, THE VENGEANCE-BENT BATMAN ESTIMATES HIS CHANCES OF ESCAPE!
LOOKS BAD NOW!


SUDDENLY-- THE BATMAN PLUMMETS DOWNWARDS!
SNAP


BUT THE BATMAN IS FIGHTING NOW---FIGHTING WITH THE HURRICANE FURY THAT HAS MADE HIM FAMOUS---
PROPELLER BLADES! IF I CAN ONLY GET OVER THERE I'LL HAVE A CHANCE!


LIKE A GIANT EEL, HE WRITHES AND TWISTS THROUGH THE CHILL WATERS TOWARD THE KEEN KNIFE-LIKE BLADES-
I CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!

--THE BATMAN STICKS TO HIS HOPELESS-SEEMING TASK UNTIL FINALLY---
MY HANDS ARE FREE!

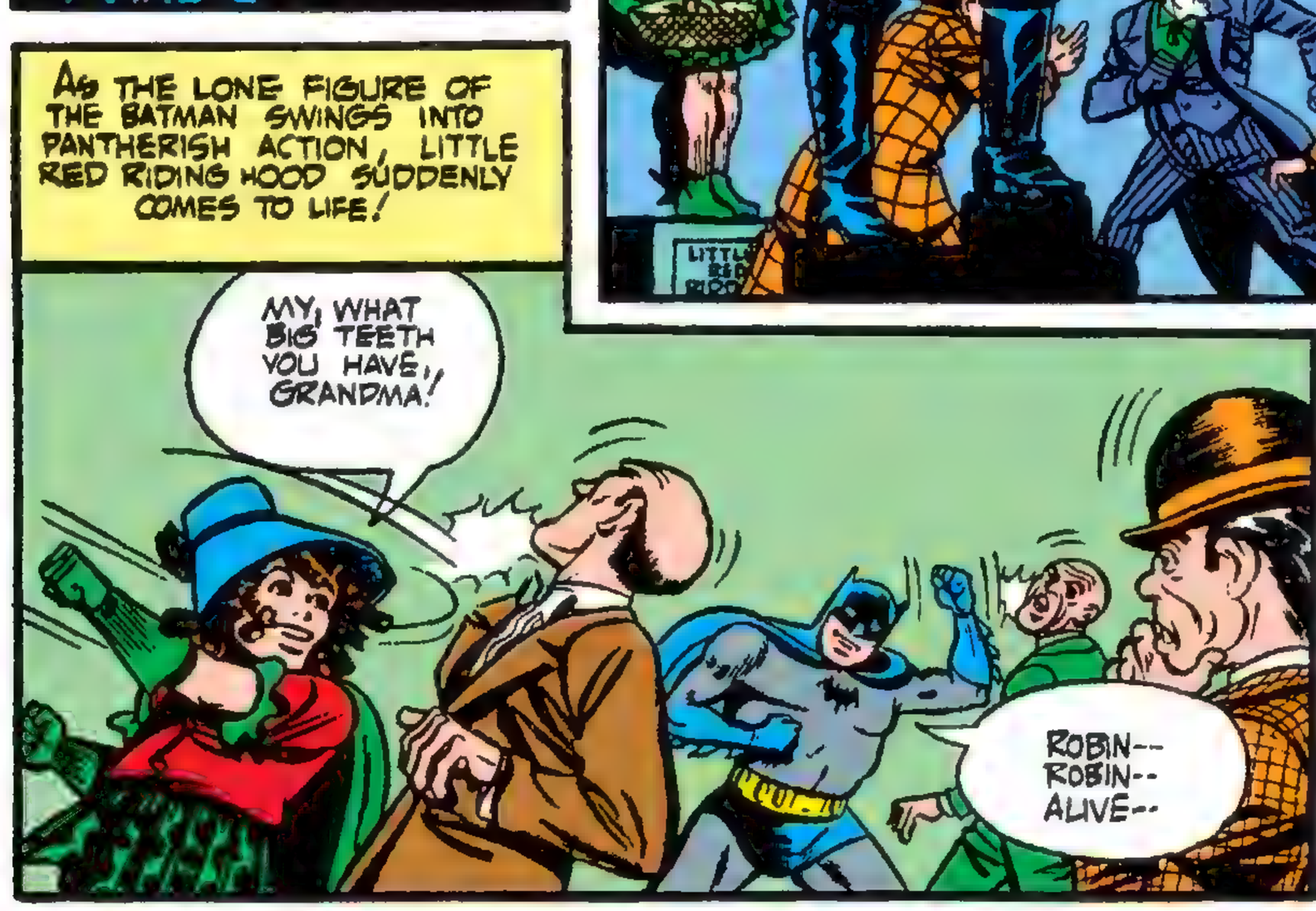

HIS ARMS EXPERTLY SLASHING THROUGH THE WATER, HE SHOOTS TO THE SURFACE.

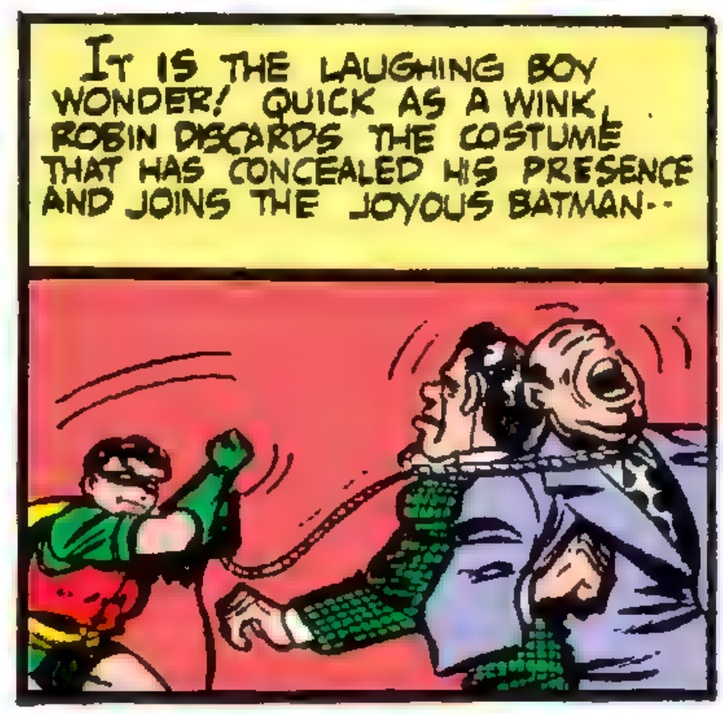
IT IS THE WORK OF A MINUTE TO FREE HIS LEGS, AND THEN -----
NOW TO GET TO SHORE, AND THE JOKER'S HIDEOUT!

"--DRESS ME UP TO KILL AT CHARLIE'S", EH? THAT FOOL MIGHT AS WELL HAVE GIVEN ME THE ADDRESS OF THE HIDEOUT!

LATER..
I WAS RIGHT! CHARLIE'S SHOP.. THAT'S WHERE THE JOKER GETS HIS UNIFORMS AND WHERE THEY WERE GOING TO DRESS ME UP TO KILL!"
Charlie COSTUMES for HIRE
CHARLIE'S COSTUMES FOR HIRE

EYES GLEAMING, THE GRIM-JAWED BATMAN SLIDES NOISELESSLY UP THE STAIRS LIKE A CREATURE OF THE JUNGLE STALKING ITS PREY!
IT CAN'T BE ---YOU COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED, BATMAN!
NO? I'M NO GHOST, I ASSURE YOU, JOKER --BUT YOU MAY BE SOON!


AS THE LONE FIGURE OF THE BATMAN SWINGS INTO PANTHERISH ACTION, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD SUDDENLY COMES TO LIFE!
MY, WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE, GRANDMA!
ROBIN-- ROBIN-- ALIVE--

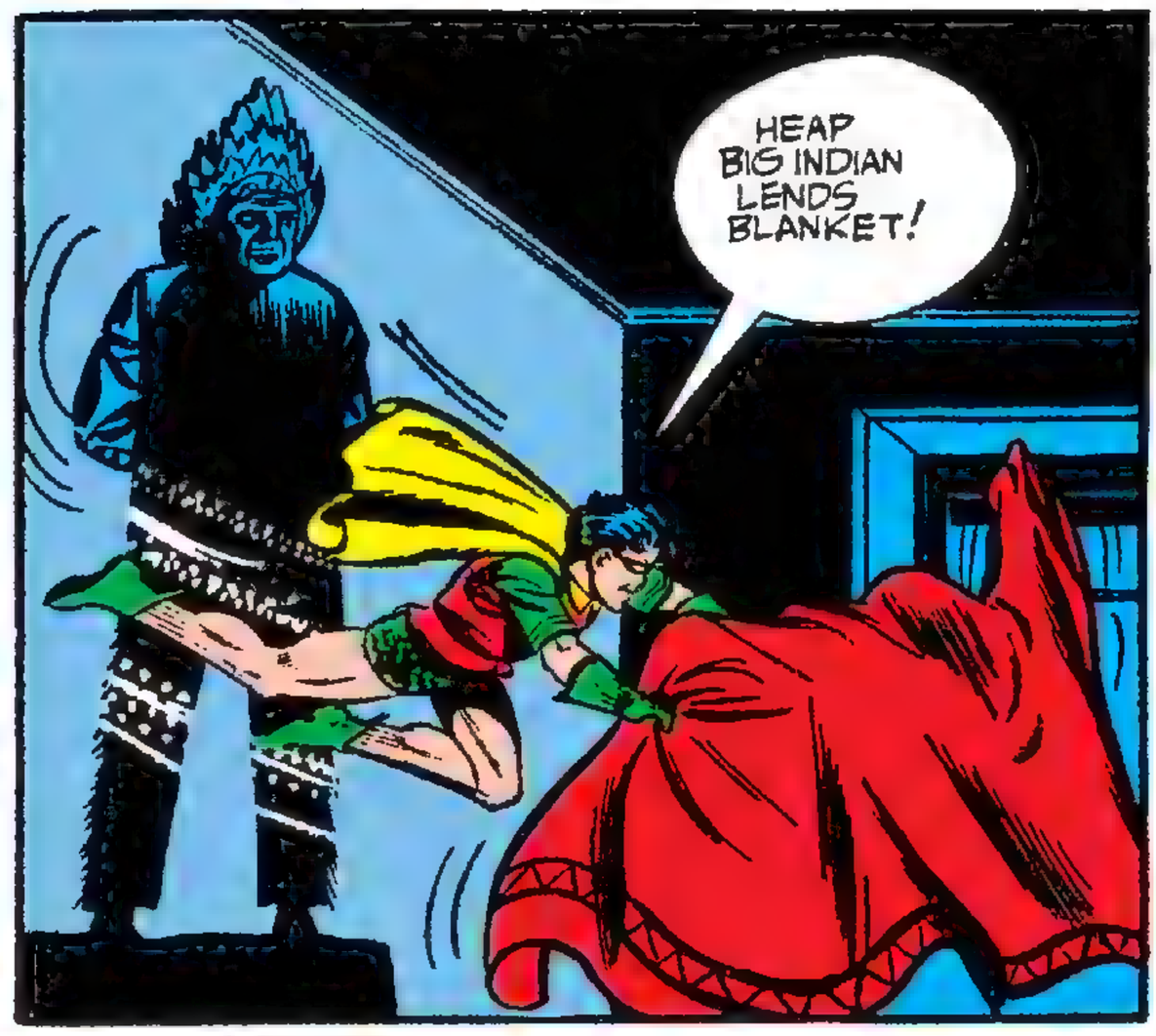

IT IS THE LAUGHING BOY WONDER! QUICK AS A WINK, ROBIN DISCARDS THE COSTUME THAT HAS CONCEALED HIS PRESENCE AND JOINS THE JOYOUS BATMAN--

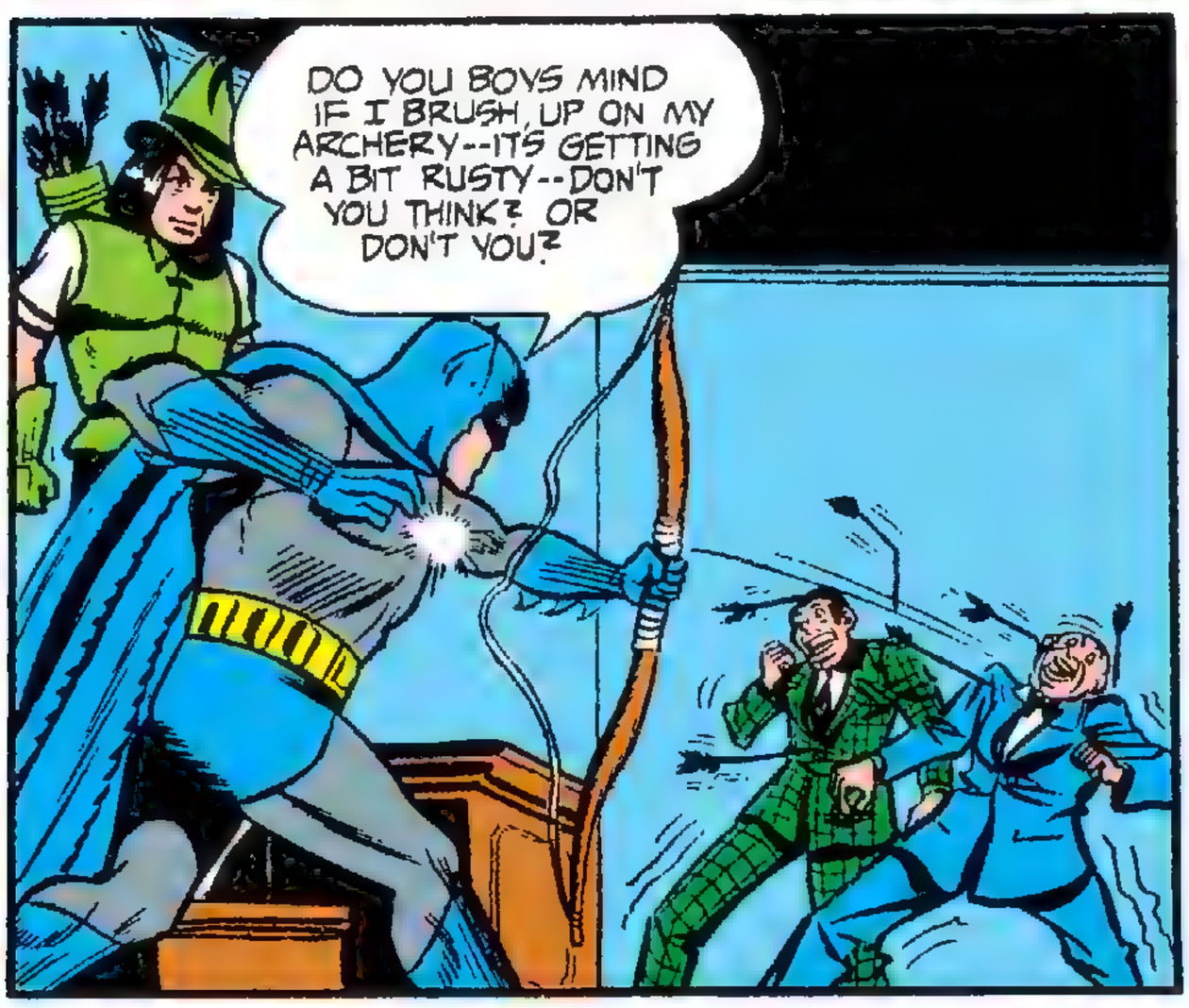
YOU MEDDLING BRAT!
12

--BUT THE BATMAN INTERCEPTS THE CUTLASS WITH A SWEEP OF A PIRATE'S SWORD!
COLD-BLOODED CUSS, AREN'T YOU, JOKER?

BIRDS OF A FEATHER!

THIS LITTLE PALEFACE NEEDS HELP, SO---


HEAP BIG INDIAN LENDS BLANKET!

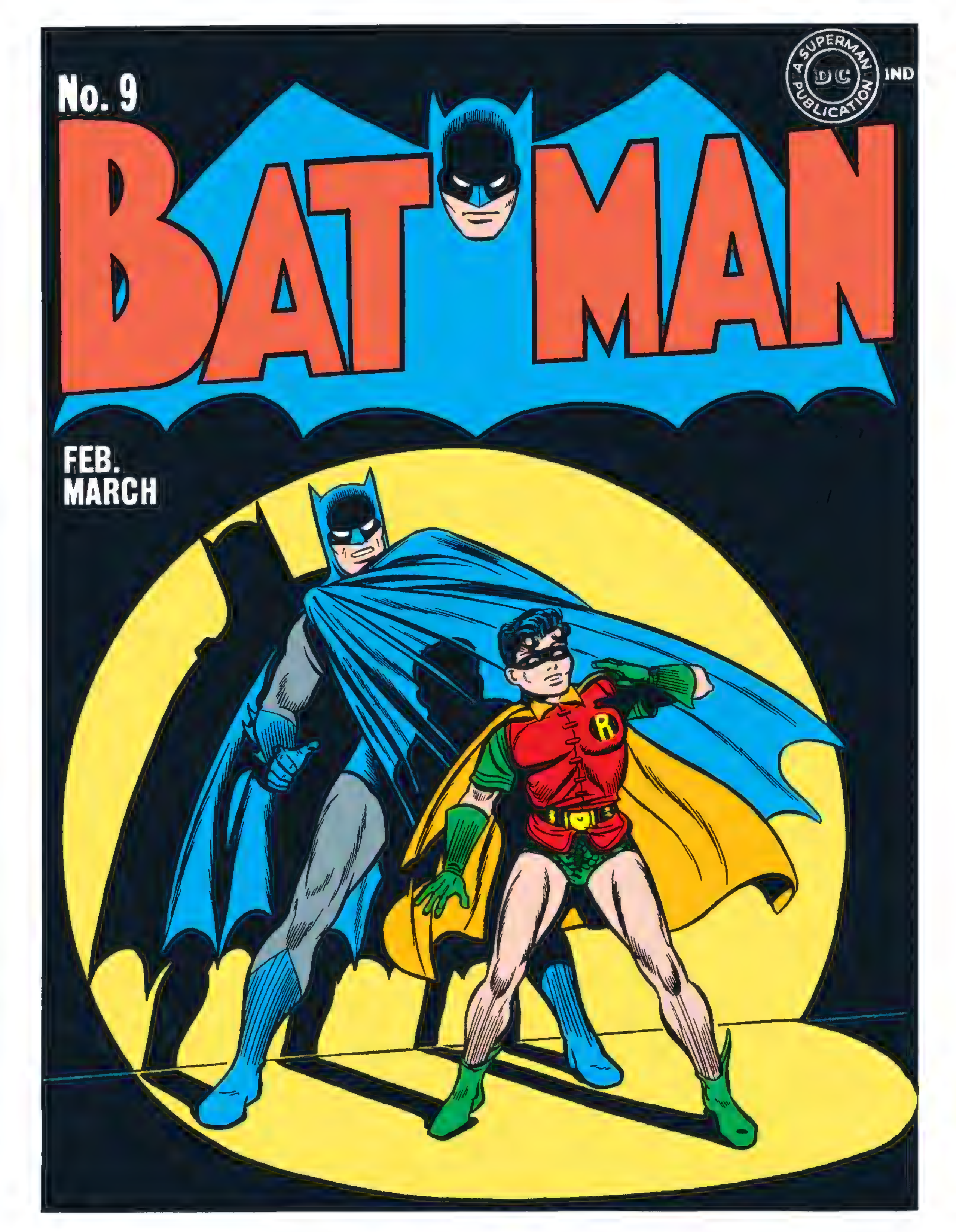

DO YOU BOYS MIND IF I BRUSH UP ON MY ARCHERY--IT'S GETTING A BIT RUSTY--DON'T YOU THINK? OR DON'T YOU?

THE JOKER TOSSES AN AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG AT THE BATMAN!
I'LL SMASH YOUR SKULL!
NO, THANKS!

THAT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE! THE JOKER KNOCKED HIMSELF OUT WITH A BOOMERANG!
HE'S FINISHED- AND SO ARE HIS MEN!
13

UNIFORMS-- THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED! WELL, THERE'S ONE MORE COSTUME HE STILL HAS TO PUT ON, ROBIN— A CONVICT'S UNIFORM!!

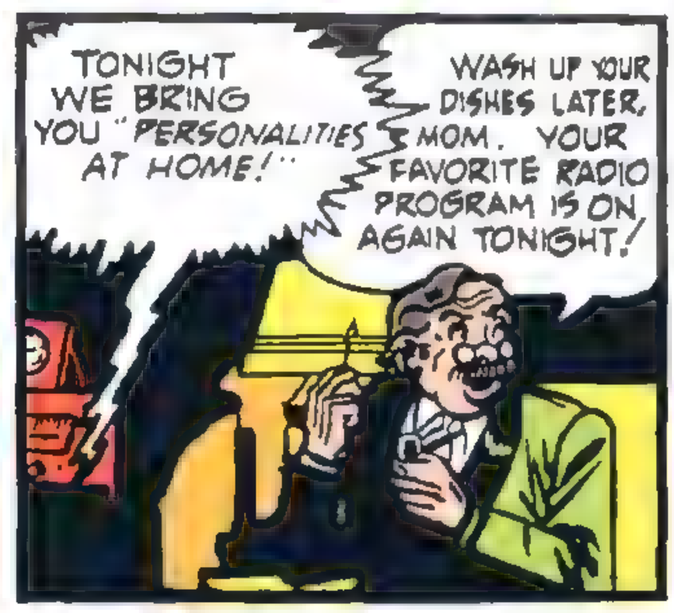
EVEN THE JOKER'S GRIMMEST JEST CANNOT EQUAL THIS IRONIC END TO THE CHIEF OF THE UNIFORMED KILLERS!
SO THEY THINK THE JOKER IS THROUGH--I'LL SHOW THEM!
The End
WILL THE JOKER REMAIN BEHIND BARS-OR HAS THE DECK OF LIFE STILL ANOTHER DEAL LEFT FOR HIM?


No. 9
BAT MAN
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
IND
FEB.
MARCH
R

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

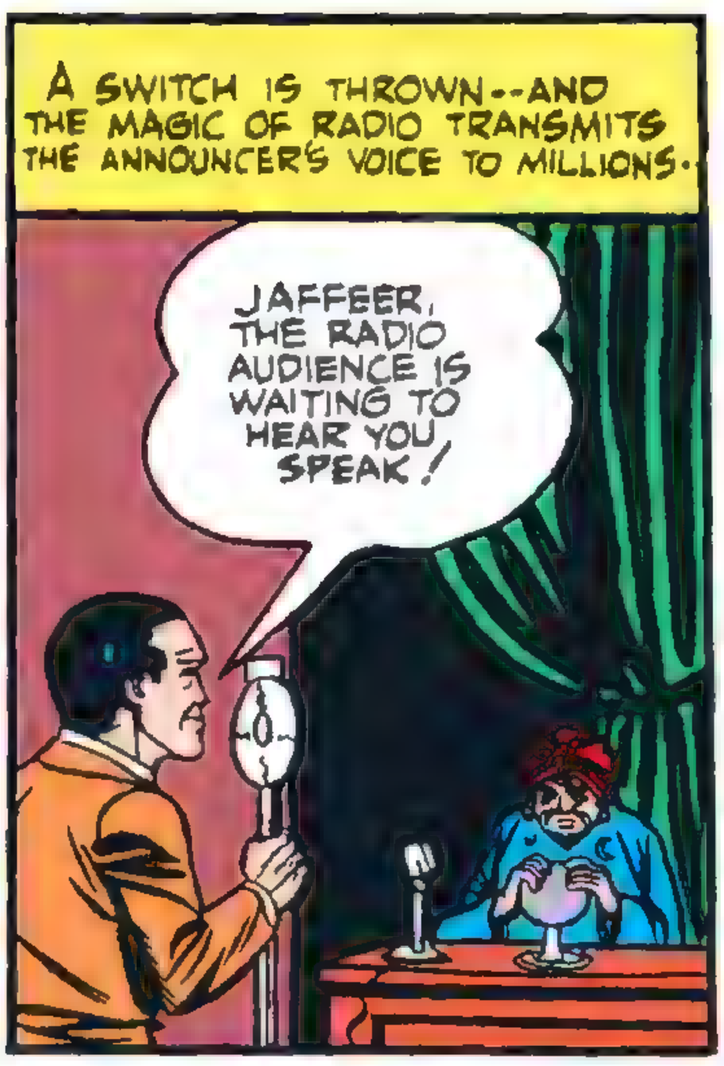
HERE IS A TALE OF MYSTERY AS OLD AS MAN IS OLD. A TALE, ALSO, OF FOUR SKEPTICAL, BIG-TIME RACKETEERS WHO FIND BLASTING GUNS HELPLESS AGAINST THE BLACK, RELENTLESS FORCES OF THE UNKNOWN! MIGHTY BATMAN AND ROBIN-BATTLING THIS SAME VICIOUS CRIME BAND- COME UPON THINGS AND HAPPENINGS THAT EVEN THEY ARE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN. MERE COINCIDENCE? PERHAPS--WHO CAN REALLY TELL? CAN YOU RIP AWAY THE VEIL OF MYSTERY THAT SHROUDS THESE INEXPLICABLE EVENTS--AND SOLVE THE BAFFLING RIDDLE OF --- THE FOUR FATES!

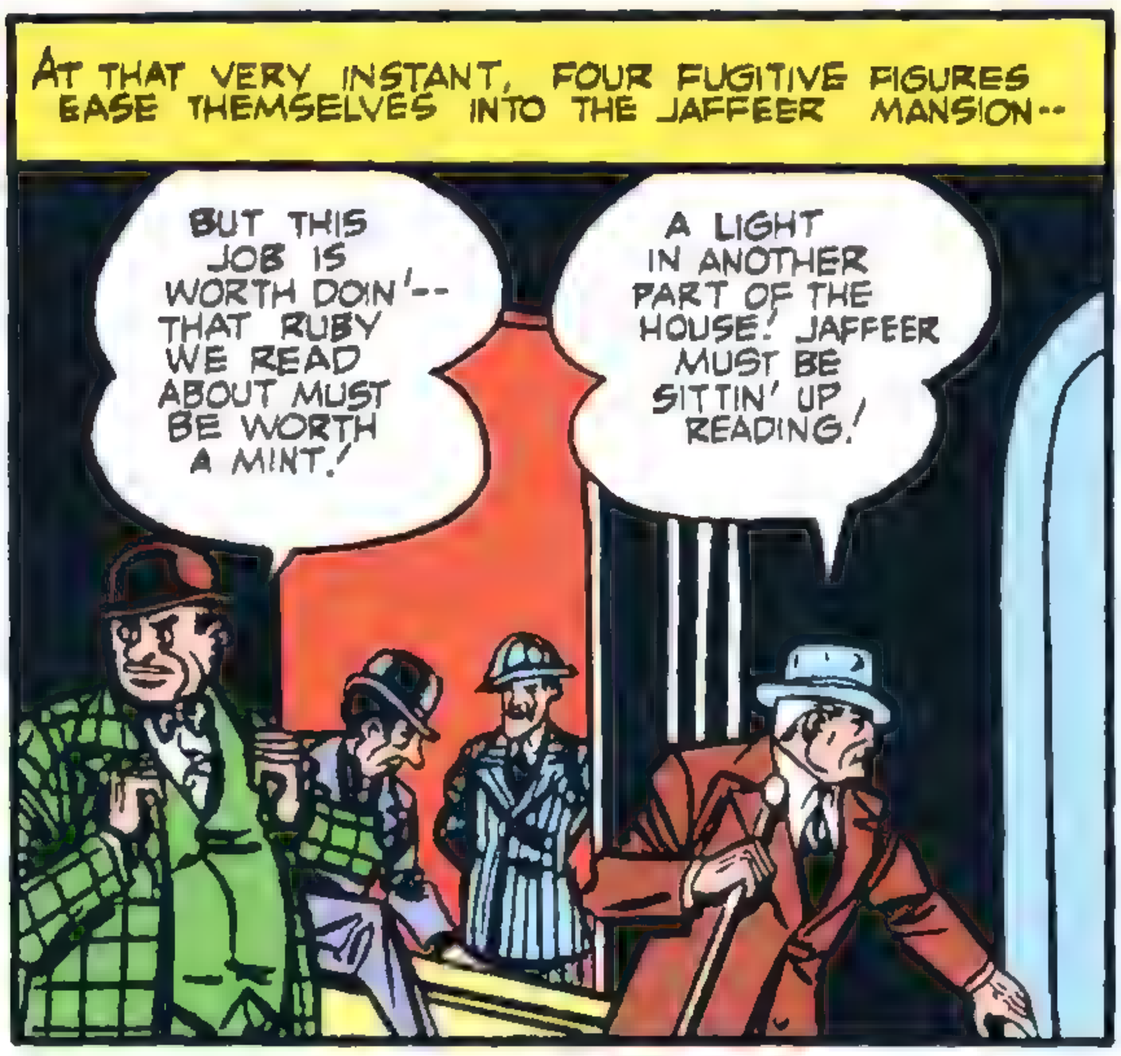
BOB KANE

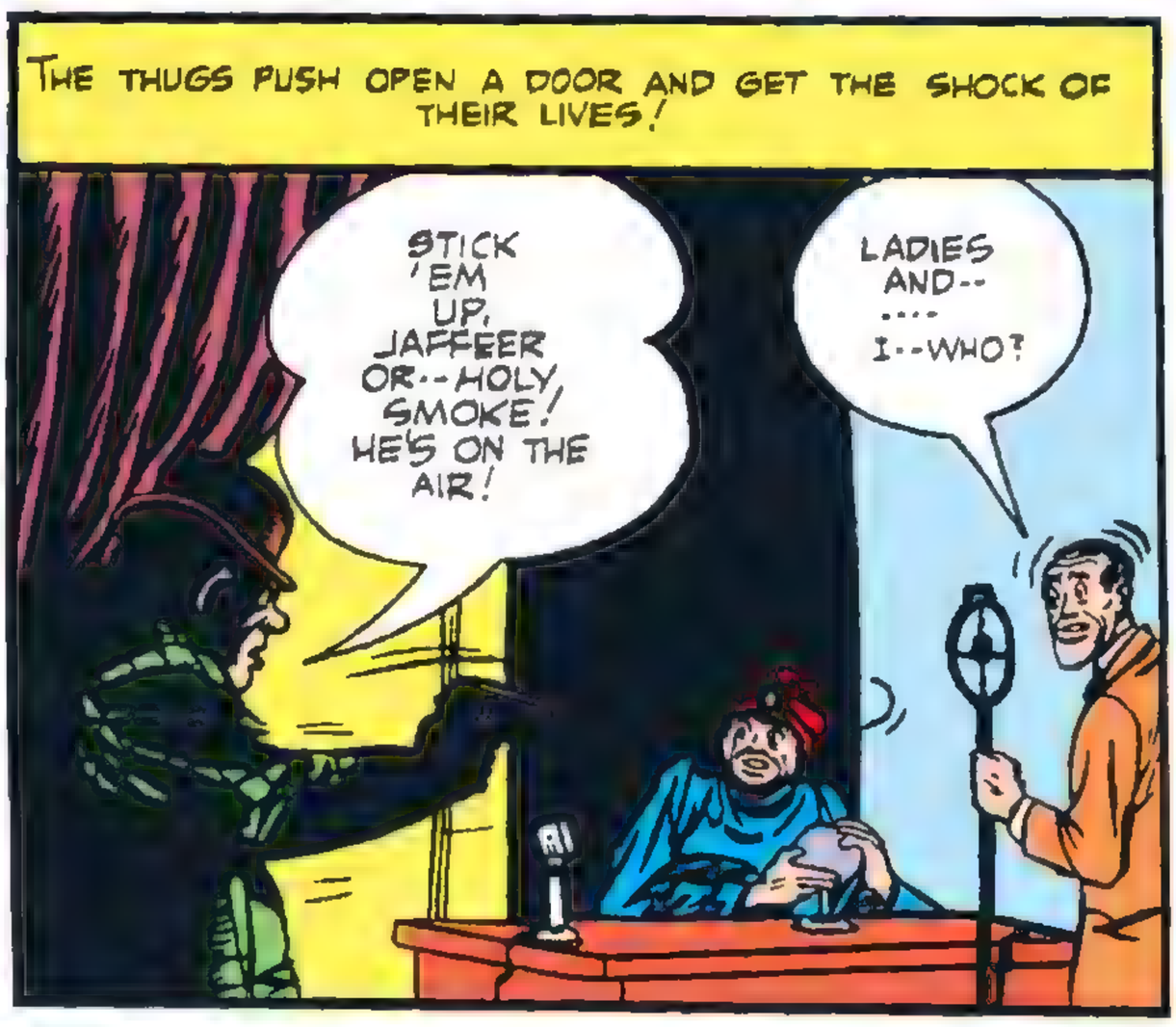


THE EAGER EARS OF MILLIONS LISTEN TO THE BROADCAST--
TONIGHT WE ENTER ANOTHER HOME TO INTERVIEW ANOTHER INTERESTING PERSONALITY!

BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARE AMONG THE LISTENING AUDIENCE--
ISN'T HE THE FELLOW I READ ABOUT RECENTLY-- WEARS A GIANT RUBY IN HIS TURBAN!
THAT'S RIGHT! A RUBY WORTH A KING'S RANSOM!

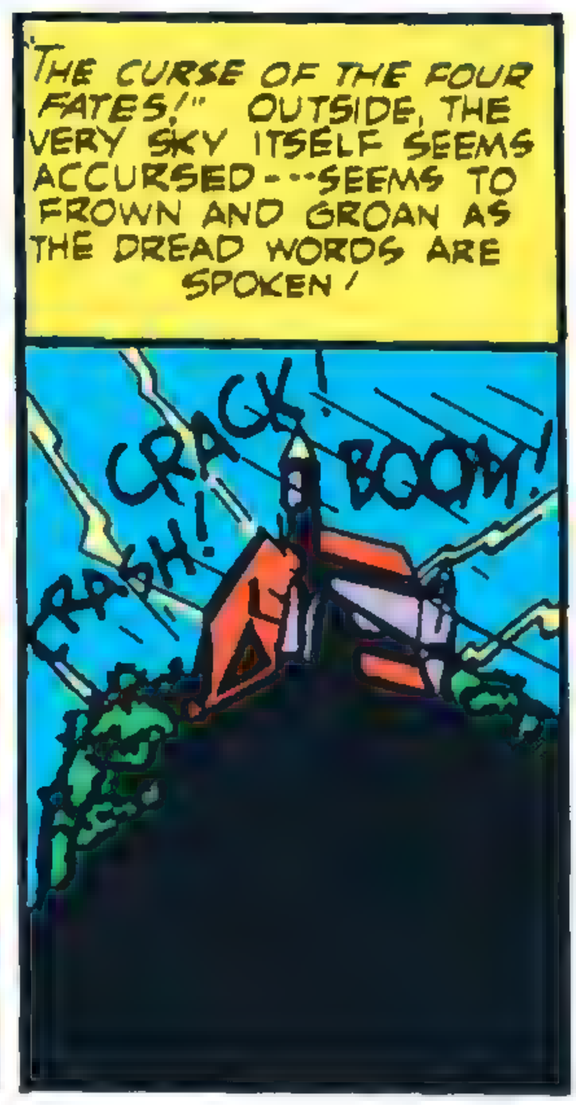

A SWITCH IS THROWN--AND THE MAGIC OF RADIO TRANSMITS THE ANNOUNCER'S VOICE TO MILLIONS.
JAFFEER, THE RADIO AUDIENCE IS WAITING TO HEAR YOU SPEAK!


AT THAT VERY INSTANT, FOUR FUGITIVE FIGURES EASE THEMSELVES INTO THE JAFFEER MANSION--
BUT THIS JOB IS WORTH DOIN'-- THAT RUBY WE READ ABOUT MUST BE WORTH A MINT!
A LIGHT IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE! JAFFEER MUST BE SITTIN' UP READING!


THE THUGS PUSH OPEN A DOOR AND GET THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES!
STICK 'EM UP, JAFFEER OR--HOLY SMOKE! HE'S ON THE AIR!
LADIES AND-- .... I--WHO?

LIFT THAT ROCK, AND LET'S SCRAM!
THAT'S IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

YOU--YOU FOOLS! YOU'VE STOLEN MY LIFE FROM ME! UPON YOU I CAST THE TERRIBLE CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES!


"THE CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES!" OUTSIDE, THE VERY SKY ITSELF SEEMS ACCURSED---SEEMS TO FROWN AND GROAN AS THE DREAD WORDS ARE SPOKEN!
CRACK!
BOOM!
RASH!

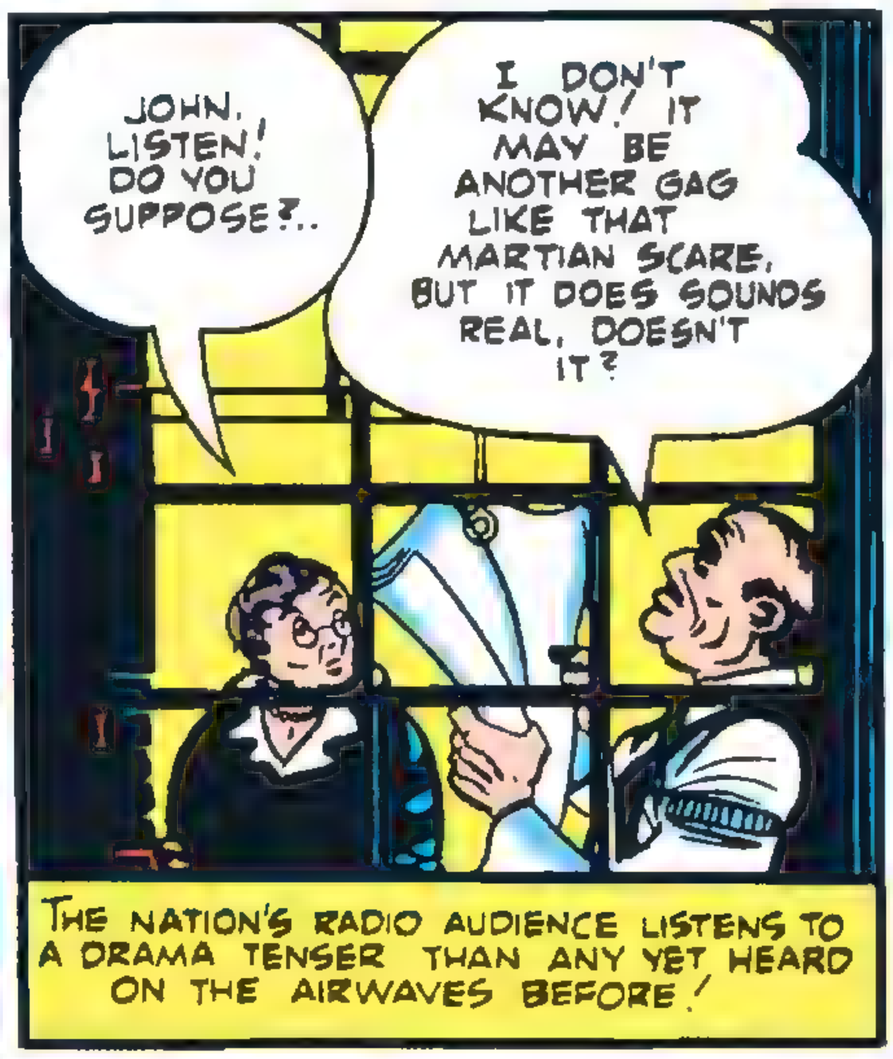
YOU! "LIGHTNING WILL BLAST YOU DOWN IN YOUR TRACKS!"
JOHN "MOUSEY" MEGGS

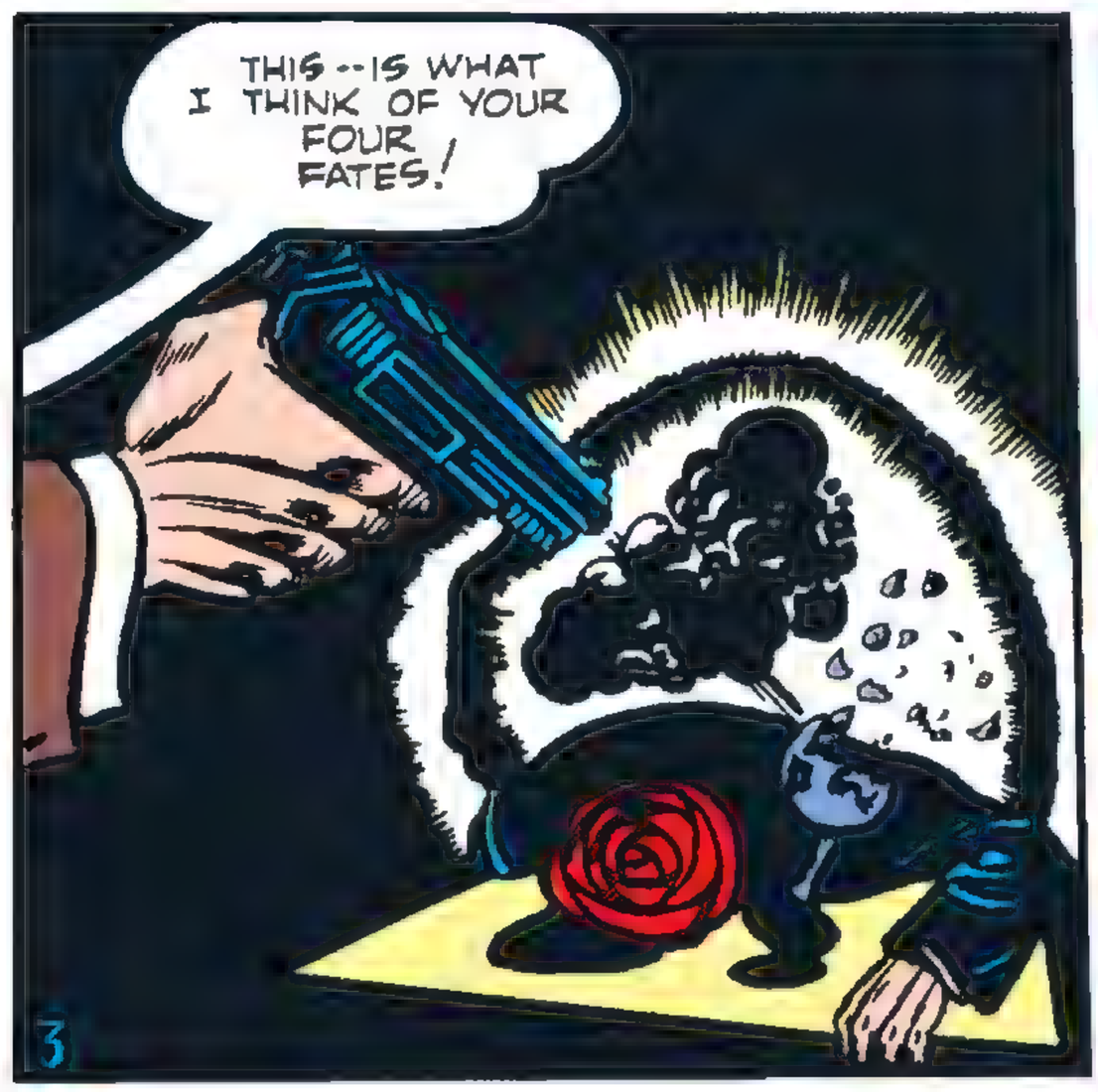
"AIR WILL BE CHOKED FROM YOUR LUNGS!"
ALBERT "SLICK" DANDY

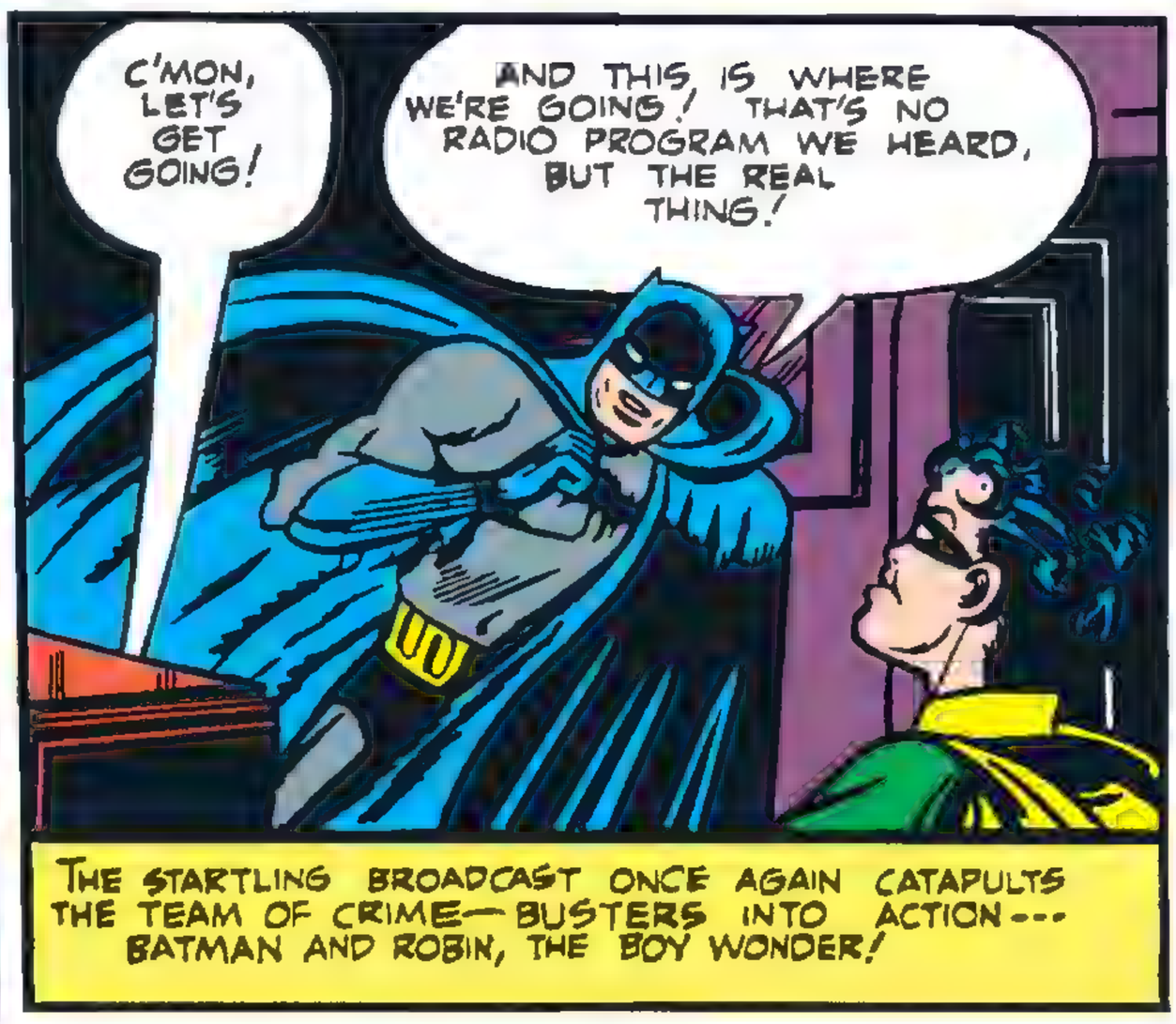
"METAL WILL STILL YOUR BEATING HEART!"
PETE "NAILS" LOGAN

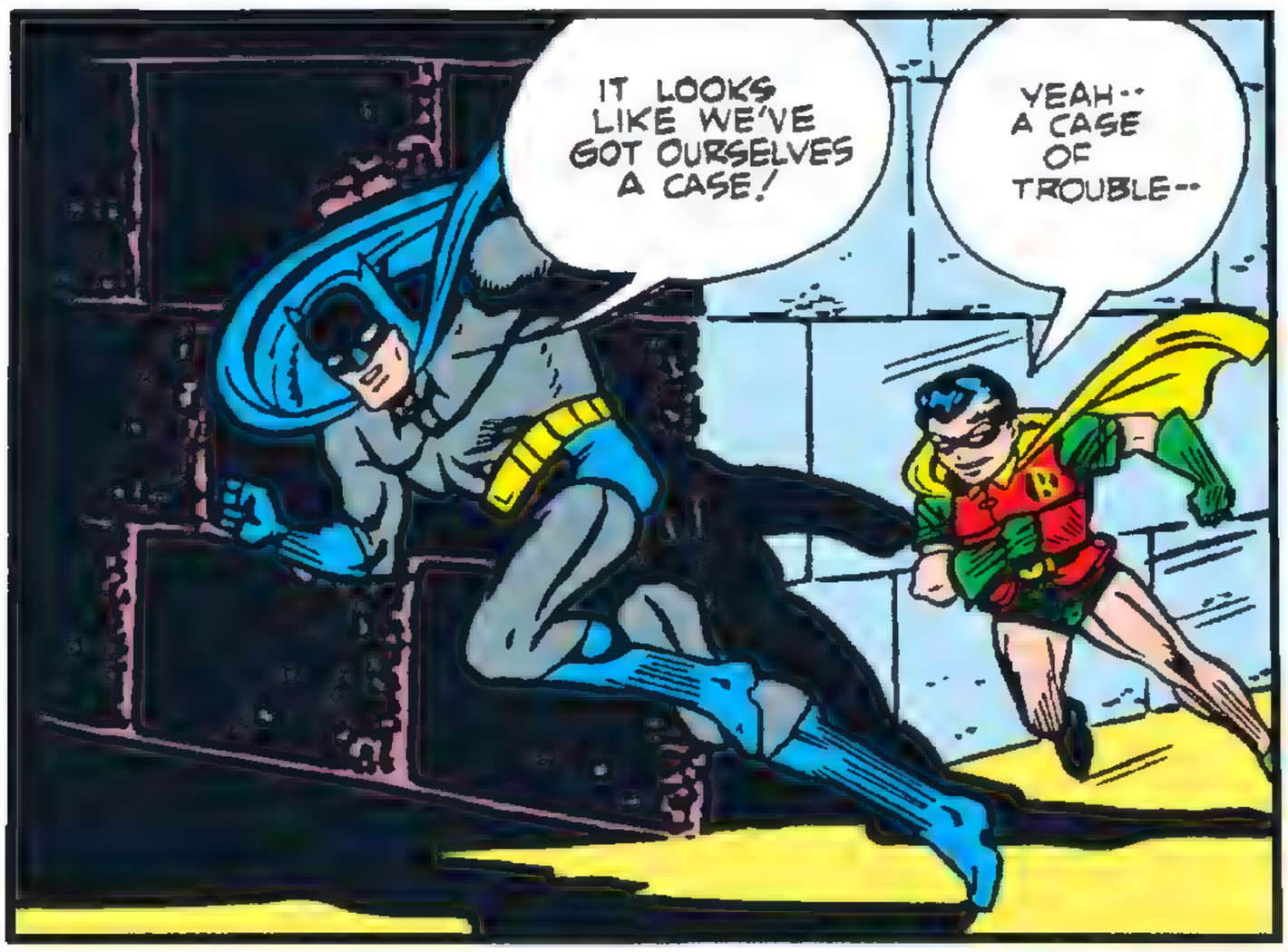
"WATER WILL CAUSE YOUR DOWNFALL!"
MORTIMER "BRAINS" BRINIG

THAT WAS WHAT WILL BE YOUR FATE! --- THE FOUR FATES!
THERE'S A MURDER GOING ON! GET ME THE POLICE!


JOHN, LISTEN! DO YOU SUPPOSE?..
I DON'T KNOW! IT MAY BE ANOTHER GAG LIKE THAT MARTIAN SCARE, BUT IT DOES SOUNDS REAL, DOESN'T IT?
THE NATION'S RADIO AUDIENCE LISTENS TO A DRAMA TENSER THAN ANY YET HEARD ON THE AIRWAVES BEFORE!


THIS --IS WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FOUR FATES!
3


C'MON, LET'S GET GOING!
AND THIS, IS WHERE WE'RE GOING! THAT'S NO RADIO PROGRAM WE HEARD, BUT THE REAL THING!
THE STARTLING BROADCAST ONCE AGAIN CATAPULTS THE TEAM OF CRIME—BUSTERS INTO ACTION--- BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!

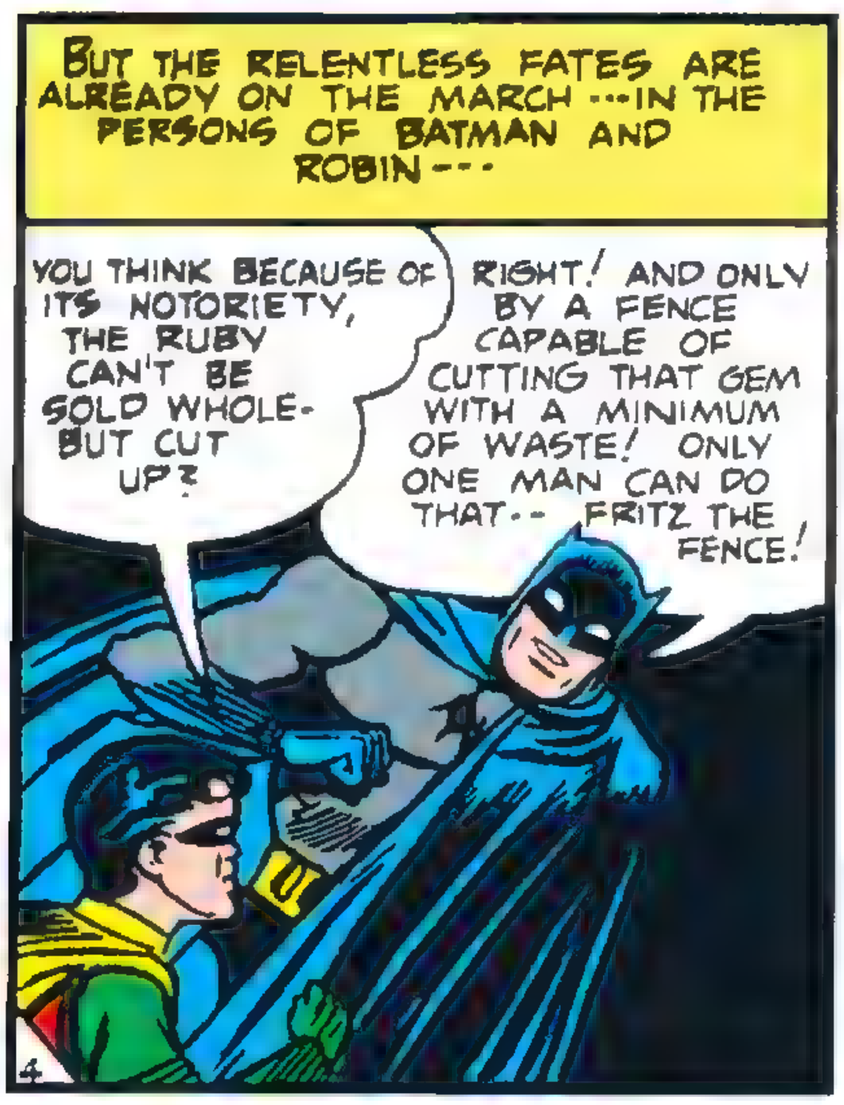

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A CASE!
YEAH-- A CASE OF TROUBLE--

MINUTES LATER--THE JAFFEER MANSION.
YOU'RE TOO LATE, BATMAN--THEY'RE GONE--- WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE, THOUGH!
RECOGNIZED THEIR VOICES ON THE RADIO, SO WE BROUGHT ALONG ROGUES' GALLERY PICTURES, AND THE RADIO MEN IDENTIFIED THEM--THEY WON'T GET FAR NOW!

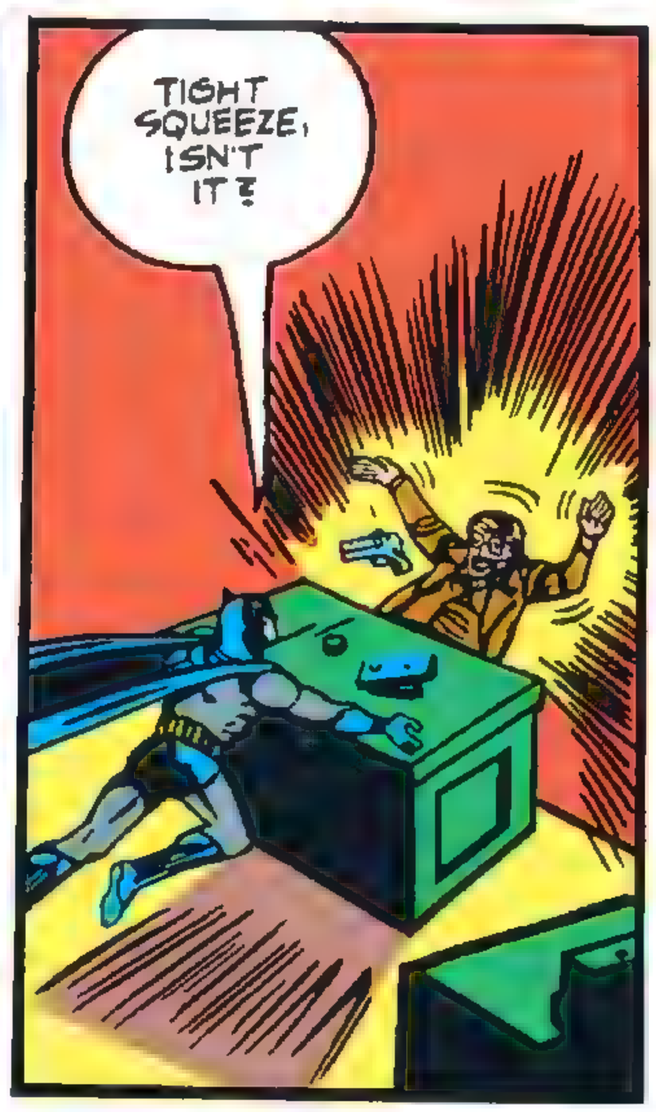
A MAN-HUNT IS UNLEASHED! FROM COAST TO COAST SOUND THE CEASELESS POLICE ALARMS!
ATTENTION--BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MOUSEY MEGGS ---LOGAN---

AND THE MISSING KILLERS---
BE ON THE LOOK-- --- CLICK!
THEM COPPERS ARE AWFULLY ANXIOUS TO GET US. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO LIFT THAT RUBY!
I CAN'T GET THAT GUY'S WORDS OUT OF MY MIND-- REMEMBER THAT CURSE?

YOU AIN'T TAKING THAT STUFF SERIOUSLY?
NOT ME!
HE SAID METAL WOULD KILL ME, BUT DO YOU SEE ME WORRYIN'?
SAID WATER WOULD BE MY DOWN-FALL! HA! I SWIM LIKE A FISH!

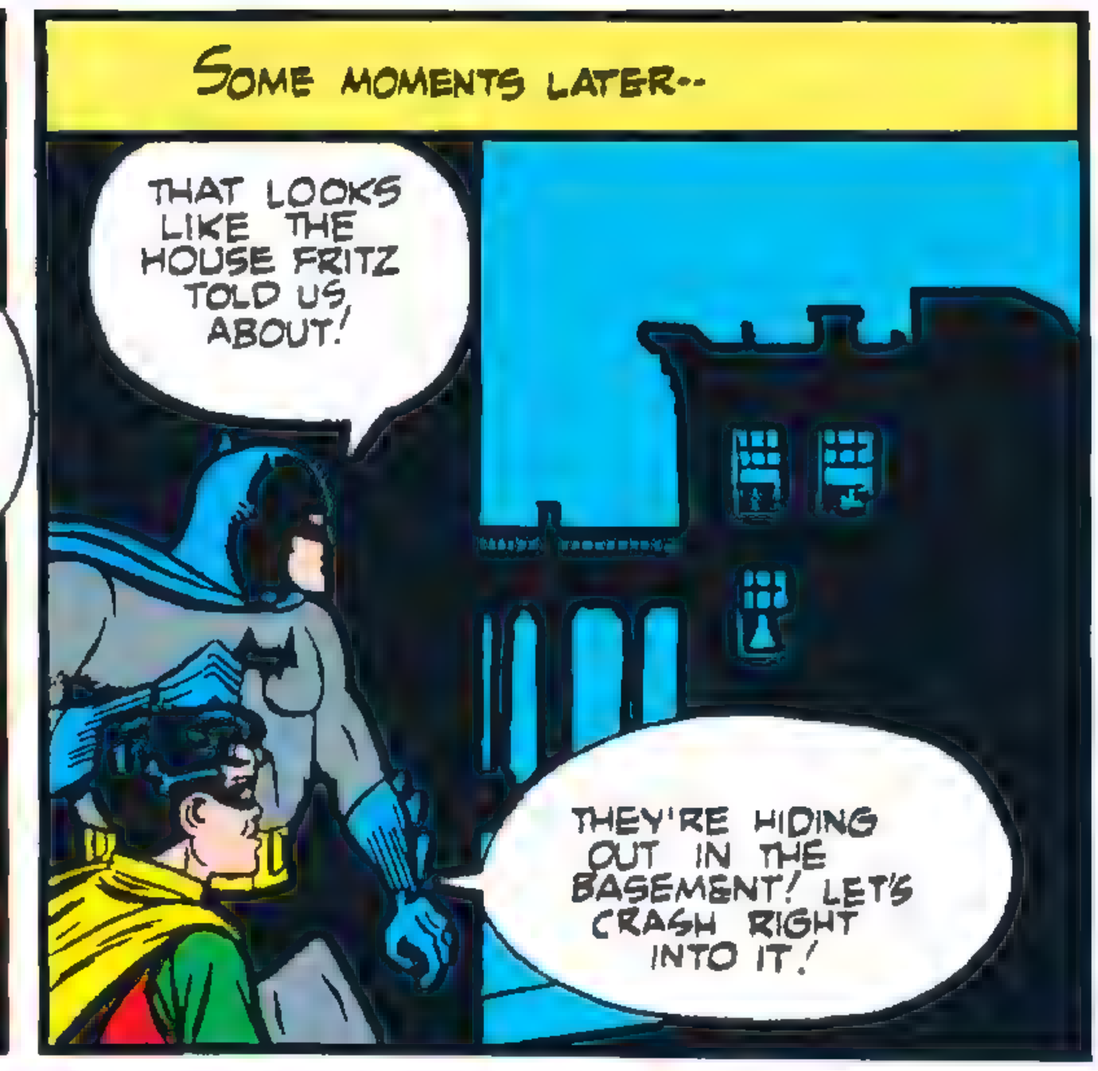

BUT THE RELENTLESS FATES ARE ALREADY ON THE MARCH ---IN THE PERSONS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN---
YOU THINK BECAUSE OF ITS NOTORIETY, THE RUBY CAN'T BE SOLD WHOLE- BUT CUT UP?
RIGHT! AND ONLY BY A FENCE CAPABLE OF CUTTING THAT GEM WITH A MINIMUM OF WASTE! ONLY ONE MAN CAN DO THAT-- FRITZ THE FENCE!

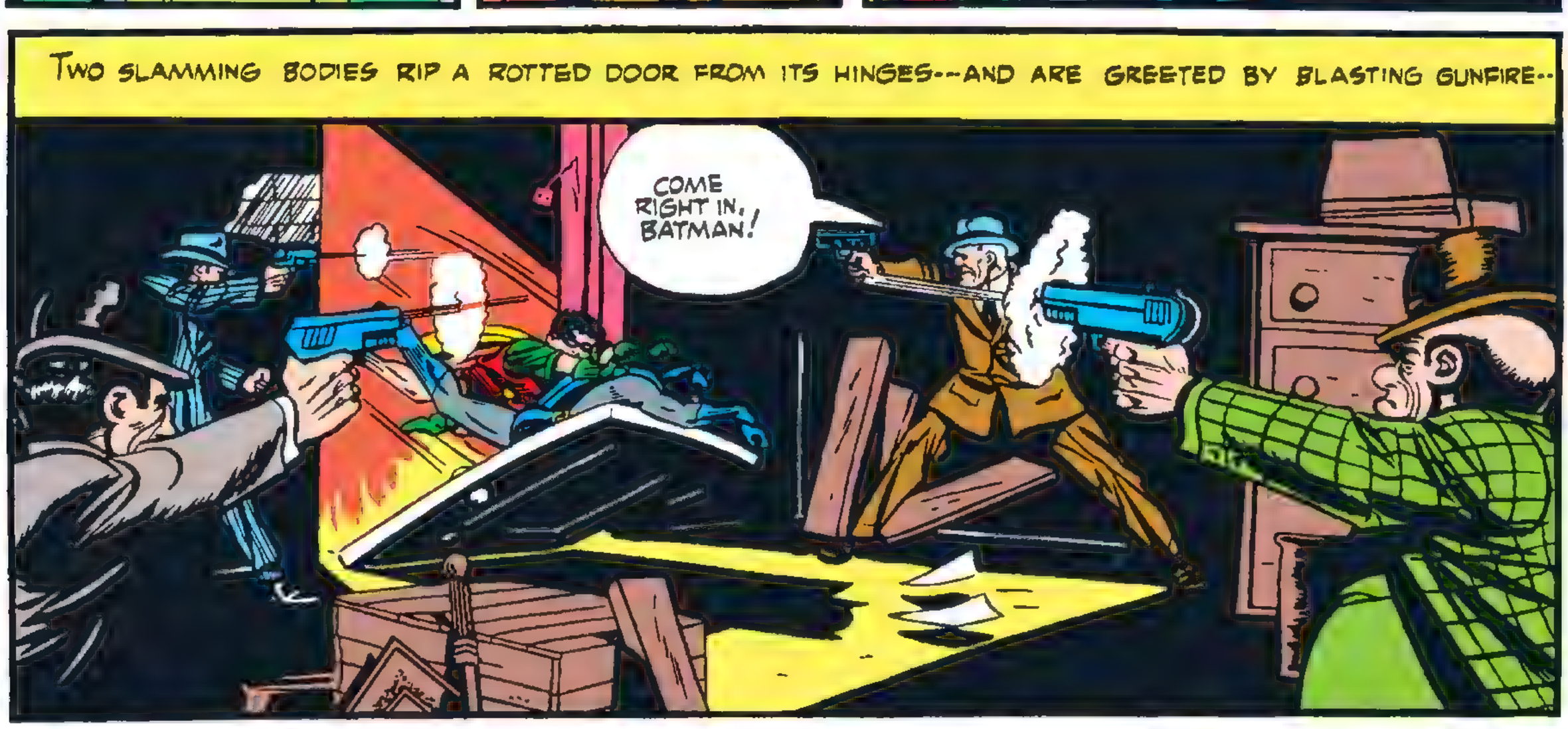
HELLO, FRITZ-- BEEN CUTTING UP ANY RUBIES LATELY?
THE BATMAN!


TIGHT SQUEEZE, ISN'T IT?

CHUM. YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE WORDS!

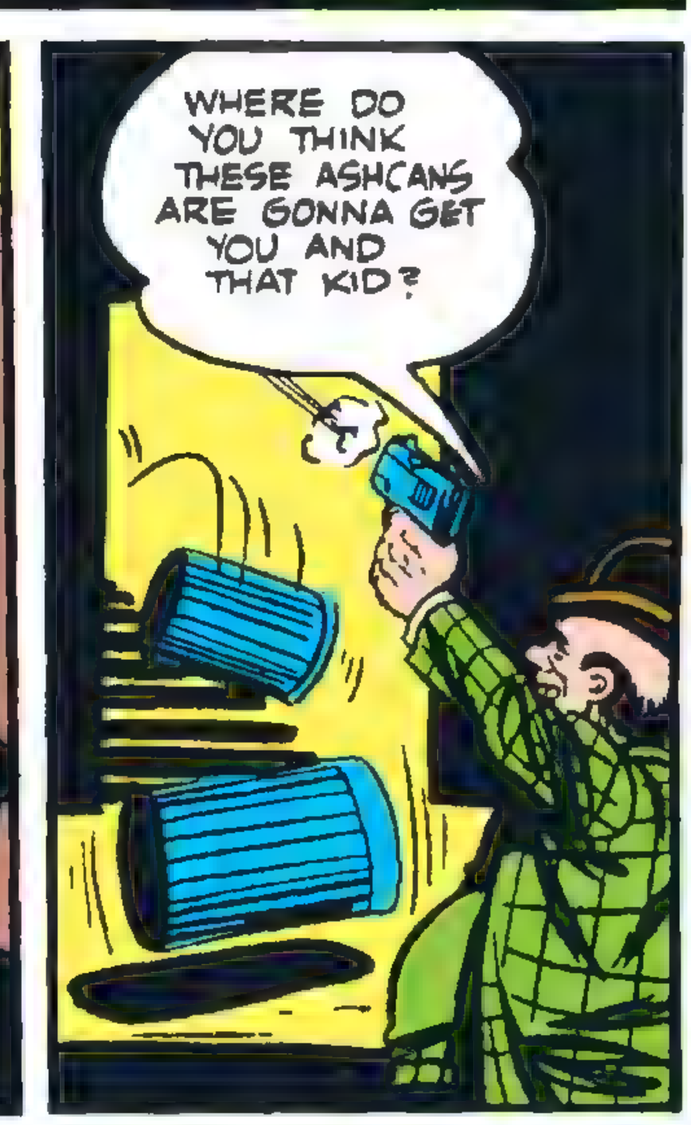
THINK I MIGHT PERSUADE YOU TO TELL ME A FEW CHOICE FACTS ABOUT OUR FUGITIVE FOURSOME?
I--I THINK I MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING!

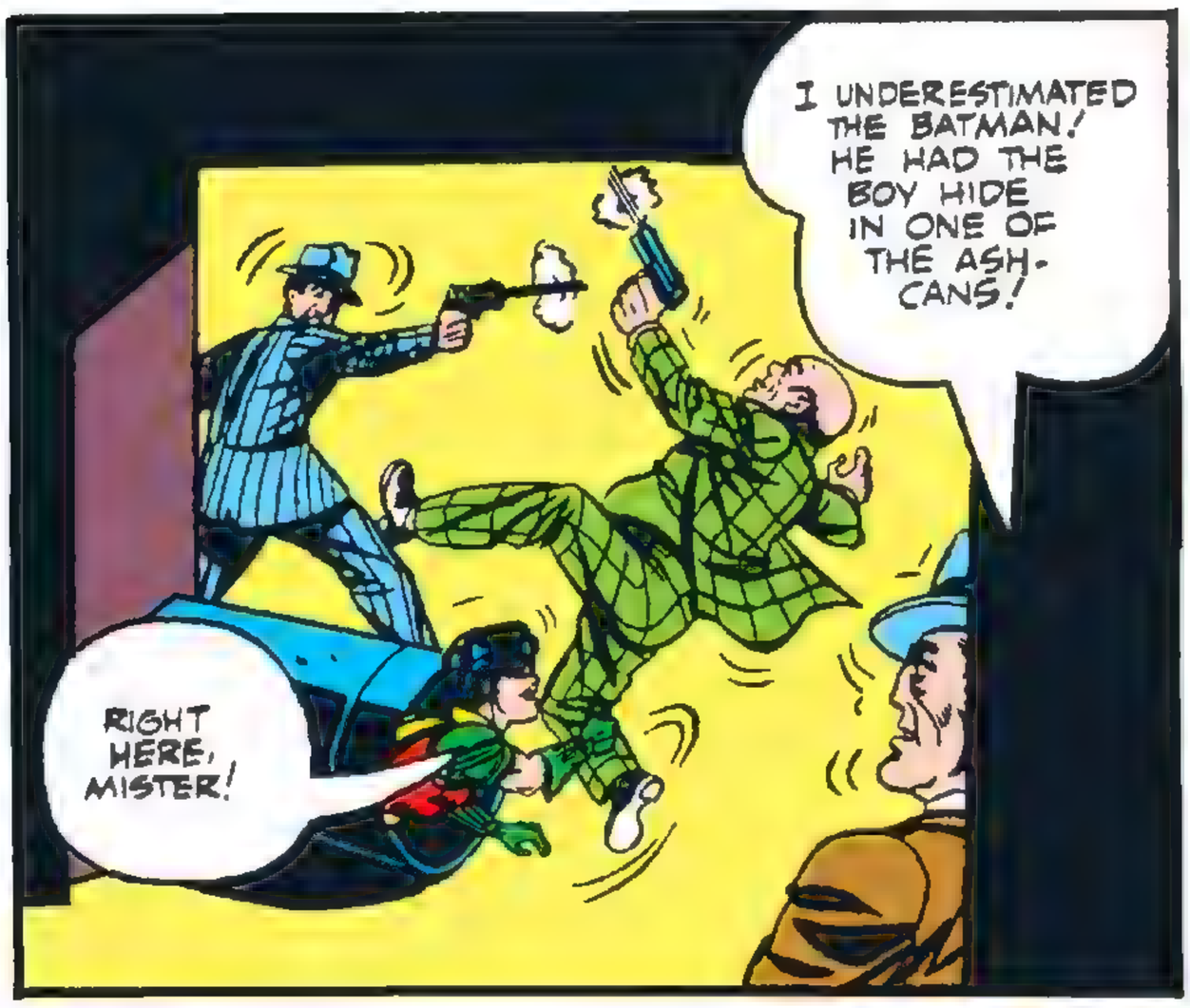

SOME MOMENTS LATER--
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE HOUSE FRITZ TOLD US ABOUT!
THEY'RE HIDING OUT IN THE BASEMENT! LET'S CRASH RIGHT INTO IT!

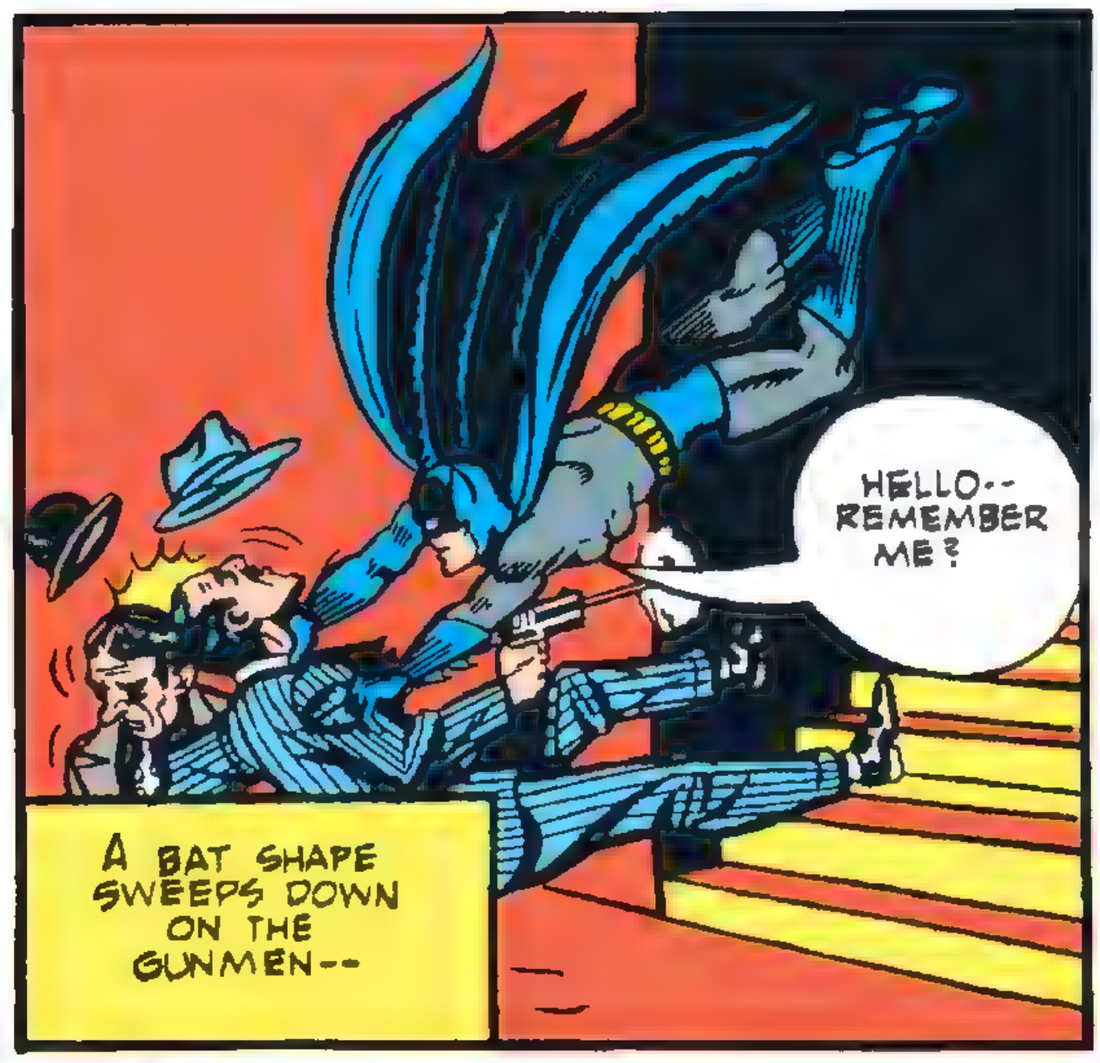

TWO SLAMMING BODIES RIP A ROTTED DOOR FROM ITS HINGES--AND ARE GREETED BY BLASTING GUNFIRE--
COME RIGHT IN, BATMAN!

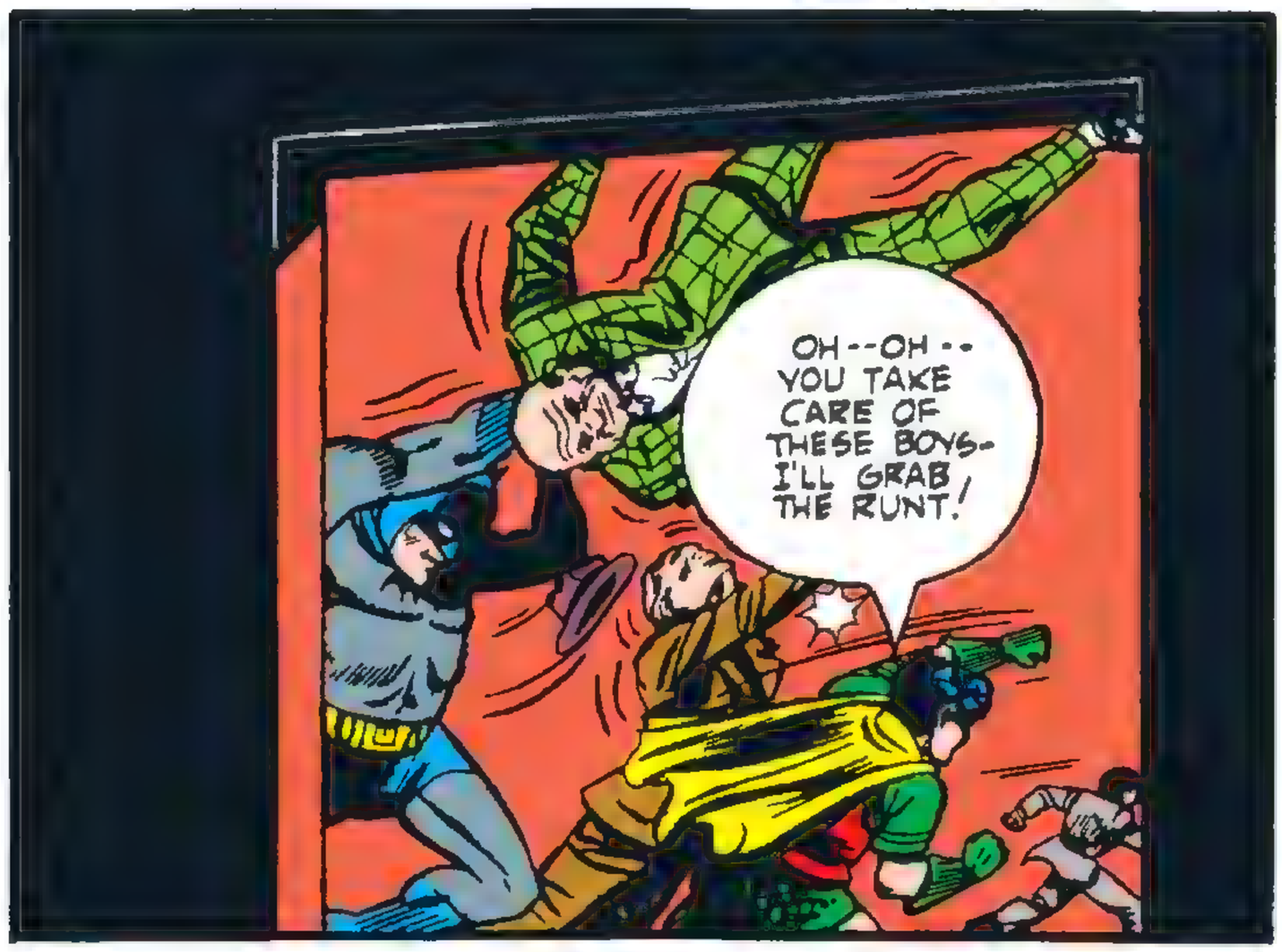
RETREATING DOWN THE STEPS INTO THE ALLEY, THE KILLERS THROW UP A WHINING RAMPART OF BULLETS THAT HOLDS THE DUO AT BAY.
WAIT--THOSE ASHCANS-- MAYBE-- --HMM--
RACK

BOUNDING ASHCANS THUNDER DOWN ON THE MURDERERS!
BATMAN THINKS HE'S GOIN' TO KNOCK US OFF OUR FEET WITH THOSE ASHCANS!

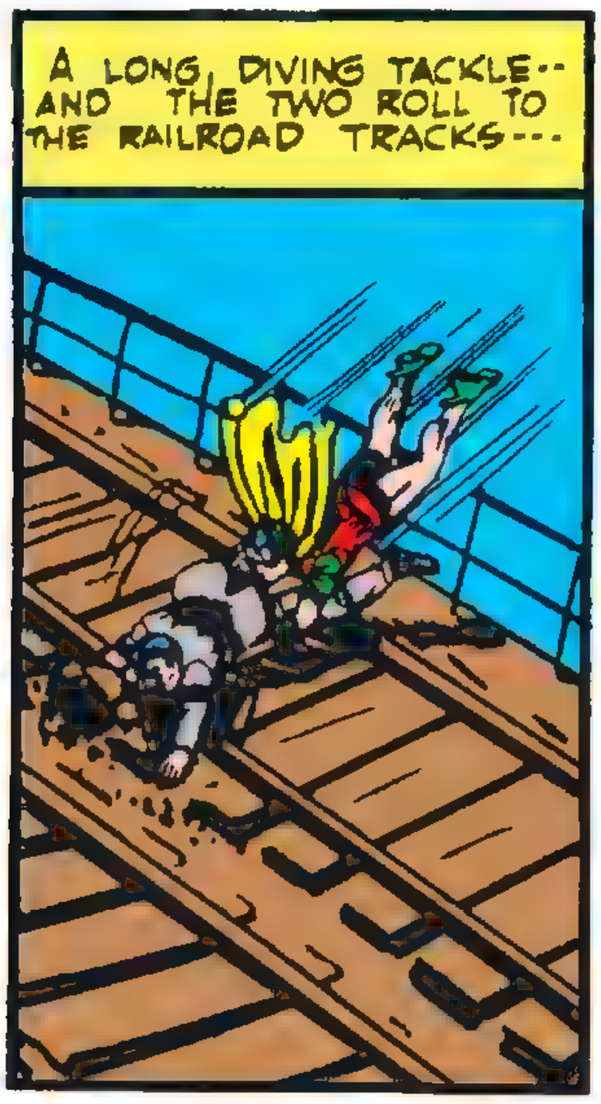

WHERE DO YOU THINK THESE ASHCANS ARE GONNA GET YOU AND THAT KID?


I UNDERESTIMATED THE BATMAN! HE HAD THE BOY HIDE IN ONE OF THE ASH-CANS!
RIGHT HERE, MISTER!


HELLO-- REMEMBER ME?
A BAT SHAPE SWEEPS DOWN ON THE GUNMEN--

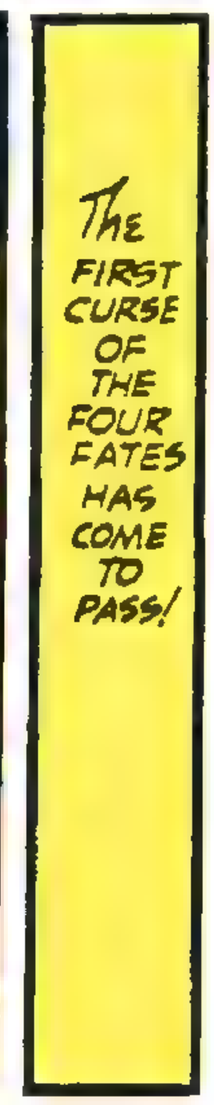

OH--OH-- YOU TAKE CARE OF THESE BOYS- I'LL GRAB THE RUNT!

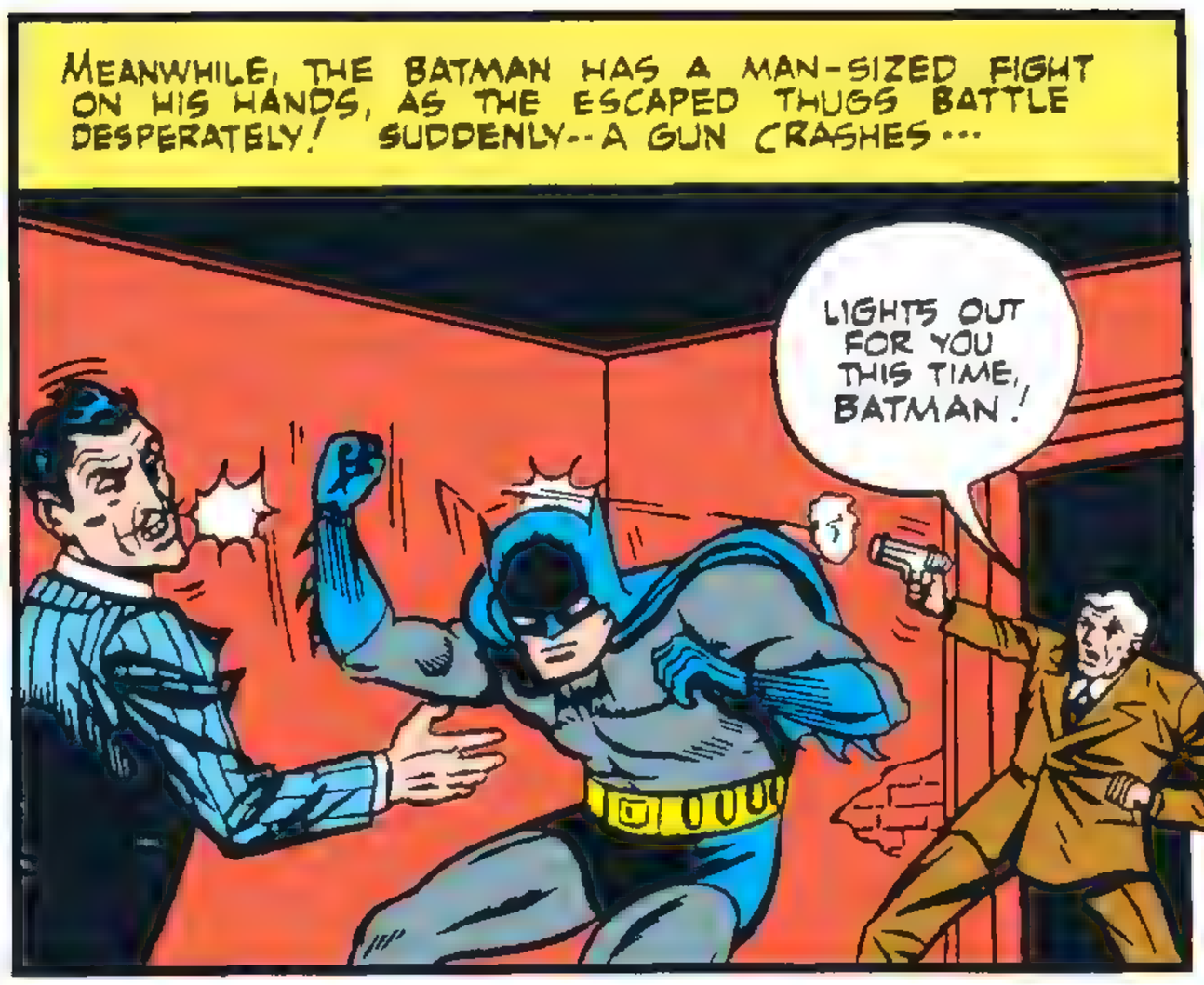
THE FLEEING MOUSEY MEGGS SENDS BULLETS WHISTLING PAST HIS PURSUER---


A LONG, DIVING TACKLE-- AND THE TWO ROLL TO THE RAILROAD TRACKS---

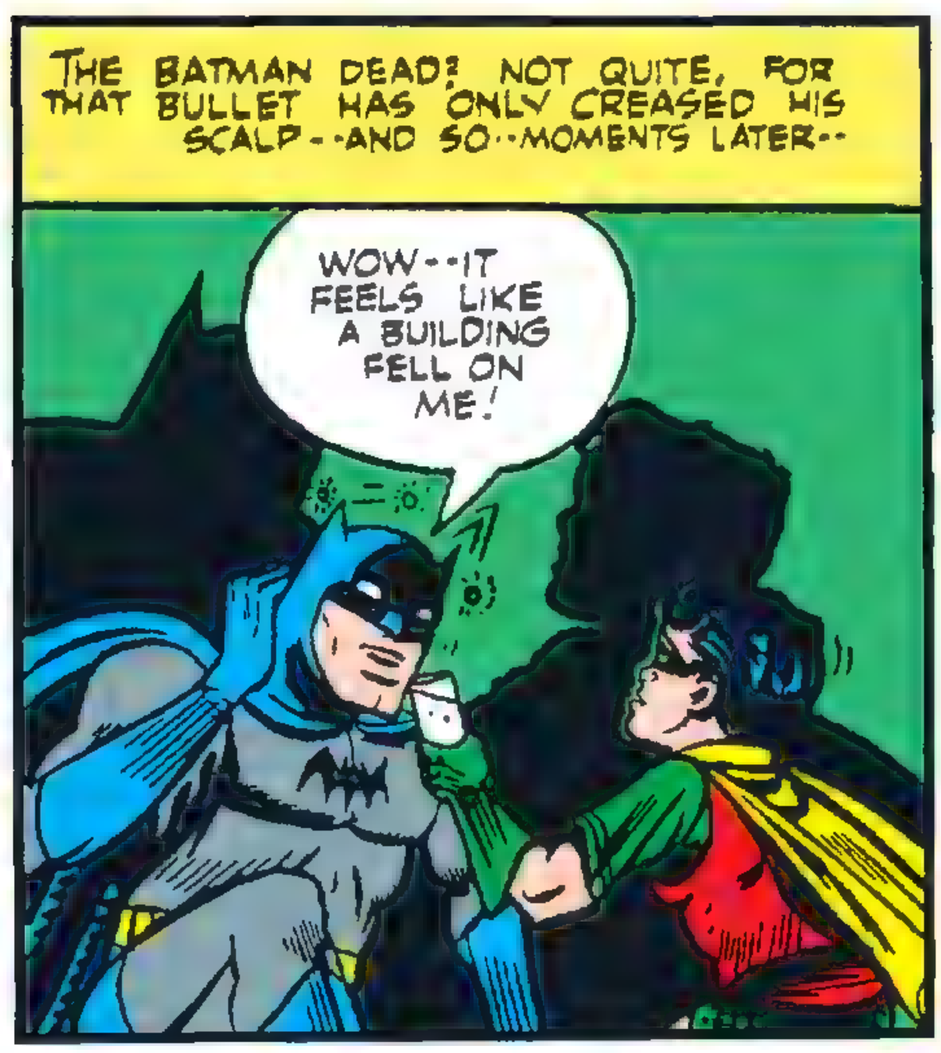
BUT MOUSEY SCRAMBLES TO HIS FEET FIRST!
NOW YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURS! I'M GONNA STEP BACK SO'S I CAN GET A BETTER SHOT AT YA AND---

--WITHOUT WARNING, MOUSEY MEGGS HAS STEPPED ON THE THIRD RAIL!
"LIGHTNING WILL BLAST YOU DOWN IN YOUR TRACKS!"

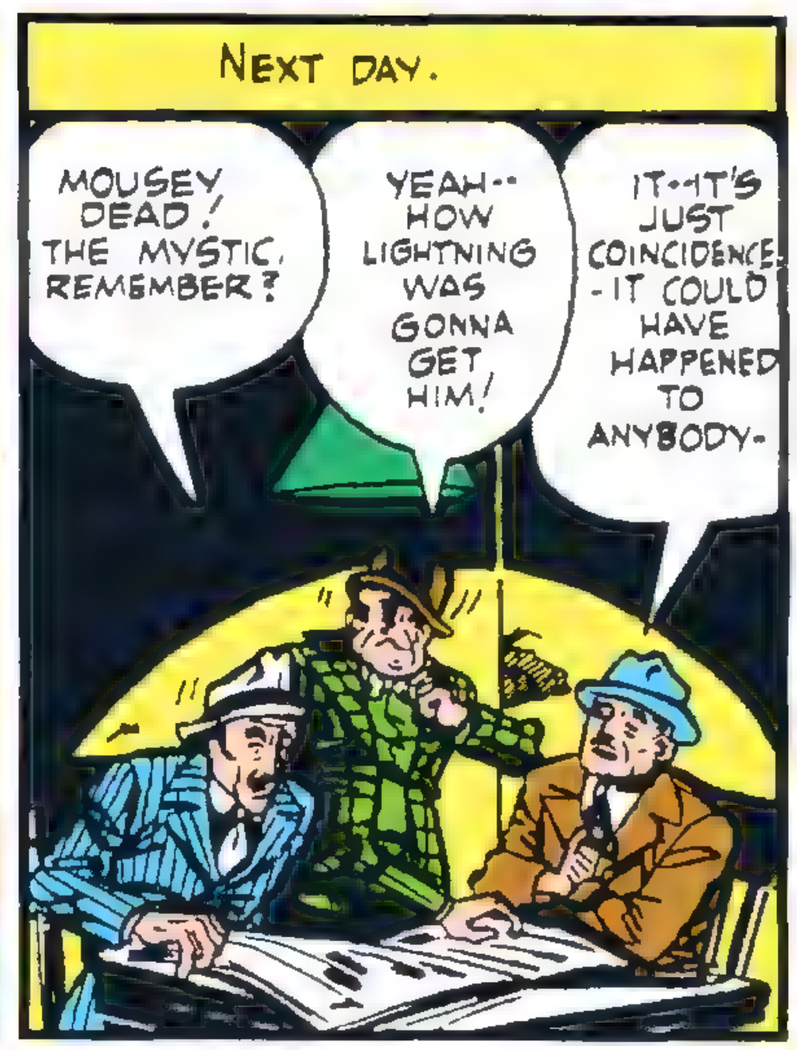

THE FIRST CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES HAS COME TO PASS!


MEANWHILE, THE BATMAN HAS A MAN-SIZED FIGHT ON HIS HANDS, AS THE ESCAPED THUGS BATTLE DESPERATELY! SUDDENLY--A GUN CRASHES...
LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU THIS TIME, BATMAN!

A SMART GUY THAT AIN'T SO SMART, ANYMORE!
AND NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO GET OUT BEFORE THE COPS COME IN!
THIS GUY WILL KEEP.... FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!

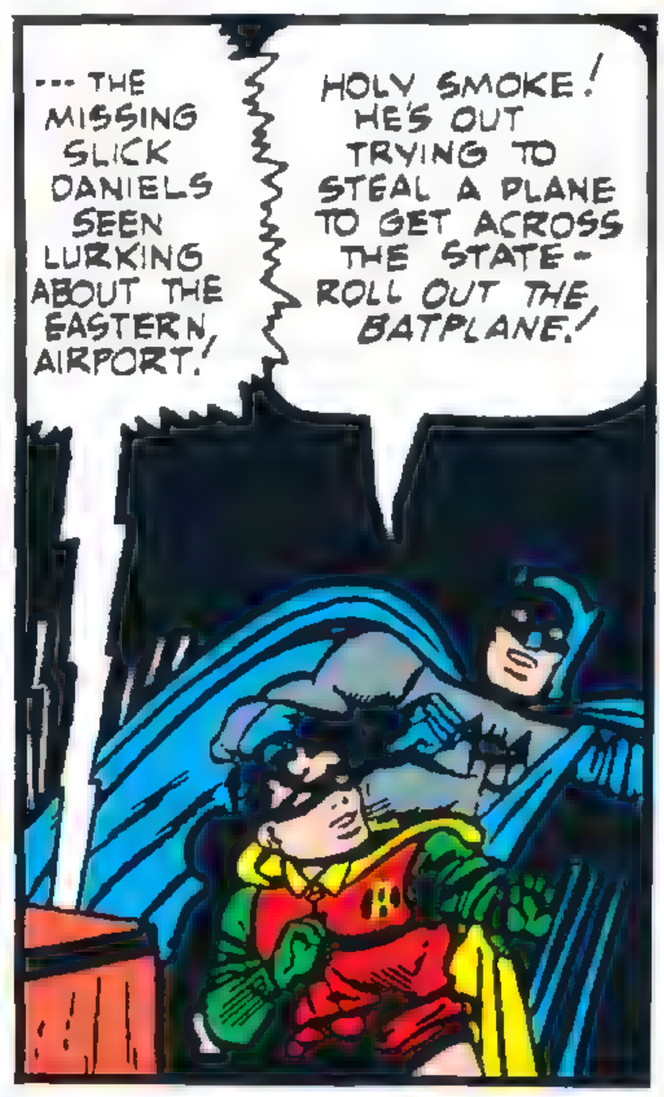

THE BATMAN DEAD? NOT QUITE, FOR THAT BULLET HAS ONLY CREASED HIS SCALP--AND SO--MOMENTS LATER--
WOW--IT FEELS LIKE A BUILDING FELL ON ME!

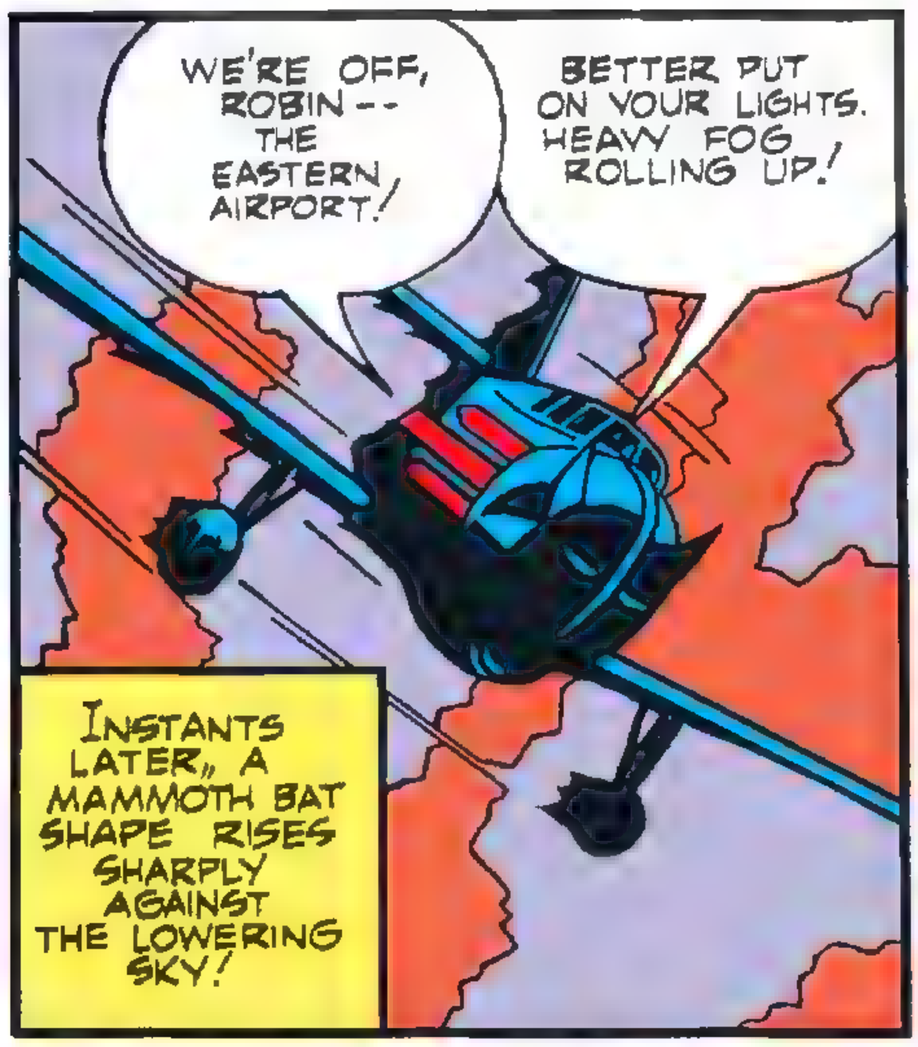
ROBIN TELLS OF MOUSEY'S UNTIMELY DEATH...
SO--MOUSEY DIED JUST AS JAFFEER SAID HE WOULD. I WONDER IF... BUT OF COURSE THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!

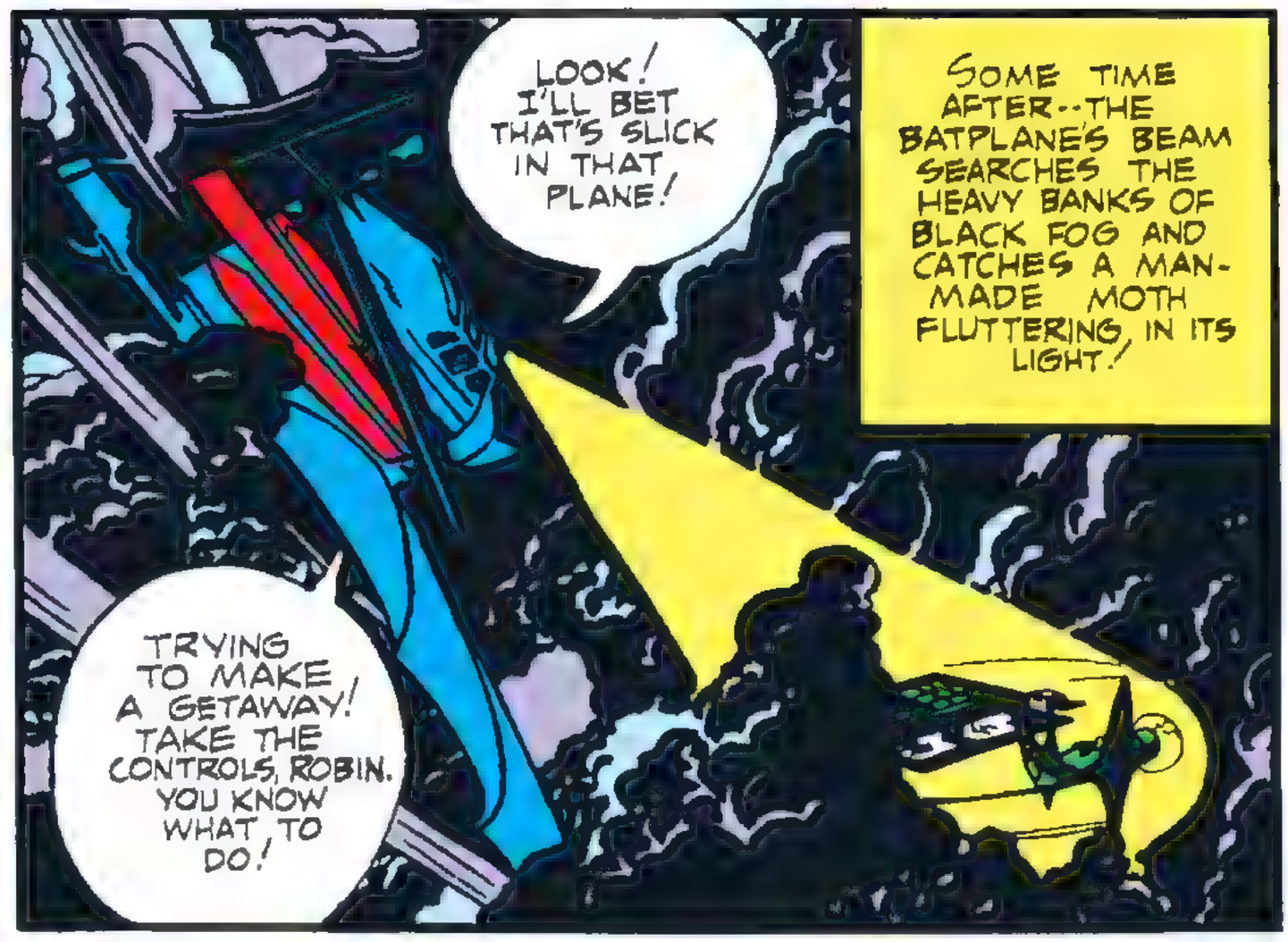

NEXT DAY.
MOUSEY DEAD! THE MYSTIC, REMEMBER?
YEAH--HOW LIGHTNING WAS GONNA GET HIM!
IT--IT'S JUST COINCIDENCE--IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ANYBODY-

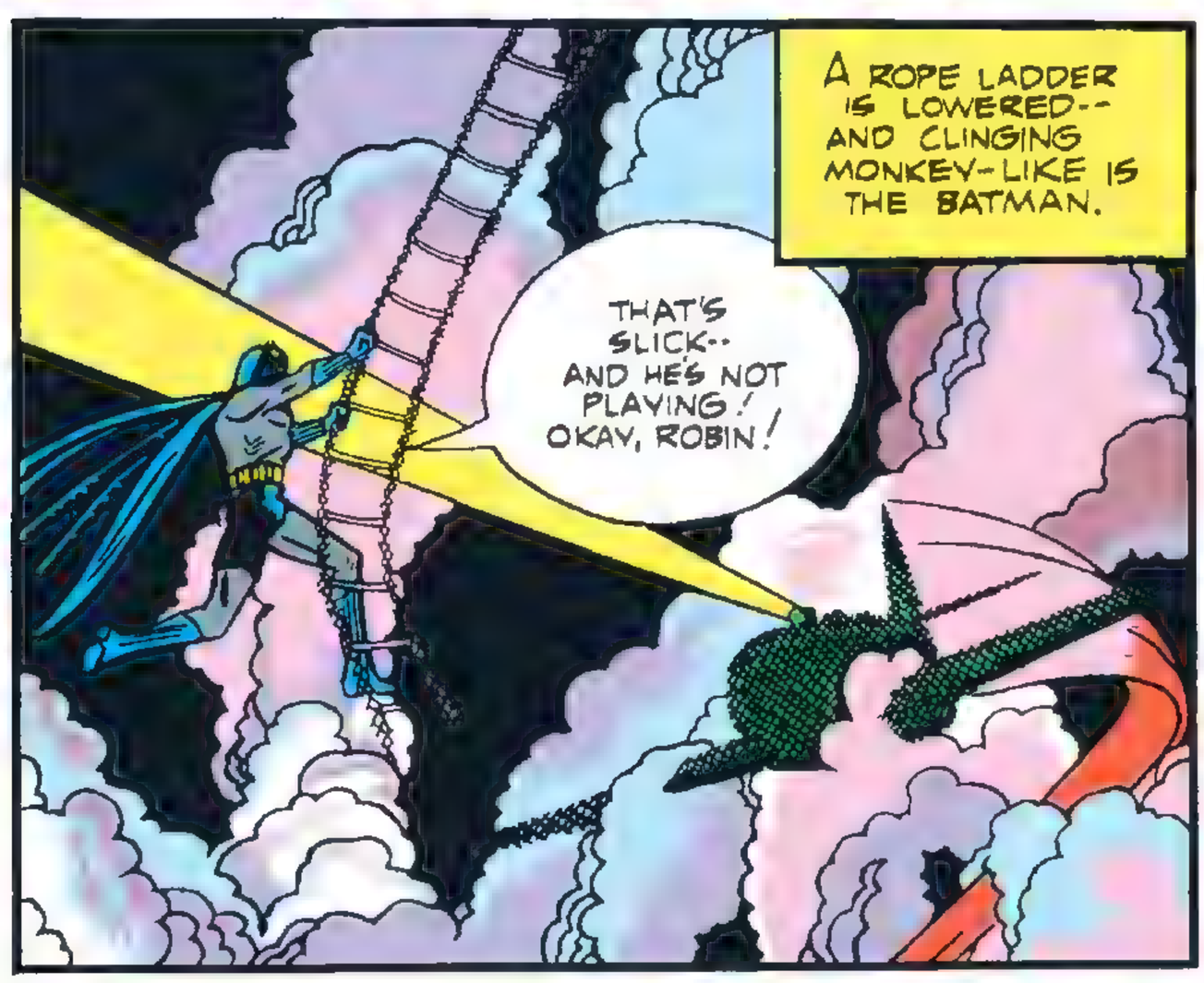
YEAH! BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO ANYBODY--IT HAPPENED TO MOUSEY!
AW, WE'RE MAKING A LOT OF FUSS OVER NOTHIN'--AIN'T IT SO, BRAINS?
SURE--SURE, WE'RE JUST LETTING THIS GO TO OUR HEADS!

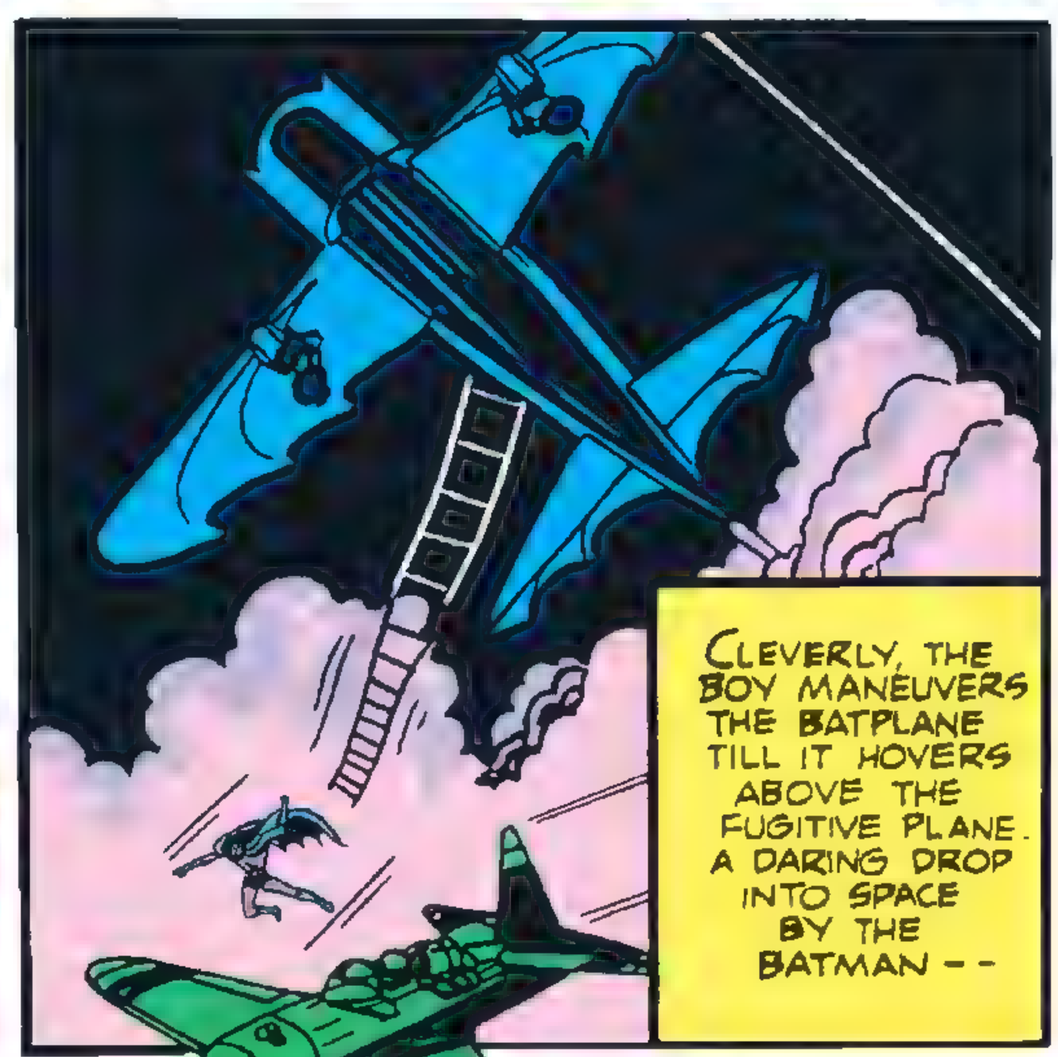
MEANWHILE--BATMAN AND ROBIN SCOUR THEIR FILE FOR A POSSIBLE CLUE TO THE MISSING MURDERERS.
NOTHING HERE--NOTHING! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, GET SOME MUSIC ON THE RADIO TO EASE MY ACHING BRAINS!
OKAY!

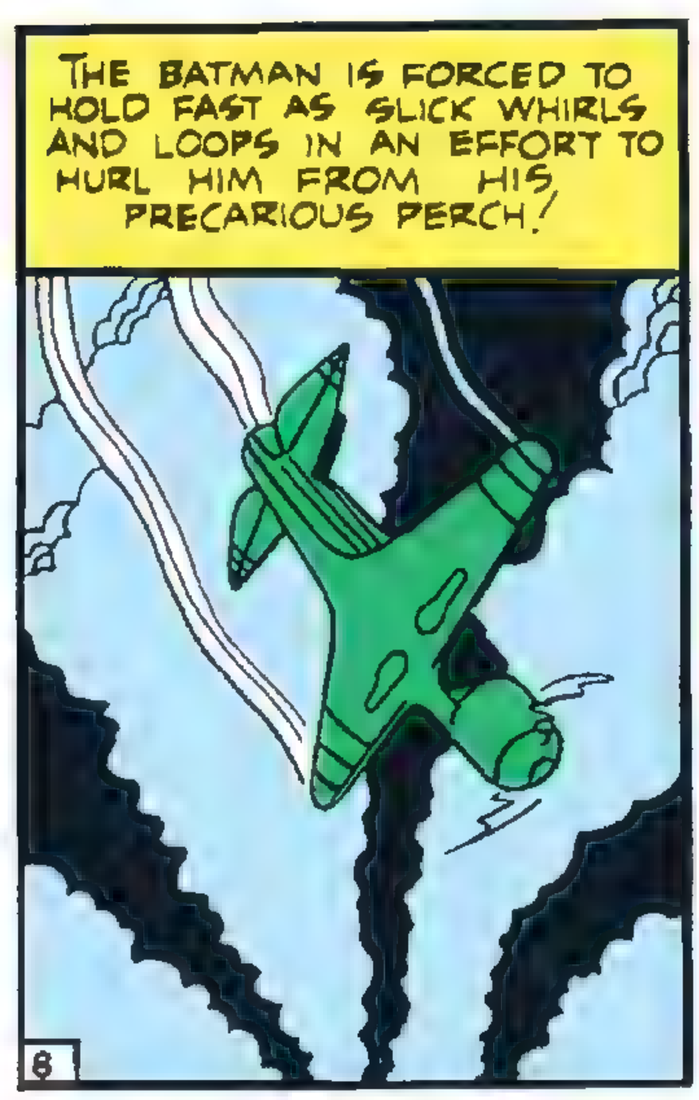

...THE MISSING SLICK DANIELS SEEN LURKING ABOUT THE EASTERN AIRPORT!
HOLY SMOKE! HE'S OUT TRYING TO STEAL A PLANE TO GET ACROSS THE STATE--ROLL OUT THE BATPLANE!

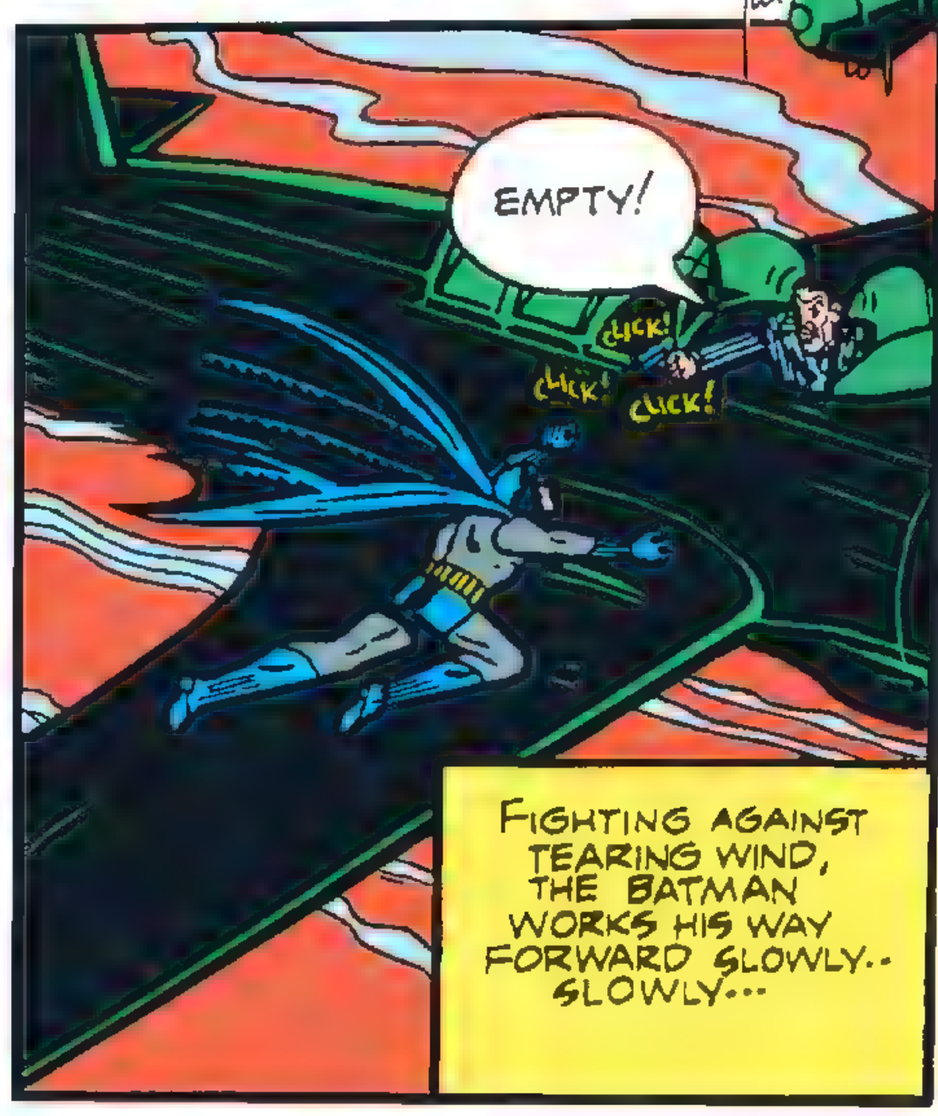

WE'RE OFF, ROBIN -- THE EASTERN AIRPORT!
BETTER PUT ON YOUR LIGHTS. HEAVY FOG ROLLING UP!
INSTANTS LATER, A MAMMOTH BAT SHAPE RISES SHARPLY AGAINST THE LOWERING SKY!


LOOK! I'LL BET THAT'S SLICK IN THAT PLANE!
SOME TIME AFTER--THE BATPLANE'S BEAM SEARCHES THE HEAVY BANKS OF BLACK FOG AND CATCHES A MAN-MADE MOTH FLUTTERING IN ITS LIGHT!
TRYING TO MAKE A GETAWAY! TAKE THE CONTROLS, ROBIN. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

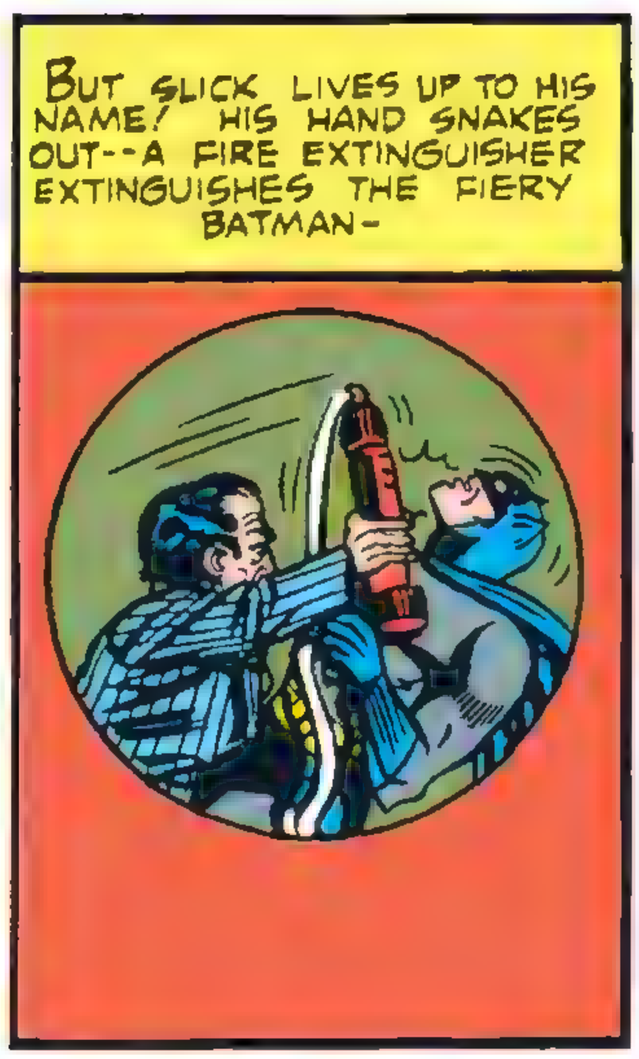

A ROPE LADDER IS LOWERED-- AND CLINGING MONKEY-LIKE IS THE BATMAN.
THAT'S SLICK-- AND HE'S NOT PLAYING! OKAY, ROBIN!

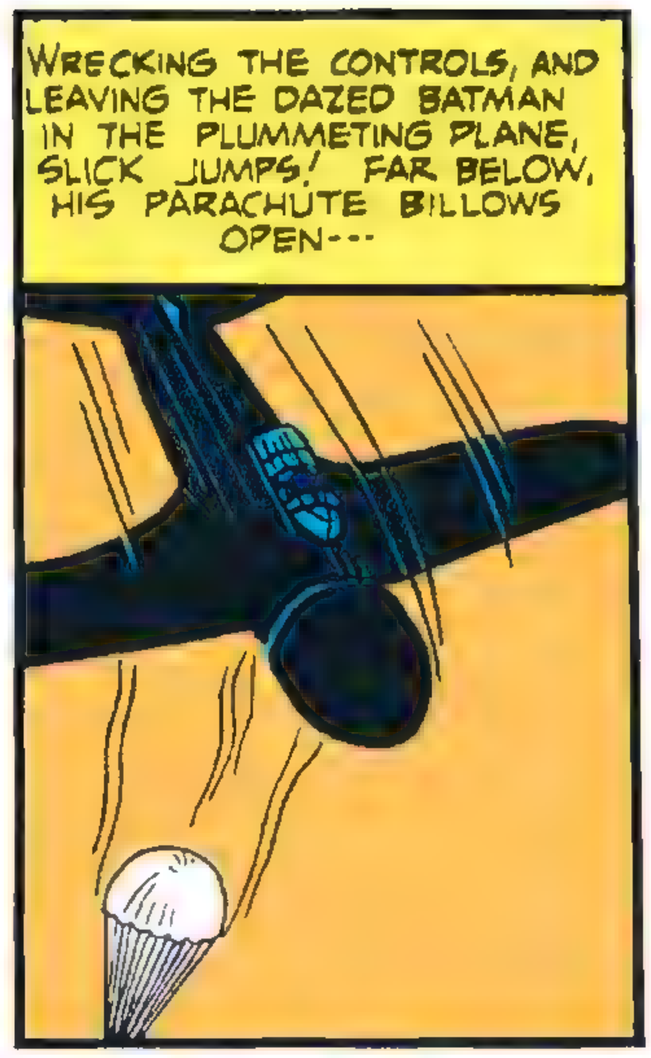

CLEVERLY, THE BOY MANEUVERS THE BATPLANE TILL IT HOVERS ABOVE THE FUGITIVE PLANE. A DARING DROP INTO SPACE BY THE BATMAN --

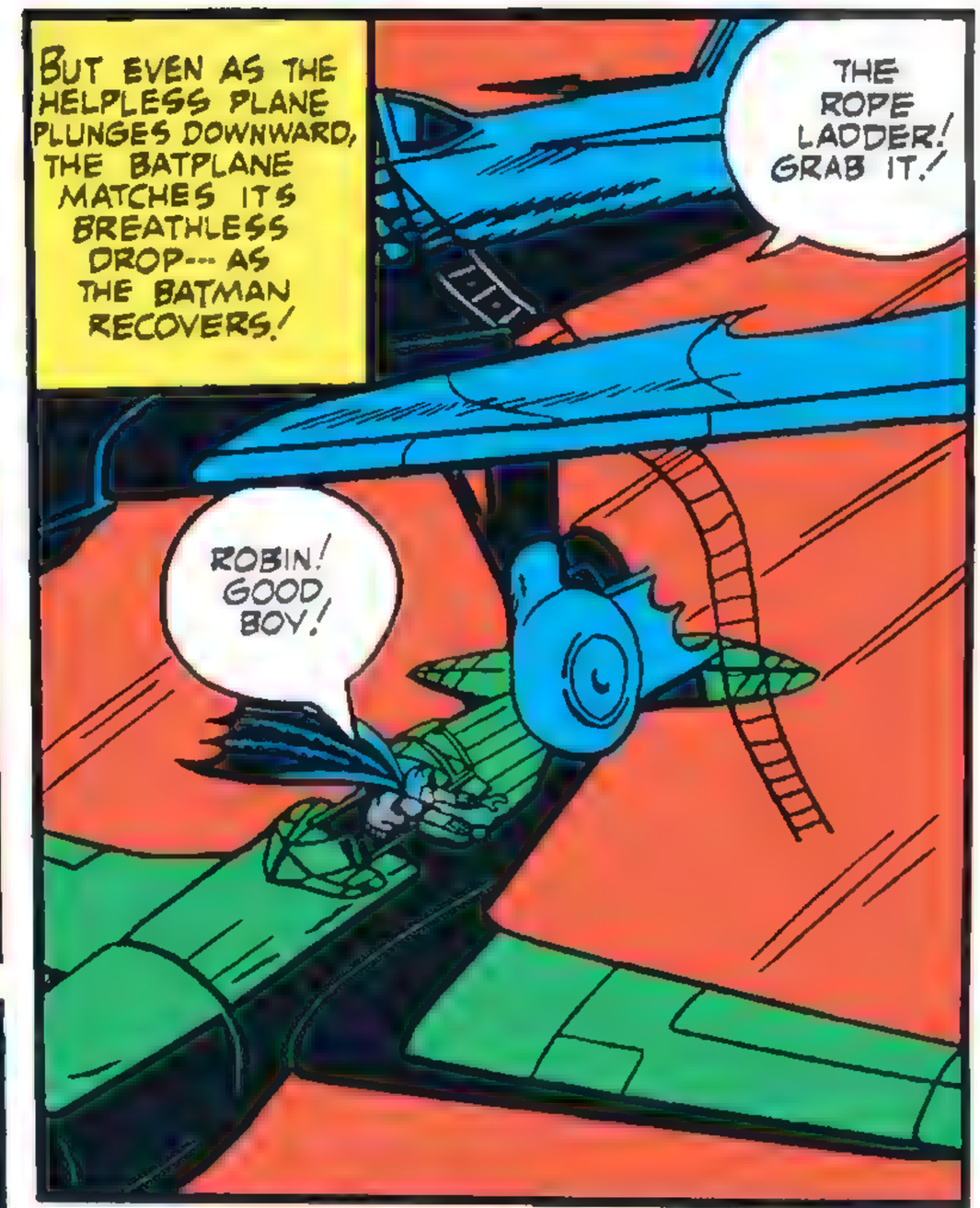

THE BATMAN IS FORCED TO HOLD FAST AS SLICK WHIRLS AND LOOPS IN AN EFFORT TO HURL HIM FROM HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH!
8


EMPTY!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
FIGHTING AGAINST TEARING WIND, THE BATMAN WORKS HIS WAY FORWARD SLOWLY.. SLOWLY...

HELLO SLICK! FANCY MEETING YOU WAY UP HERE!


BUT SLICK LIVES UP TO HIS NAME! HIS HAND SNAKES OUT--A FIRE EXTINGUISHER EXTINGUISHES THE FIERY BATMAN-

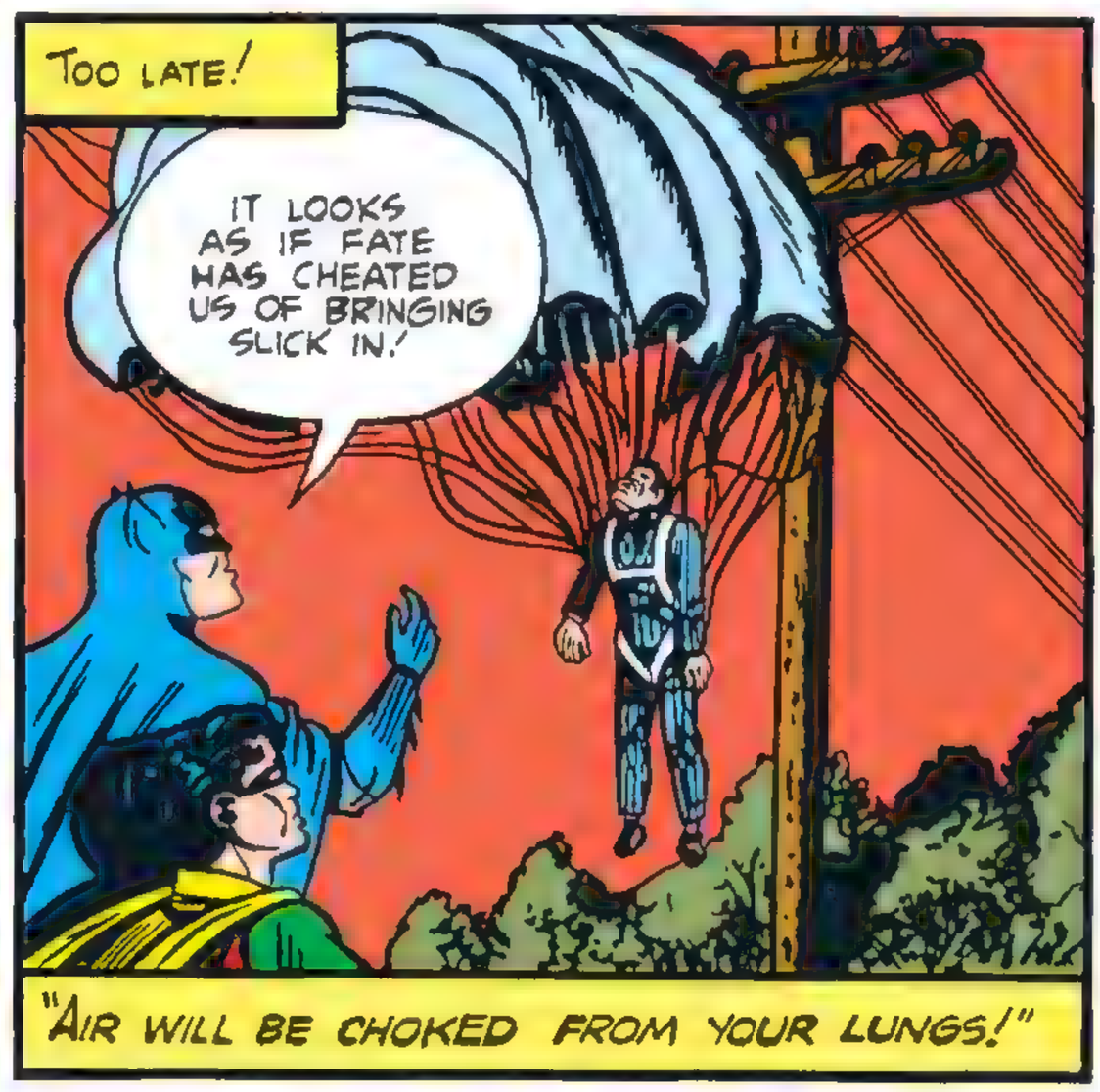

WRECKING THE CONTROLS, AND LEAVING THE DAZED BATMAN IN THE PLUMMETING PLANE, SLICK JUMPS! FAR BELOW, HIS PARACHUTE BILLOWS OPEN---

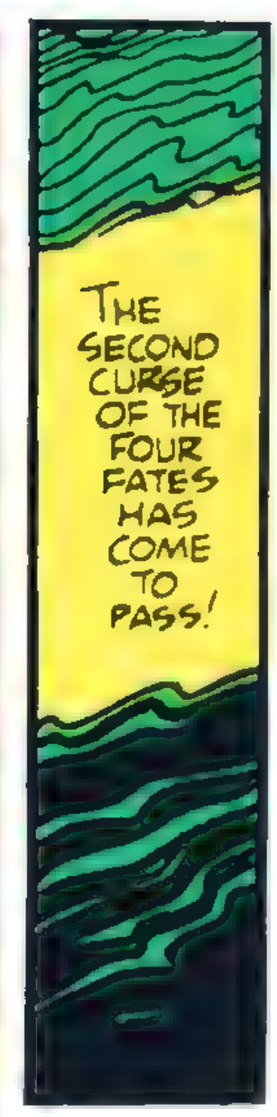

BUT EVEN AS THE HELPLESS PLANE PLUNGES DOWNWARD, THE BATPLANE MATCHES ITS BREATHLESS DROP--- AS THE BATMAN RECOVERS!
THE ROPE LADDER! GRAB IT!
ROBIN! GOOD BOY!

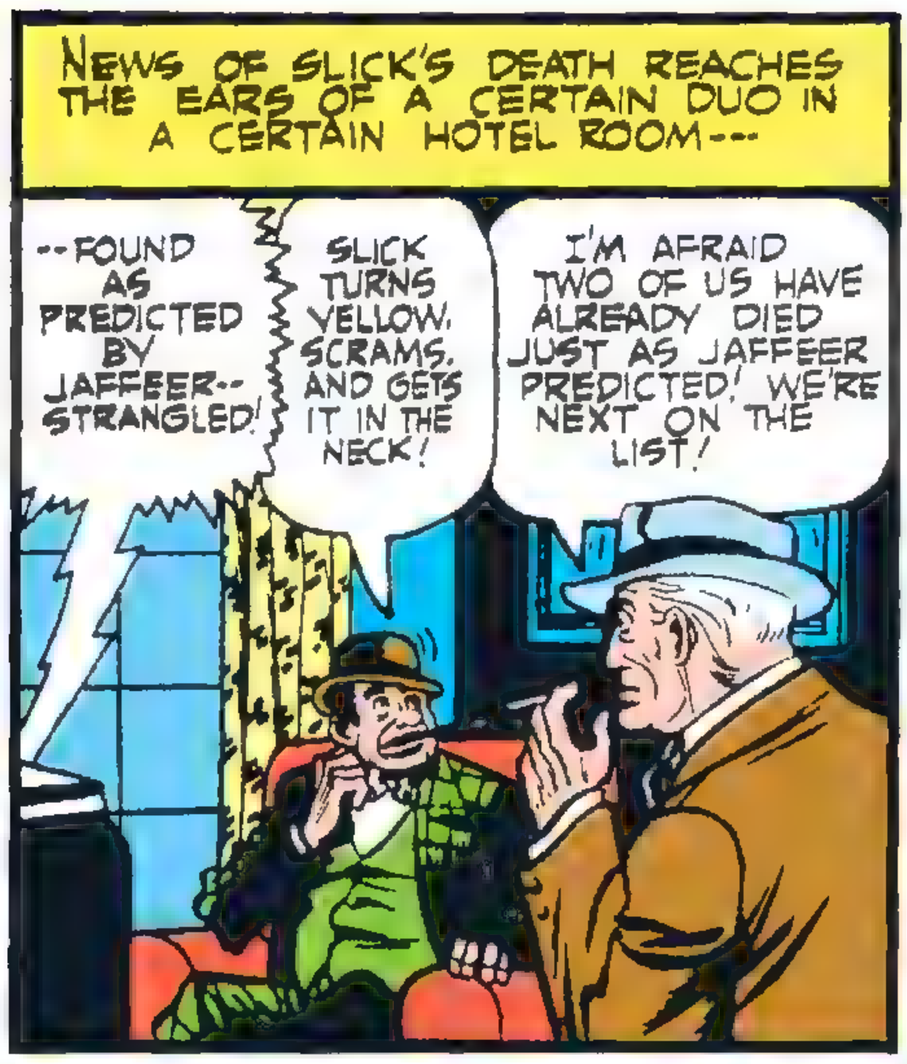
A LEAP FOR LIFE!

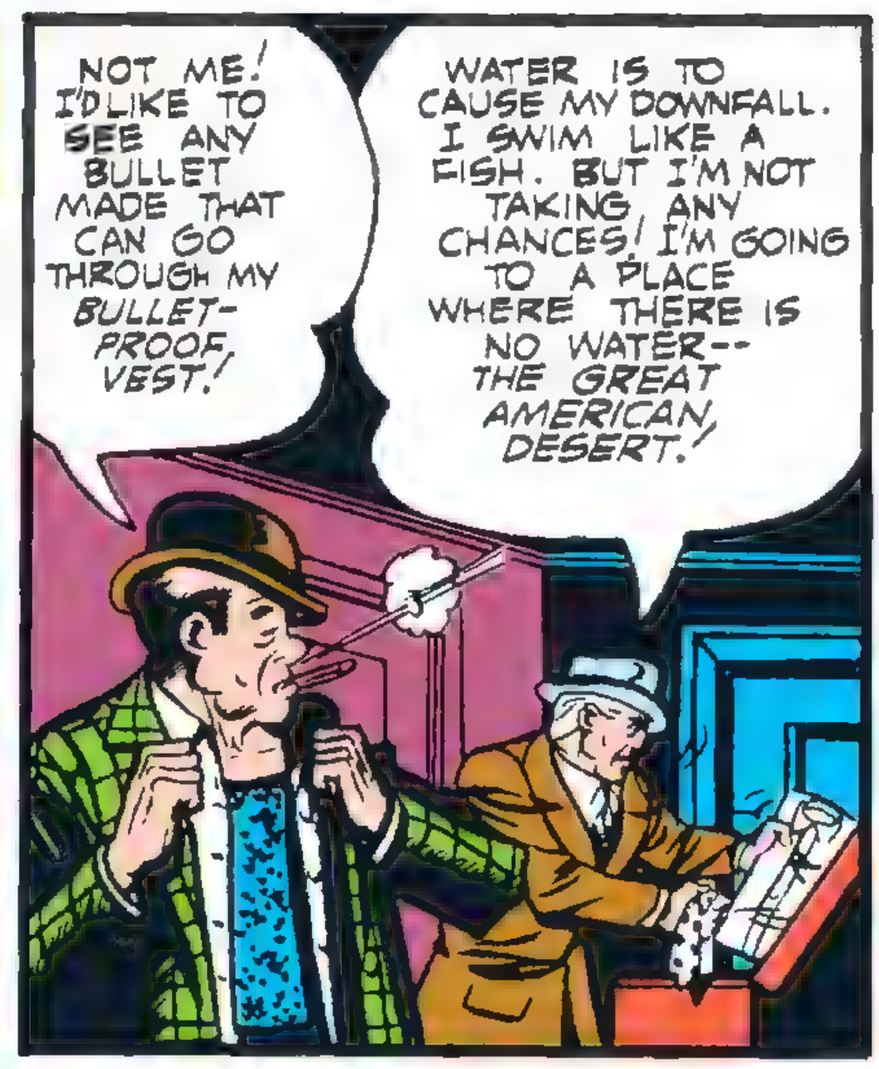
WHERE'S SLICK?
DOWN BELOW! BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO GET AWAY IF I CAN HELP IT!

THE BATPLANE LANDS---BUT SLICK--
LOOK! HIS PARACHUTE LINES HAVE FOULED ON THE TELEPHONE WIRES AND ARE TANGLED 'ROUND HIS NECK!
IF WE DON'T CUT HIM DOWN IN TIME, HE'LL STRANGLE TO DEATH!
9


TOO LATE!
IT LOOKS AS IF FATE HAS CHEATED US OF BRINGING SLICK IN!
"AIR WILL BE CHOKED FROM YOUR LUNGS!"


THE SECOND CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES HAS COME TO PASS!


NEWS OF SLICK'S DEATH REACHES THE EARS OF A CERTAIN DUO IN A CERTAIN HOTEL ROOM---
--FOUND AS PREDICTED BY JAFFEER-- STRANGLED!
SLICK TURNS YELLOW, SCRAMS, AND GETS IT IN THE NECK!
I'M AFRAID TWO OF US HAVE ALREADY DIED JUST AS JAFFEER PREDICTED! WE'RE NEXT ON THE LIST!

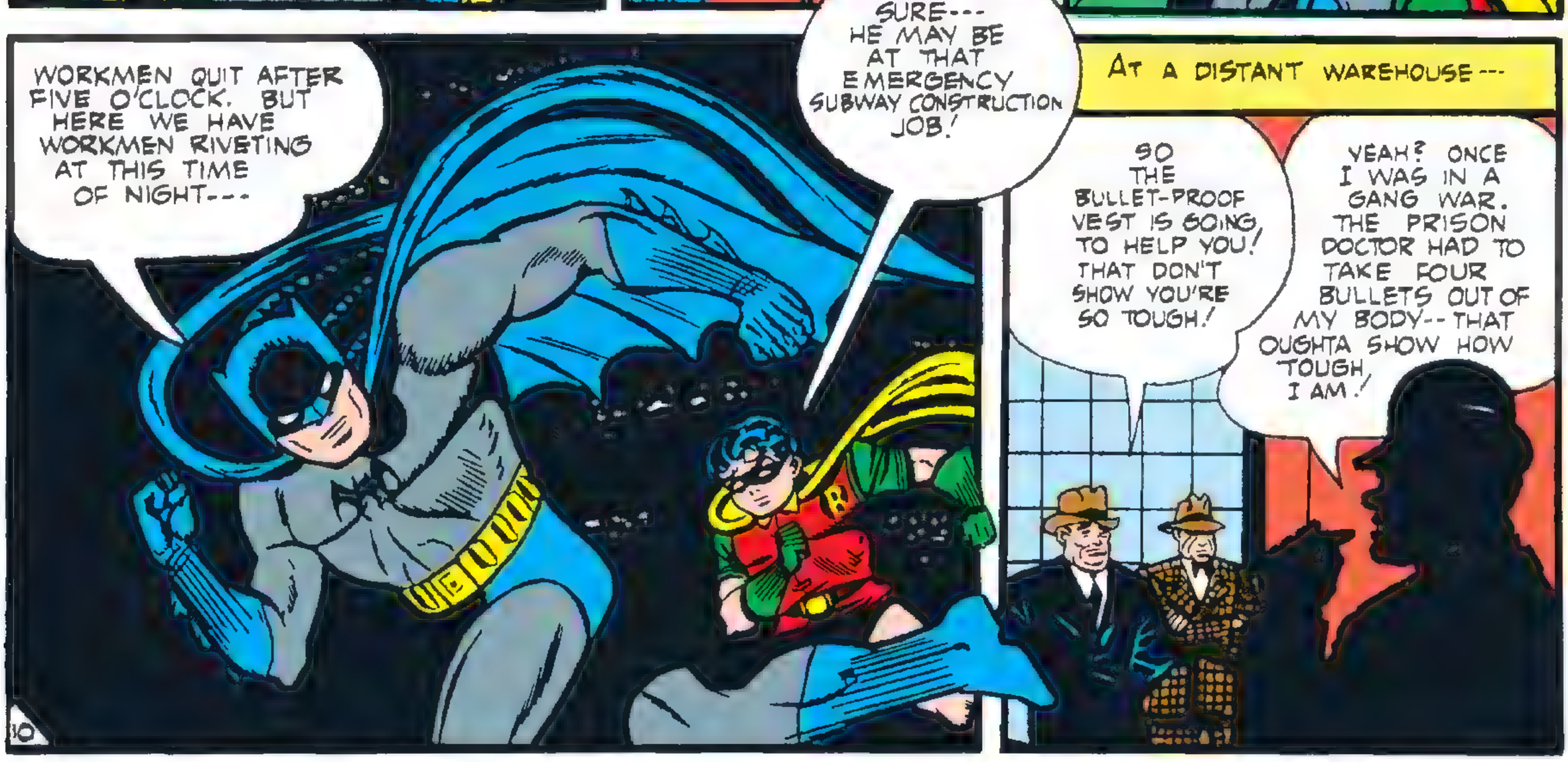

NOT ME! I'D LIKE TO SEE ANY BULLET MADE THAT CAN GO THROUGH MY BULLET-PROOF VEST!
WATER IS TO CAUSE MY DOWNFALL. I SWIM LIKE A FISH. BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES! I'M GOING TO A PLACE WHERE THERE IS NO WATER-- THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT!

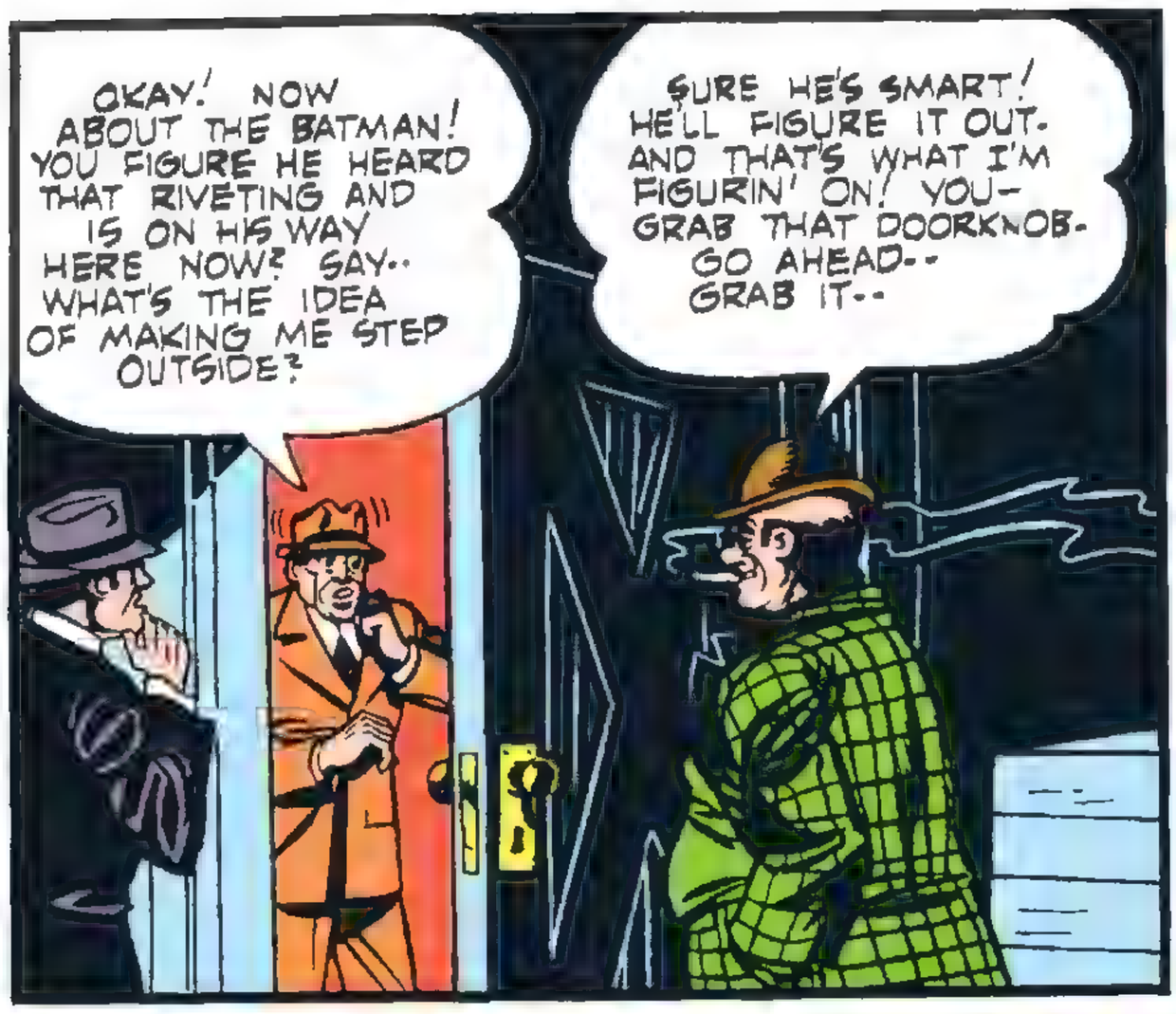
IT WASN'T FATE THAT GOT MOUSEY AND SLICK. IT WAS THE BATMAN! KILL THE BATMAN AND YOU KILL THIS FATE---THIS HOTEL KEY... SLICK HAD ONE IN HIS POCKET! THE BATMAN WILL TRACE IT TO SLICK'S HOTEL ROOM.. HMM---
SLAM

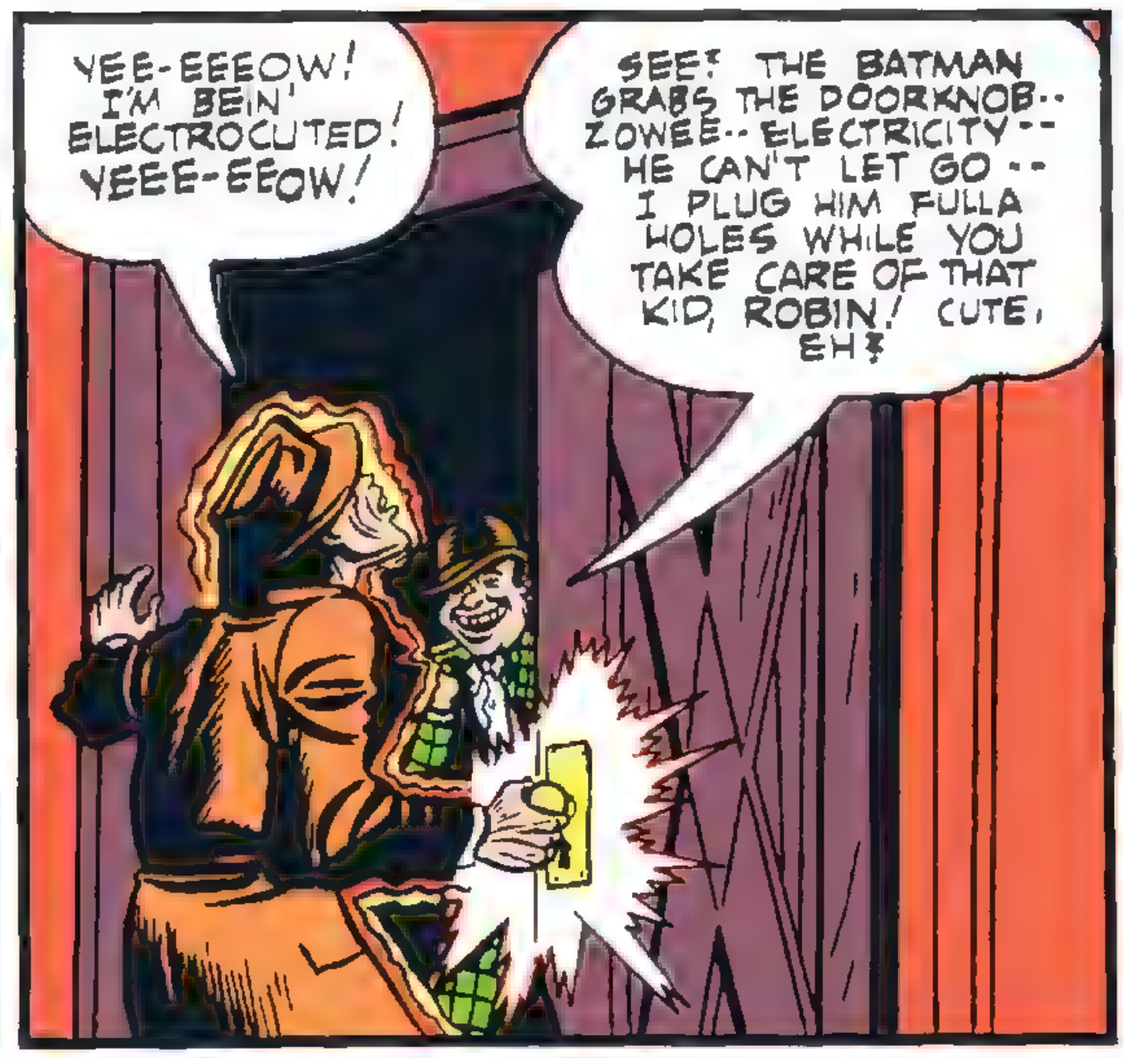
NAILS LEAVES--AND NOT TOO SOON-- FOR---
SLICK'S PALS HAVE FLOWN THE COOP! PHONE---MAY BE FOR NAILS OR BRAINS-
RING!
RING
RING!

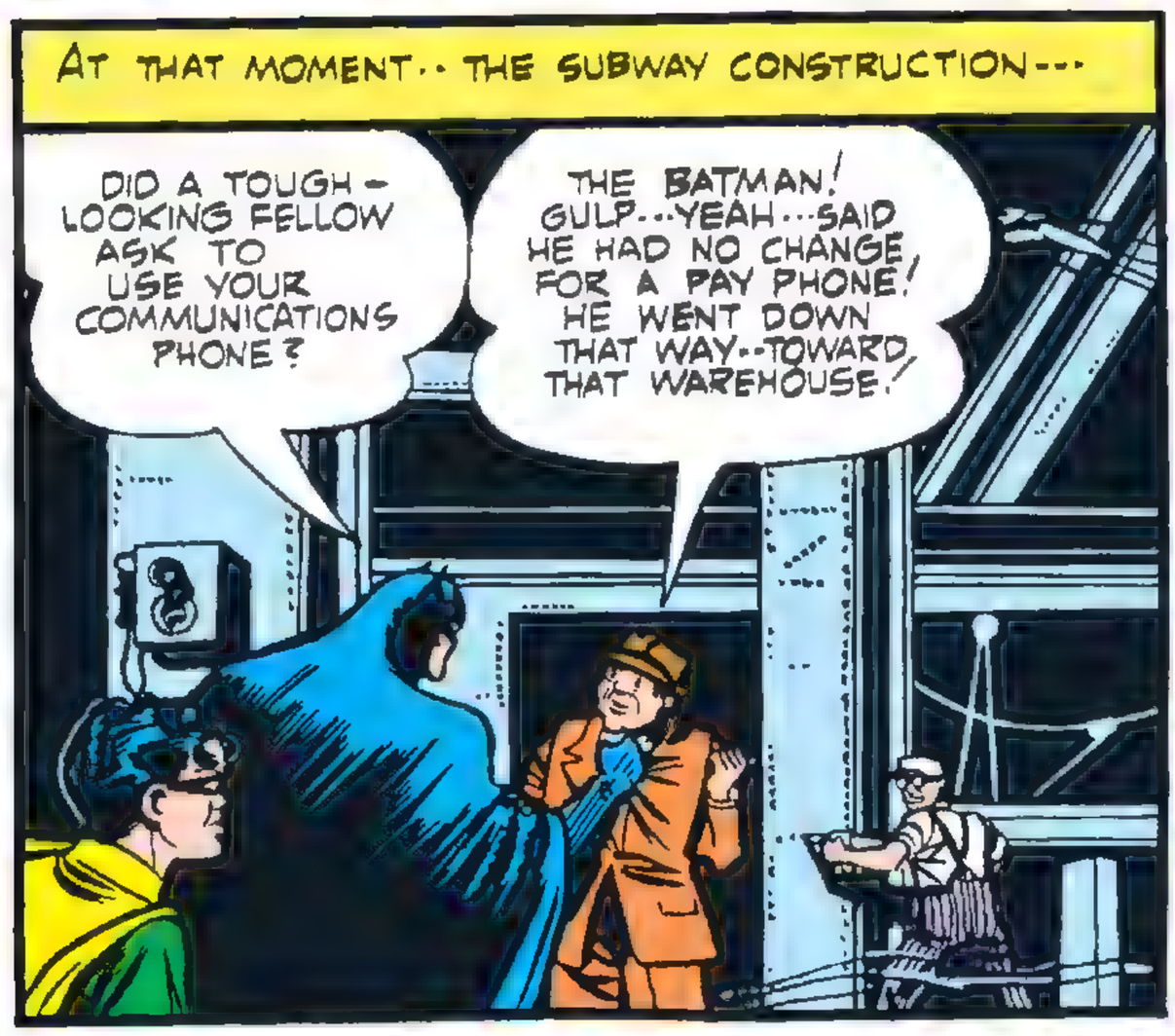
HYA, BATMAN! THIS IS NAILS LOGAN. IF YOU WANT ME-- COME AND FIND ME-- HAW! HAW!
RAT TAT RAT TAT
RAT TAT RAT TAT

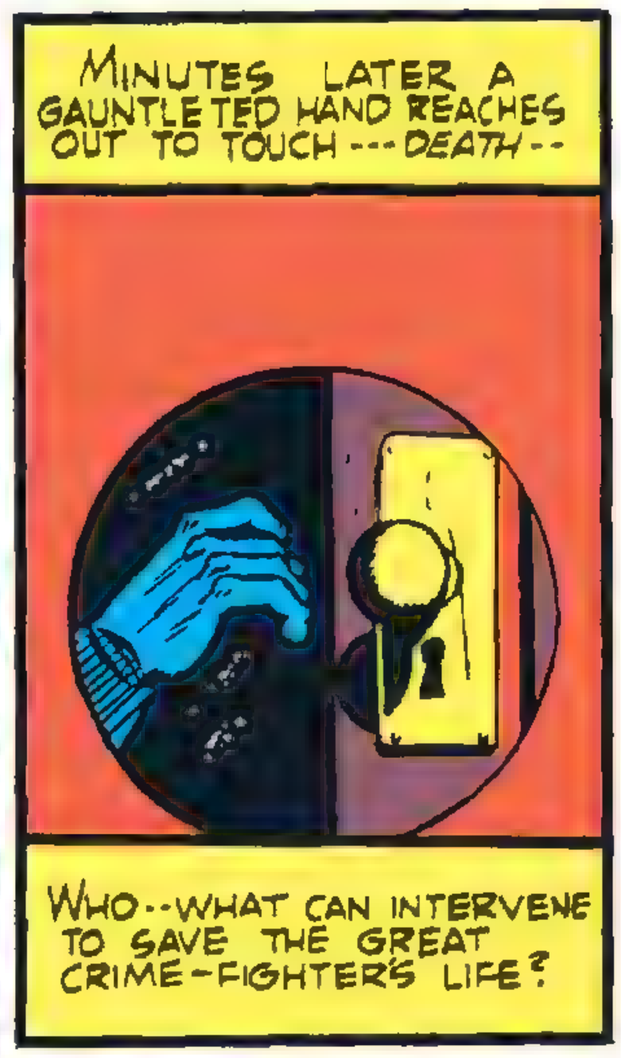
LOGAN GAVE HIMSELF AWAY! I HEARD THE SOUND OF RIVETING WHILE HE WAS TALKING!
RIVETING? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?


WORKMEN QUIT AFTER FIVE O'CLOCK. BUT HERE WE HAVE WORKMEN RIVETING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT---
SURE--- HE MAY BE AT THAT EMERGENCY SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION JOB!
AT A DISTANT WAREHOUSE---
SO THE BULLET-PROOF VEST IS GOING TO HELP YOU! THAT DON'T SHOW YOU'RE SO TOUGH!
YEAH? ONCE I WAS IN A GANG WAR. THE PRISON DOCTOR HAD TO TAKE FOUR BULLETS OUT OF MY BODY-- THAT OUGHTA SHOW HOW TOUGH I AM!

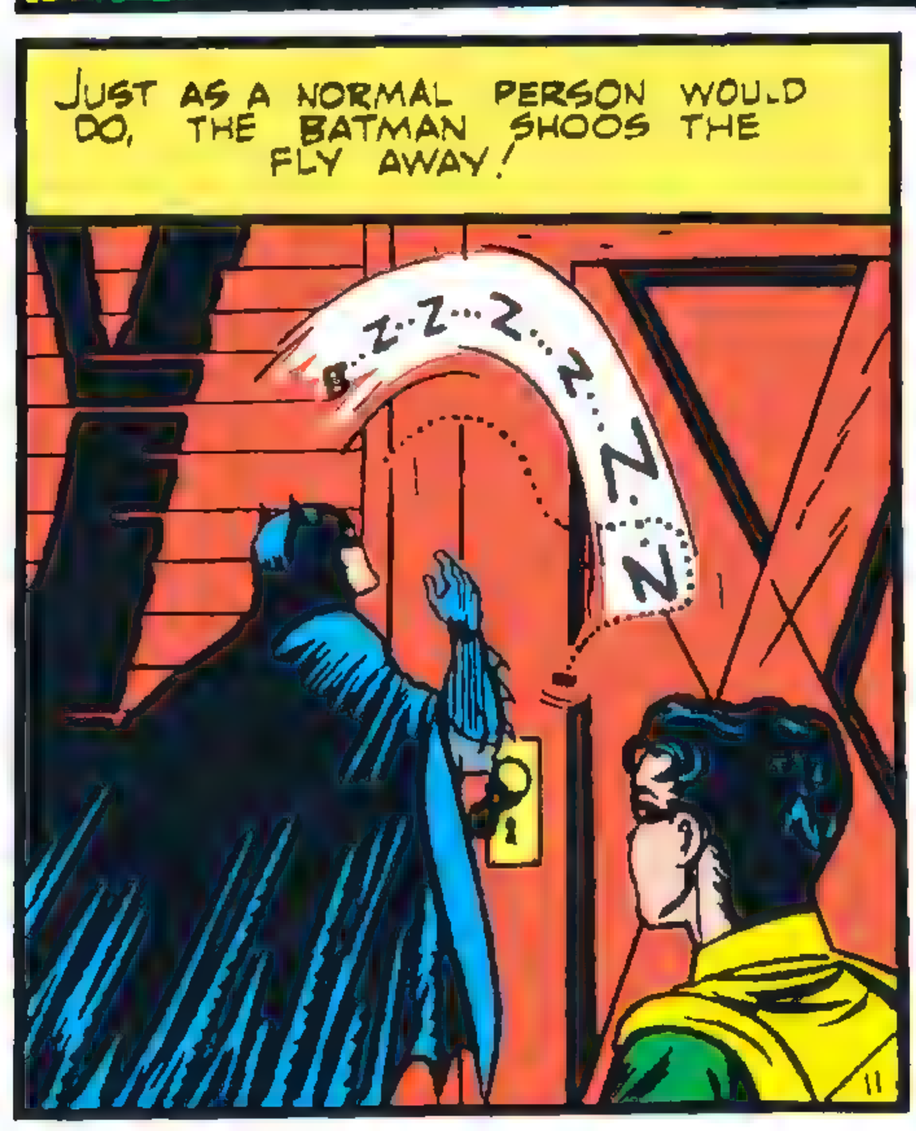

OKAY! NOW ABOUT THE BATMAN! YOU FIGURE HE HEARD THAT RIVETING AND IS ON HIS WAY HERE NOW? SAY.. WHAT'S THE IDEA OF MAKING ME STEP OUTSIDE?
SURE HE'S SMART! HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT- AND THAT'S WHAT I'M FIGURIN' ON! YOU- GRAB THAT DOORKNOB- GO AHEAD-- GRAB IT--


YEE-EEEOW! I'M BEIN' ELECTROCUTED! YEEE-EEOW!
SEE? THE BATMAN GRABS THE DOORKNOB.. ZOWEE.. ELECTRICITY-- HE CAN'T LET GO -- I PLUG HIM FULLA HOLES WHILE YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT KID, ROBIN! CUTE, EH?


AT THAT MOMENT.. THE SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION---
DID A TOUGH-LOOKING FELLOW ASK TO USE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS PHONE?
THE BATMAN! GULP...YEAH...SAID HE HAD NO CHANGE FOR A PAY PHONE! HE WENT DOWN THAT WAY--TOWARD THAT WAREHOUSE!

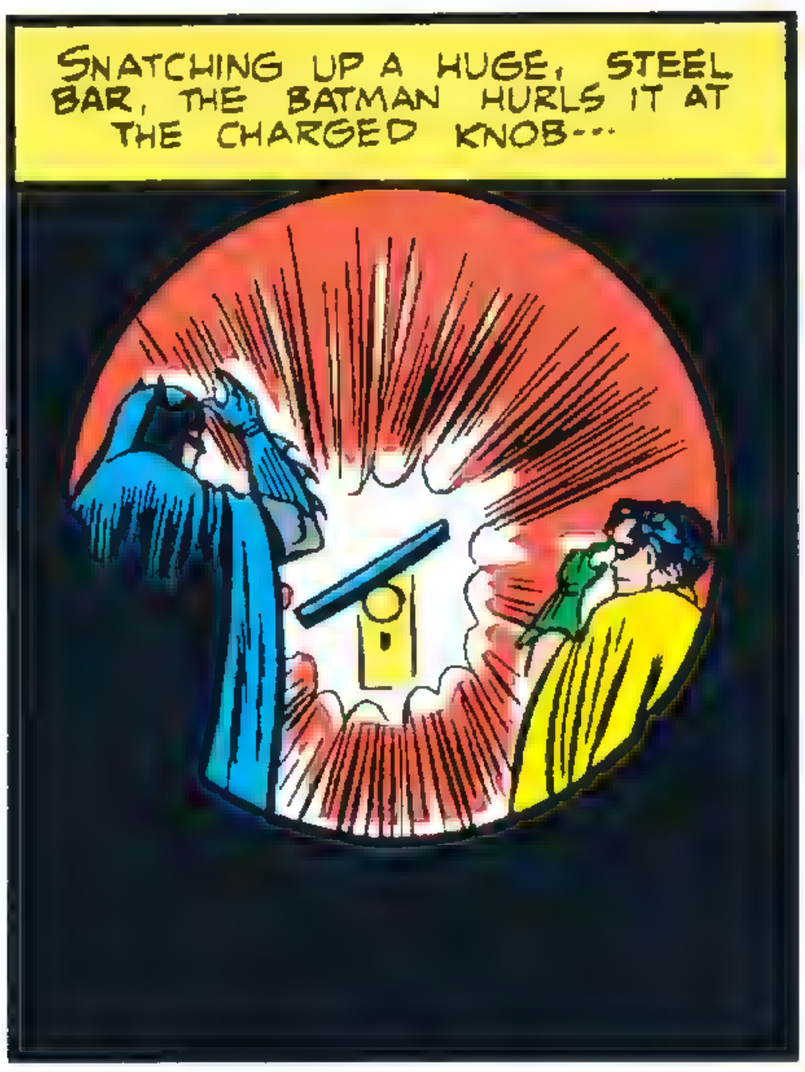

MINUTES LATER A GAUNTLETED HAND REACHES OUT TO TOUCH ---DEATH--
WHO--WHAT CAN INTERVENE TO SAVE THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER'S LIFE?

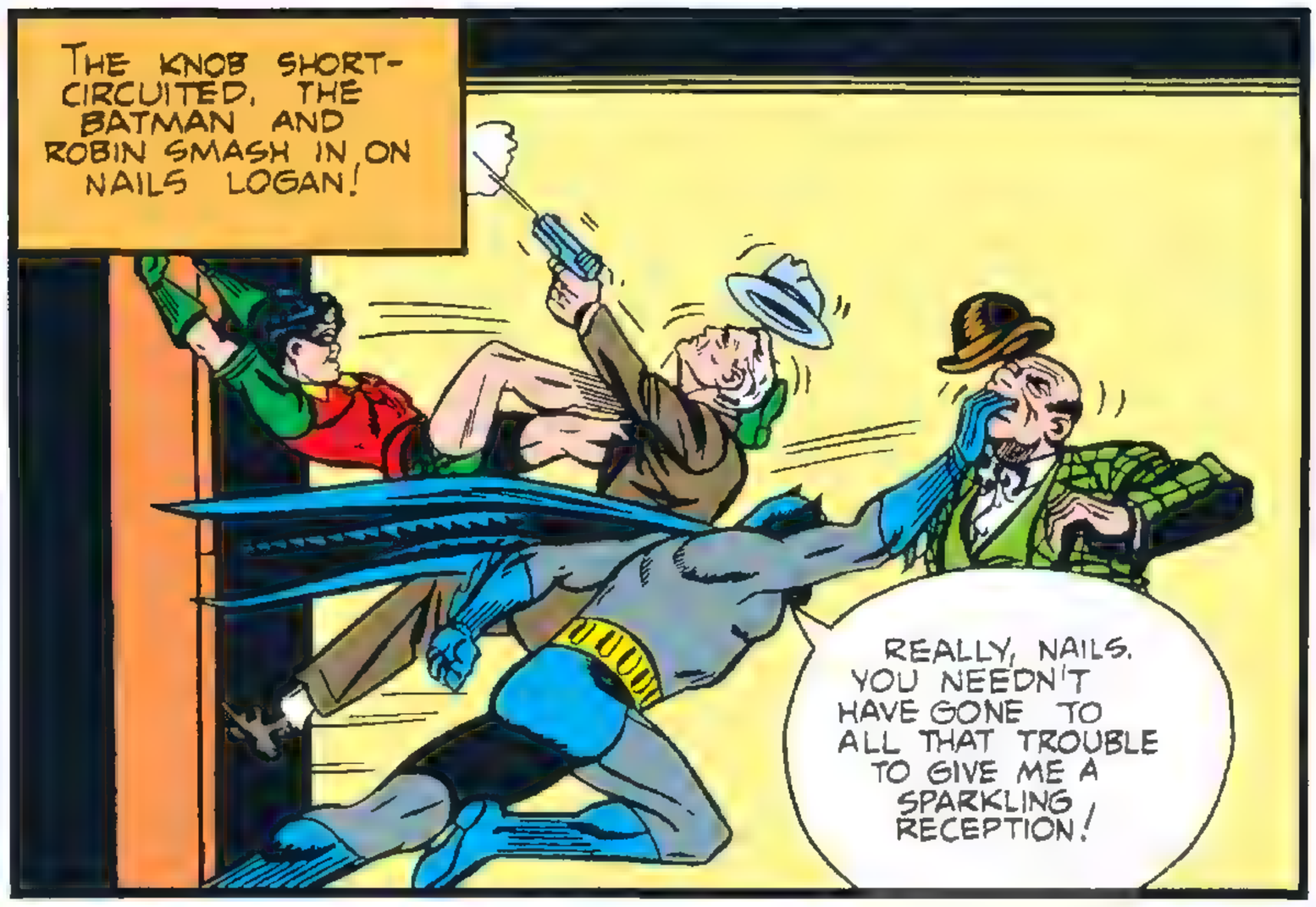
A FLY--AN ORDINARY EVERYDAY HOUSE FLY BUZZES INTO THE PICTURE!
B-Z-Z...Z...Z...Z...


JUST AS A NORMAL PERSON WOULD DO, THE BATMAN SHOOS THE FLY AWAY!
B-Z-Z...Z...Z...Z...

THE FLY BRUSHES AGAINST THE FATAL DOORKNOB, A SMALL SPARK AND--
Z-Z...Z...Z...Z
CRACK!

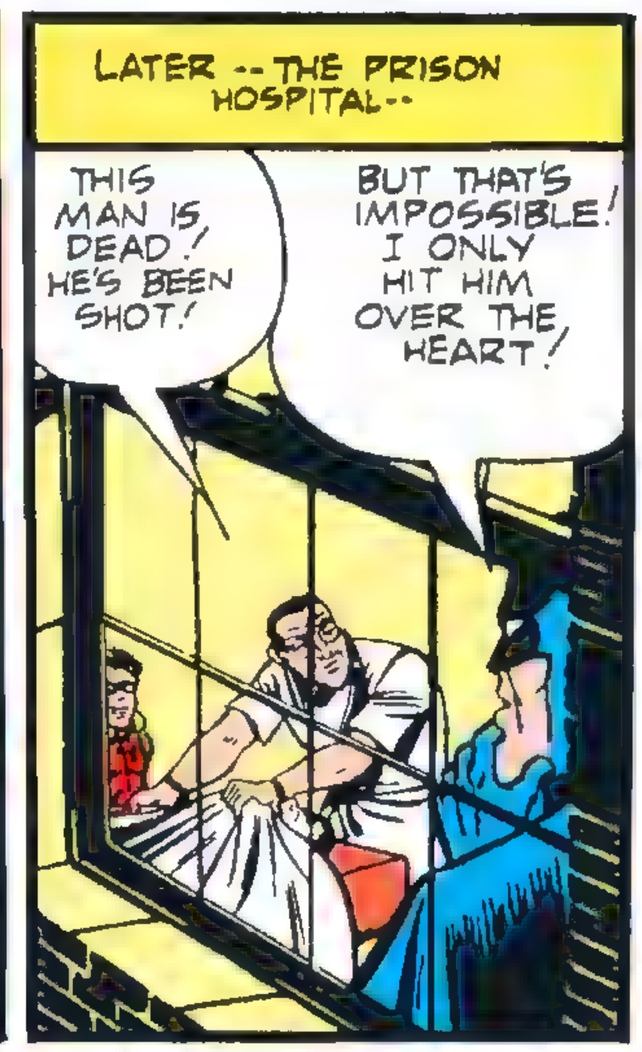
DEAD! THAT SPARK!
HMM! I'M BEGINNING TO SMELL A RAT-- AND HIS NAME IS NAILS LOGAN!
THE BATMAN'S KEEN EYES SEARCH OUT NEW, SLIGHT SCRATCHES ON THE OLD, RUST-COVERED DOORKNOB!

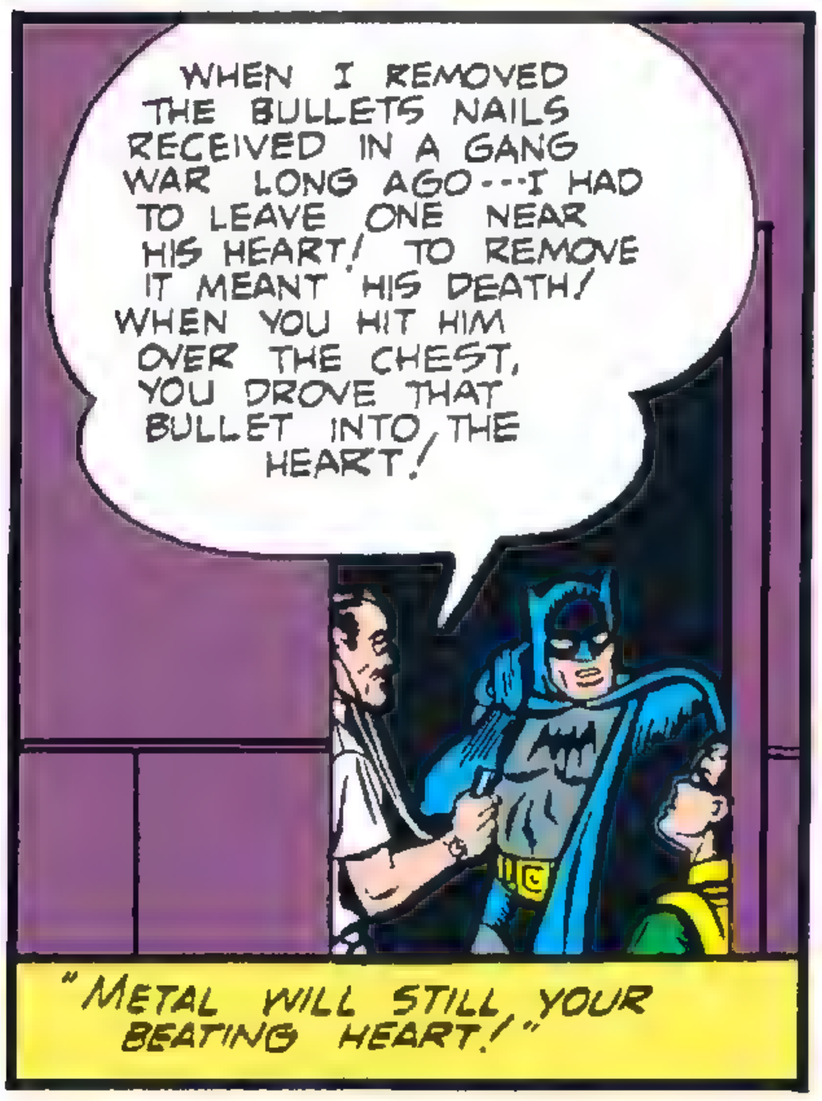

SNATCHING UP A HUGE, STEEL BAR, THE BATMAN HURLS IT AT THE CHARGED KNOB---

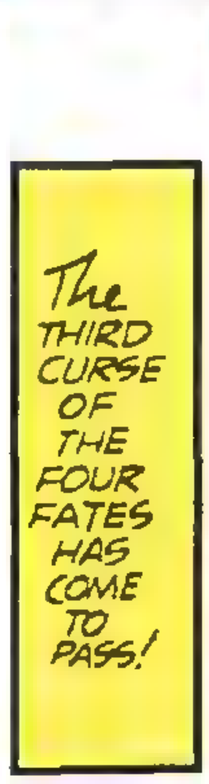

THE KNOB SHORT-CIRCUITED, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SMASH IN ON NAILS LOGAN!
REALLY, NAILS. YOU NEEDN'T HAVE GONE TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GIVE ME A SPARKLING RECEPTION!

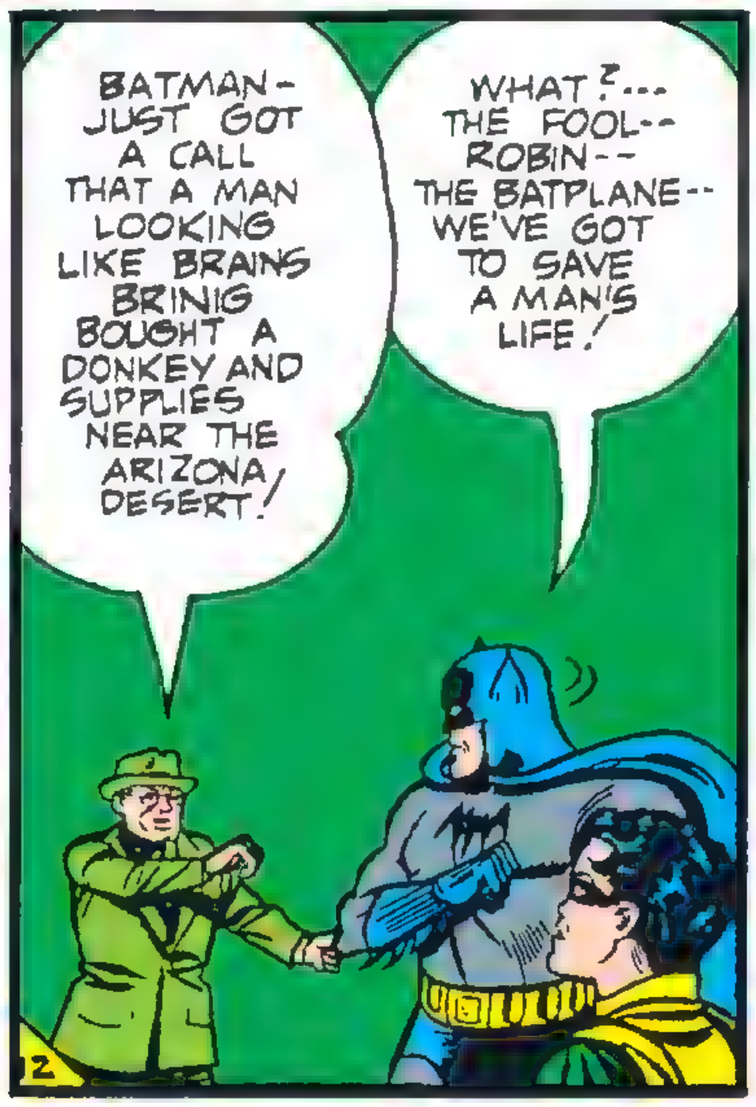
UGH!
OUCH! MY FIST! WHAT ARE YOU WEARING--- ARMOR FOR UNDERWEAR?

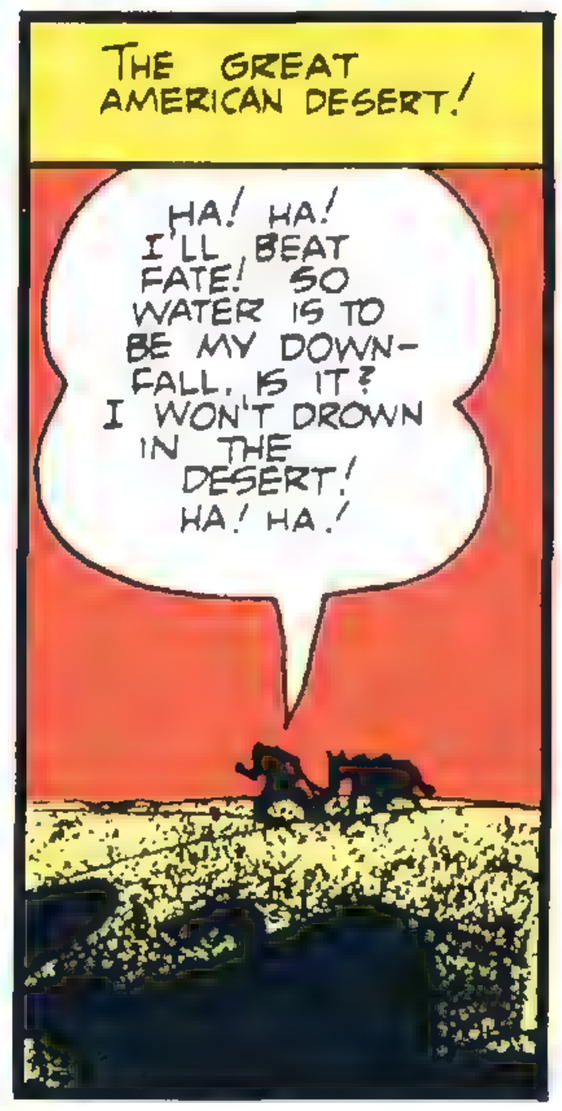
NAILS DROPS LIKE A STONE!
AAAAGH!

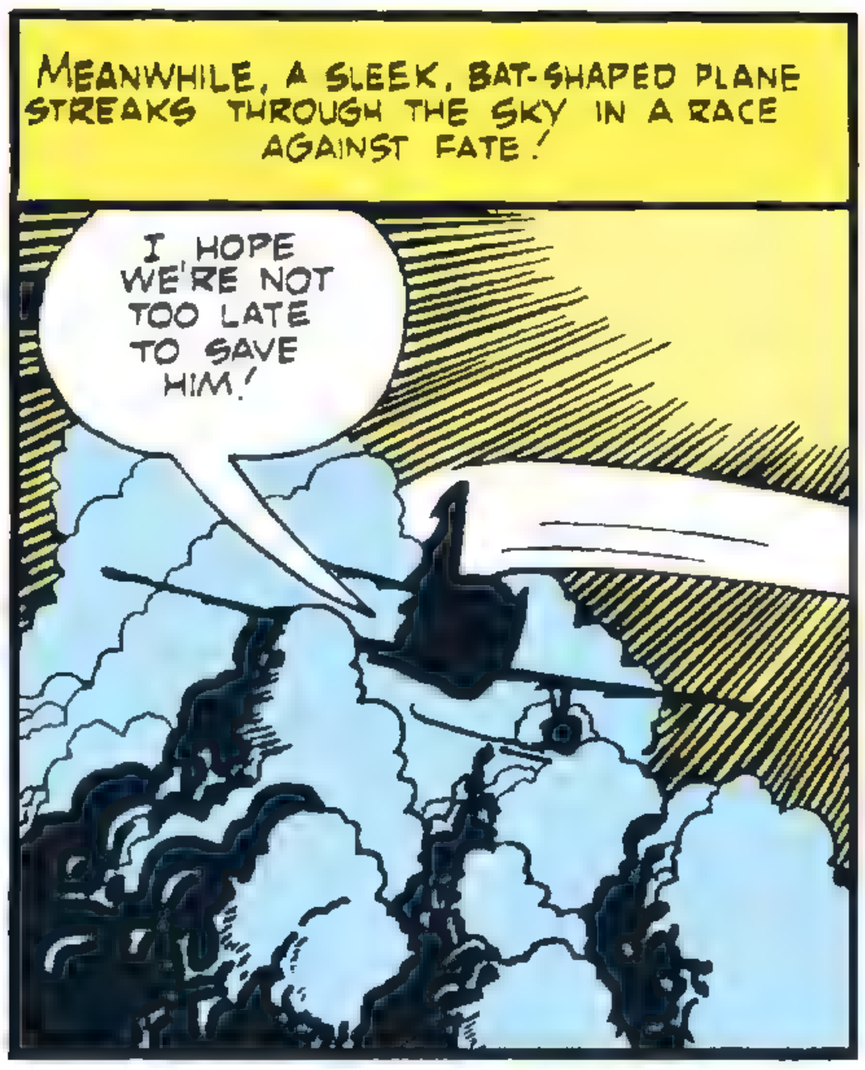

LATER -- THE PRISON HOSPITAL--
THIS MAN IS DEAD! HE'S BEEN SHOT!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I ONLY HIT HIM OVER THE HEART!

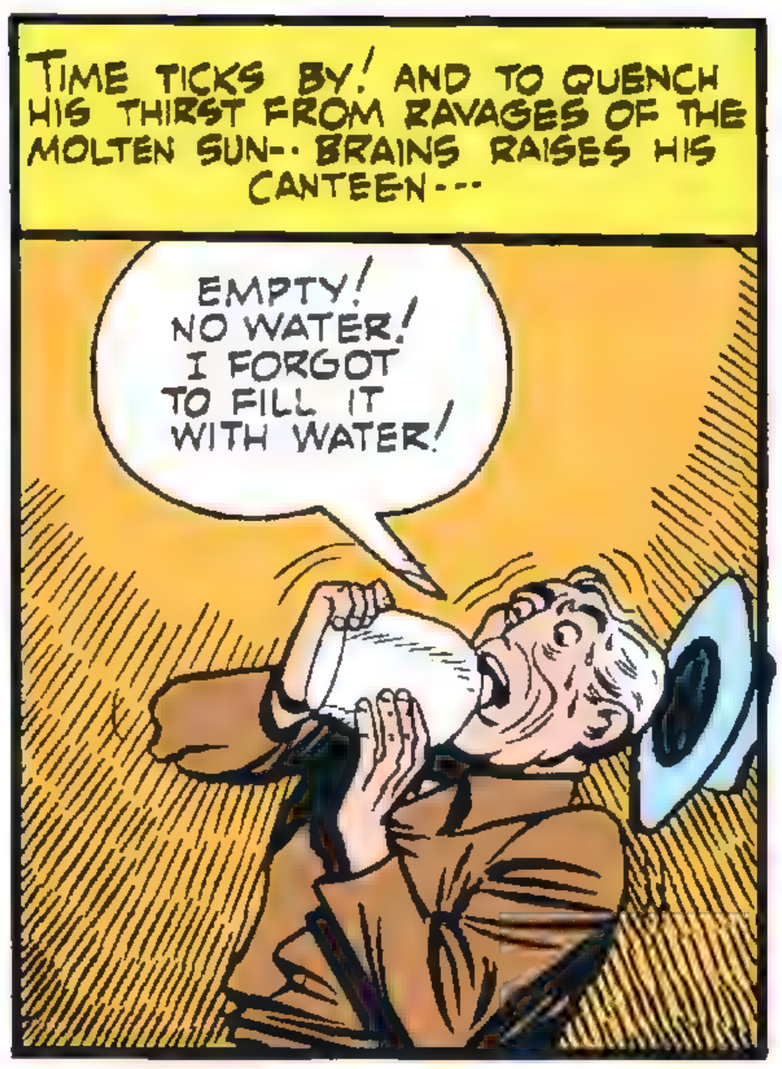

WHEN I REMOVED THE BULLETS NAILS RECEIVED IN A GANG WAR LONG AGO---I HAD TO LEAVE ONE NEAR HIS HEART! TO REMOVE IT MEANT HIS DEATH! WHEN YOU HIT HIM OVER THE CHEST, YOU DROVE THAT BULLET INTO THE HEART!
"METAL WILL STILL YOUR BEATING HEART!"

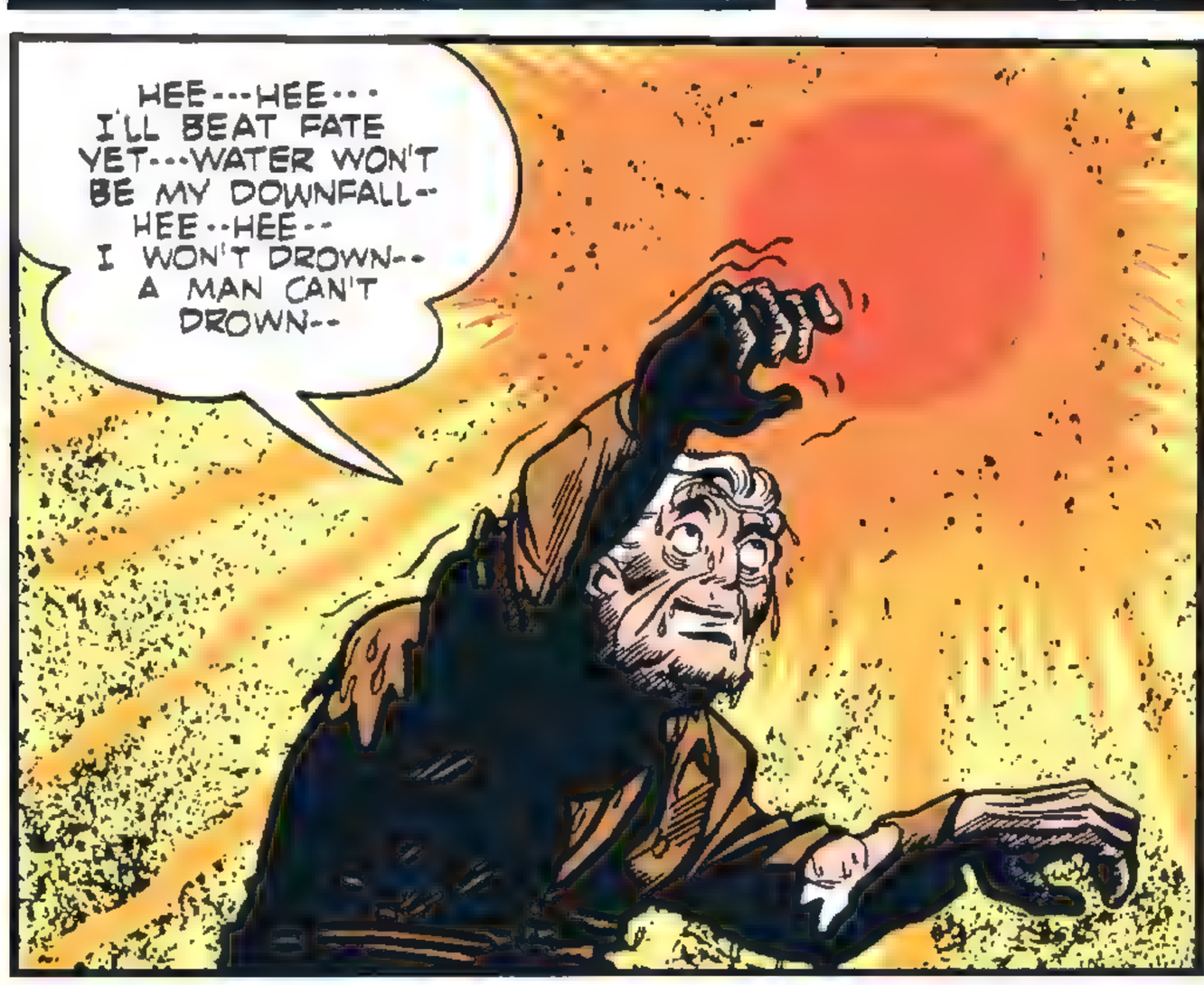

The THIRD CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES HAS COME TO PASS!

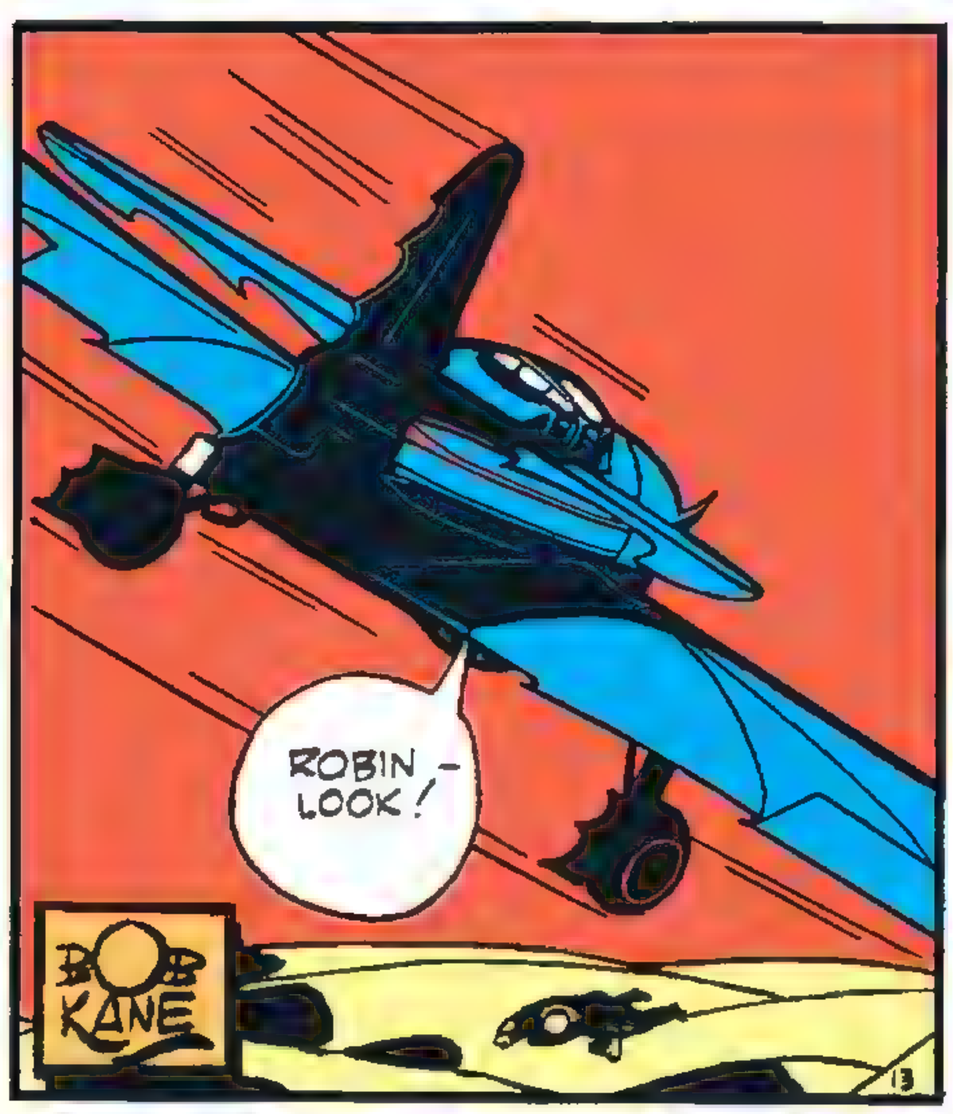

BATMAN- JUST GOT A CALL THAT A MAN LOOKING LIKE BRAINS BRINIG BOUGHT A DONKEY AND SUPPLIES NEAR THE ARIZONA DESERT!
WHAT?--- THE FOOL-- ROBIN-- THE BATPLANE-- WE'VE GOT TO SAVE A MAN'S LIFE!


THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT!
HA! HA! I'LL BEAT FATE! SO WATER IS TO BE MY DOWN-FALL, IS IT? I WON'T DROWN IN THE DESERT! HA! HA!









THE FINAL CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES HAS COME TO PASS!

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

BOB KANE

HERE IS A TALE OF THOSE GIANT DENIZENS OF THE DEEP--THOSE BATTLESHIPS OF NATURE--WHALES! OF ONE MAMMOTH WHALE IN PARTICULAR, A TITANTIC, TEN-TON MONSTER THAT PLUNGES SHIPS TO DAVY JONES' LOCKER---AND SCOURS THE OCEAN IN ITS HUNT FOR A HUNDRED JONAHS! IN A SMASHING DRAMA OF MEN AGAINST THE SEA— OF BRUTALITY AND FEAR--THAT DYNAMIC DUO, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, TAKE HARPOON IN HAND TO TRAP THE TERROR OF THE SEAS--

THE WHITE WHALE!

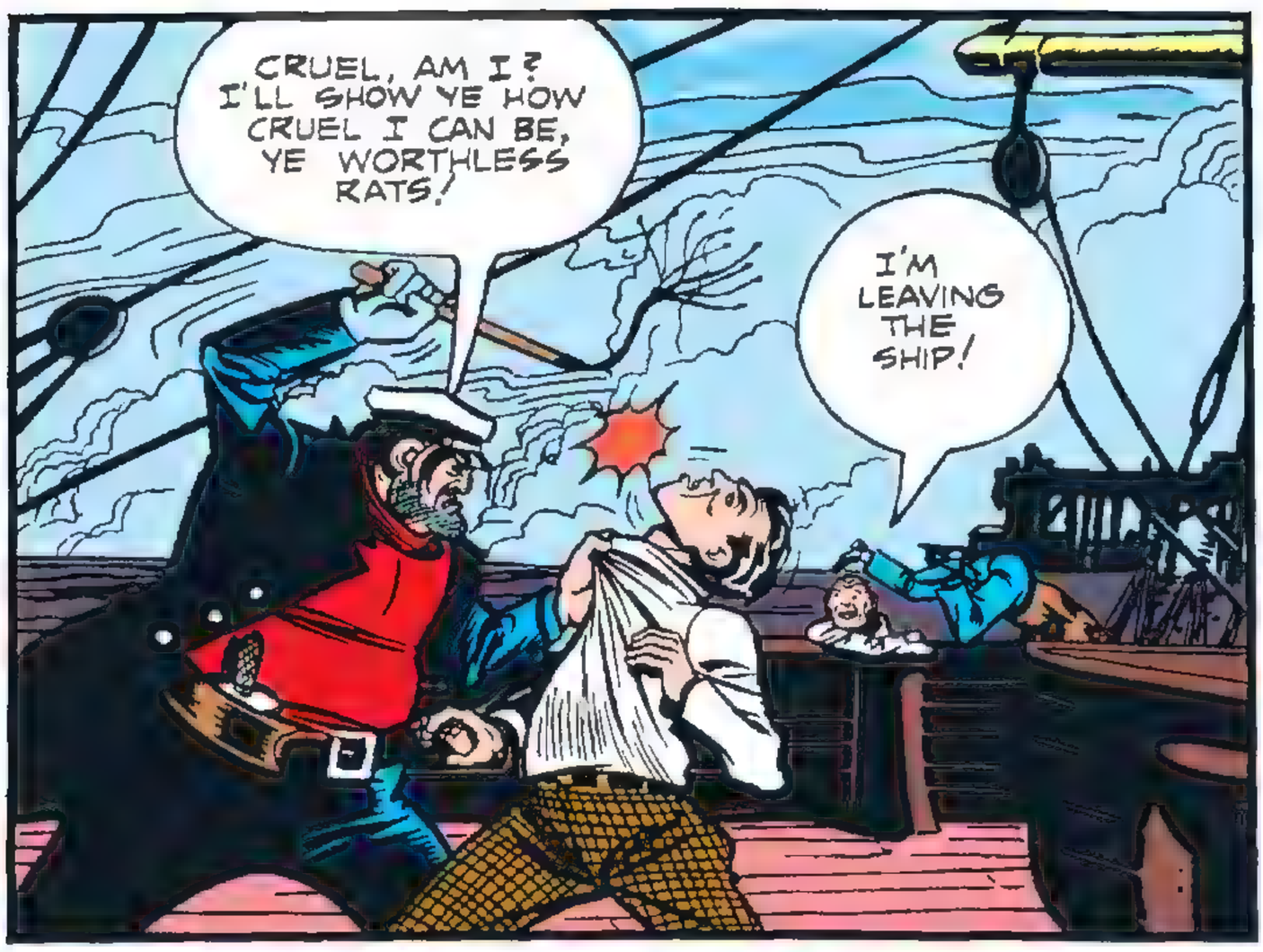
BOY, IT'S TIME NOW TO BEGIN OUR TALE FOR--
Thar' she Blows!

RIDING AT ANCHOR IN THE PORT OF GOTHAM CITY IS A SHIP--LONG SEASONED AND WEATHER-STAINED. AND WELL SHE MIGHT BE, FOR SHE IS RARE CRAFT INDEED--AN OLD-FASHIONED, WOODEN-HULLED WHALER!

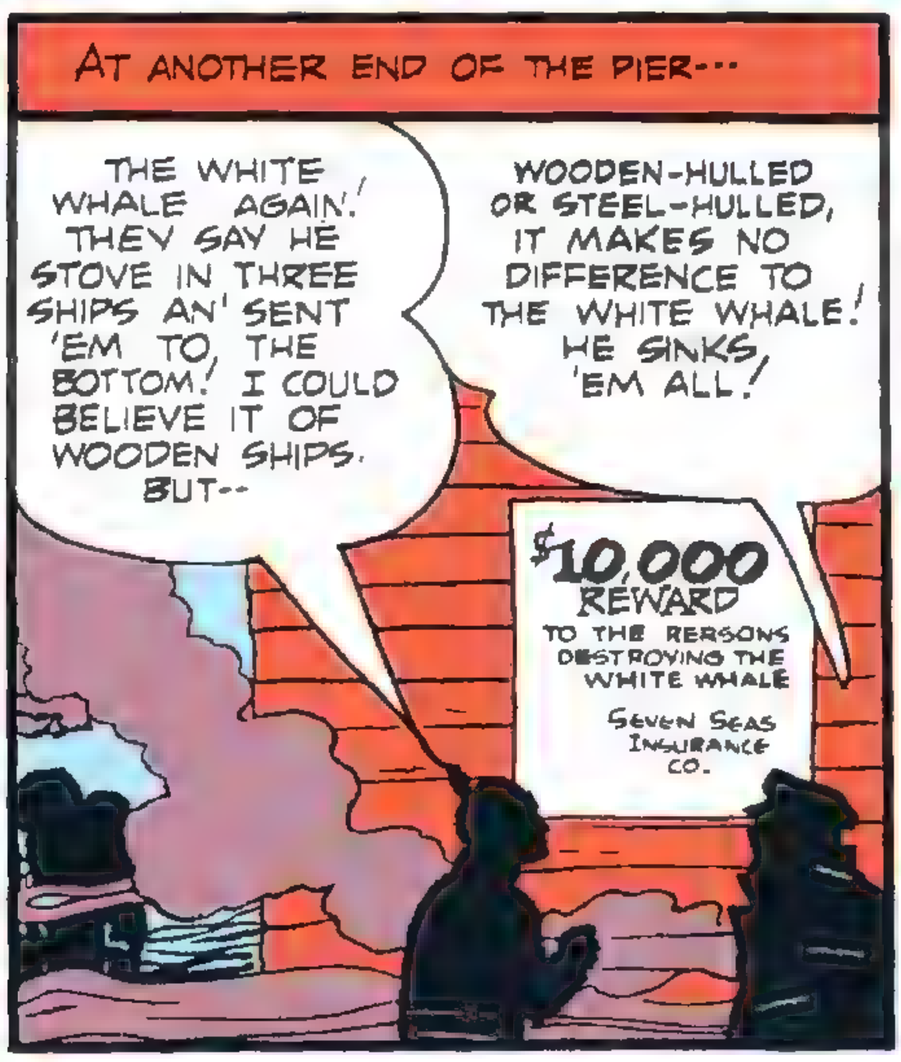
SO IT'S MUTINY NOW, IS IT? YE YELLOW-LIVERED COWARDS!

CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL! BUT NONE OF US IS GOIN' AFTER THE WHITE WHALE!

NOT A KILLER WHALE THAT'S ALREADY SENT THREE SHIPS DOWN TO DAVY JONES' LOCKER. BESIDES--NONE OF US WILL SHIP WITH YE AGAIN! YOU'RE A CRUEL MASTER, CAPTAIN BURLY!


CRUEL, AM I? I'LL SHOW YE HOW CRUEL I CAN BE, YE WORTHLESS RATS!
I'M LEAVING THE SHIP!

YE SWINE! COME BACK, D'YE HEAR ME? IF I COULD BUT LAY ME HANDS ON YE, I'D FLAY THE SKIN FROM YOUR BACKS!

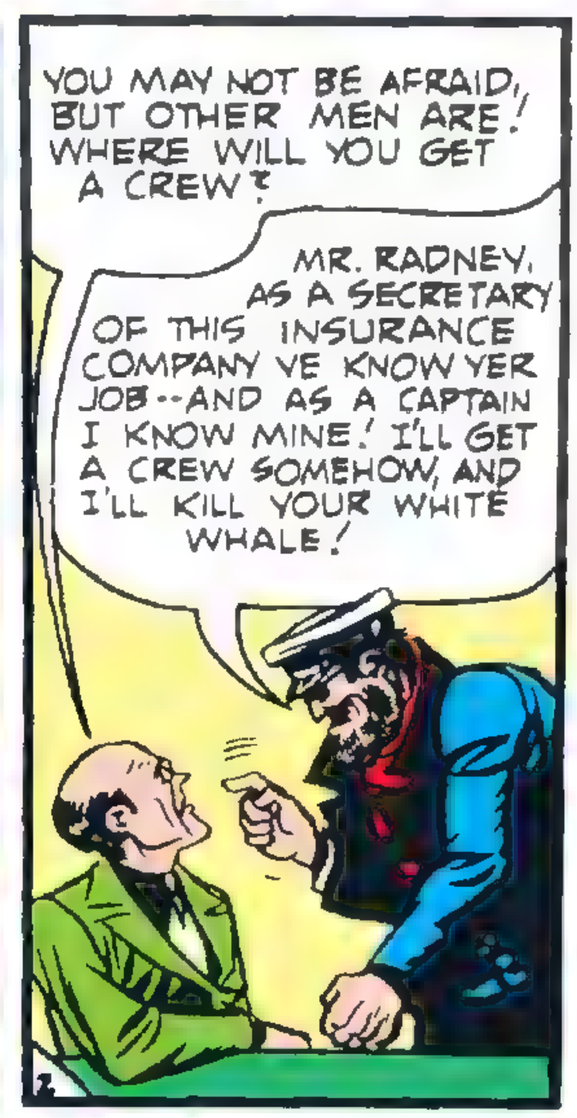

AT ANOTHER END OF THE PIER---
THE WHITE WHALE AGAIN! THEY SAY HE STOVE IN THREE SHIPS AN' SENT 'EM TO THE BOTTOM! I COULD BELIEVE IT OF WOODEN SHIPS. BUT--
WOODEN-HULLED OR STEEL-HULLED, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO THE WHITE WHALE! HE SINKS 'EM ALL!
$10,000 REWARD TO THE PERSONS DESTROYING THE WHITE WHALE
SEVEN SEAS INSURANCE CO.

I'VE HEARD THAT HARPOONS BOUNCE OFF HIS HIDE, IT'S THAT TOUGH! ALSO, THAT HE DON'T SWASH SHIPS WITH HIS BIG TAIL LIKE OTHER WHALES!
AYE, HE JUST KEEPS BUTTIN' AND RAMMIN' LIKE AN ANGRY BULL UNTIL THE SHIP JUST NATURALLY GIVES UP!

TO SEE THAT GIANT MOUNTAIN OF FLESH, BEARING DOWN ON YE—IT'S TERRIBLE. THE WHITE WHALE MUST BE SOME ACCURSED SEA DEVIL!

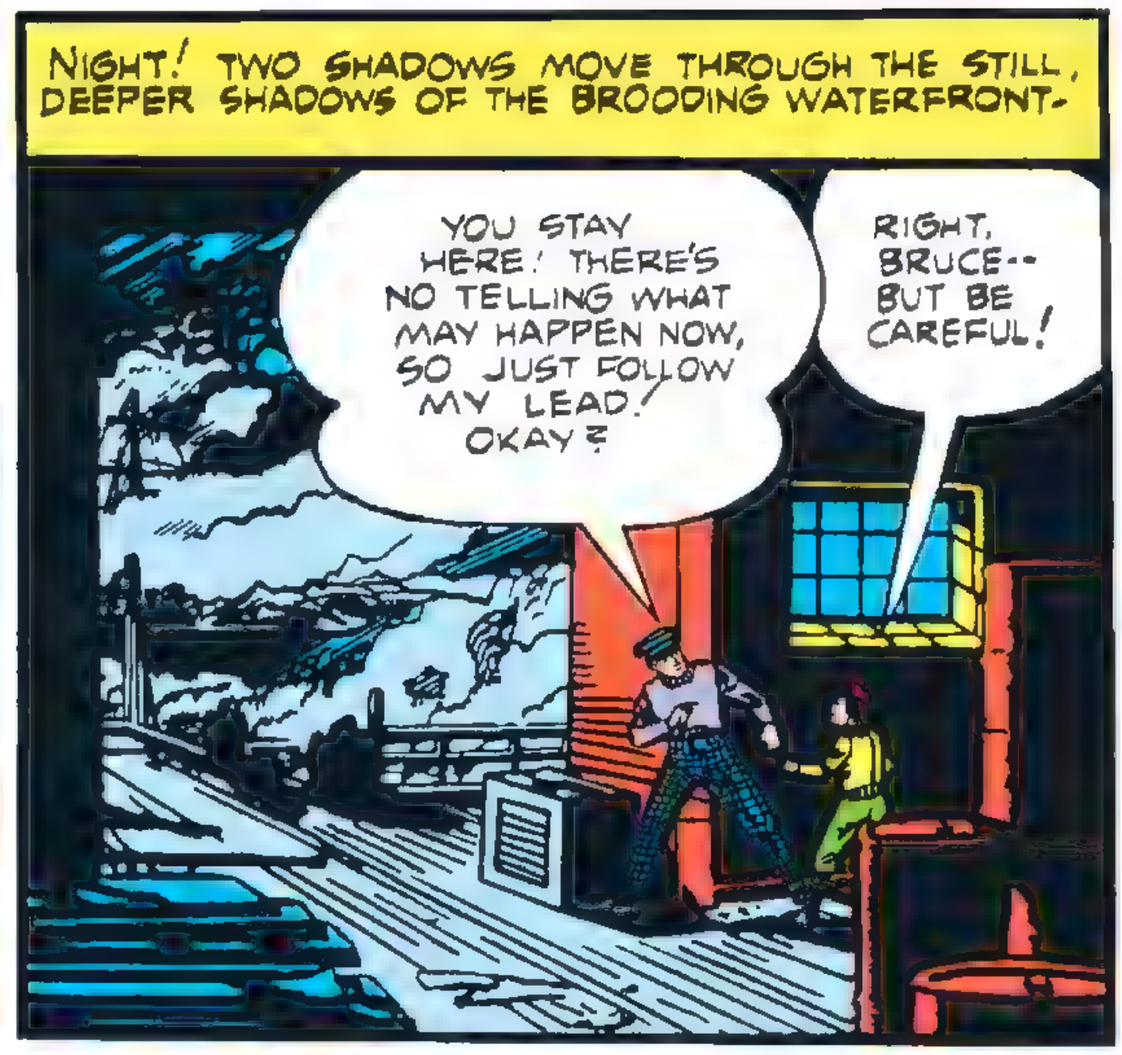
THE OFFICE OF THE SEVEN SEAS INSURANCE CO.
GENTLEMEN, WE FACE A SERIOUS SITUATION - THREE SHIPS HAVE BEEN SUNK AND WE HAVE HAD TO PAY HEAVILY BECAUSE THEY WERE INSURED BY OUR COMPANY! ALL THIS, BECAUSE OF A WHALE!
WELL-- WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

CAPTAIN BURLY'S YOUR ANSWER! DOUBLE YOUR REWARD FOR THAT WHALE AND I'LL BRING HIM BACK! I'M AFRAID OF NO MAN OR BEAST!


YOU MAY NOT BE AFRAID, BUT OTHER MEN ARE! WHERE WILL YOU GET A CREW?
MR. RADNEY, AS A SECRETARY OF THIS INSURANCE COMPANY YE KNOW YER JOB--AND AS A CAPTAIN I KNOW MINE! I'LL GET A CREW SOMEHOW, AND I'LL KILL YOUR WHITE WHALE!

AFTER THE CAPTAIN LEAVES--
MR. WAYNE, YOU'RE A STOCKHOLDER IN THIS COMPANY-- WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CAPTAIN BURLY?
WELL-- HE SEEMS DETERMINED!

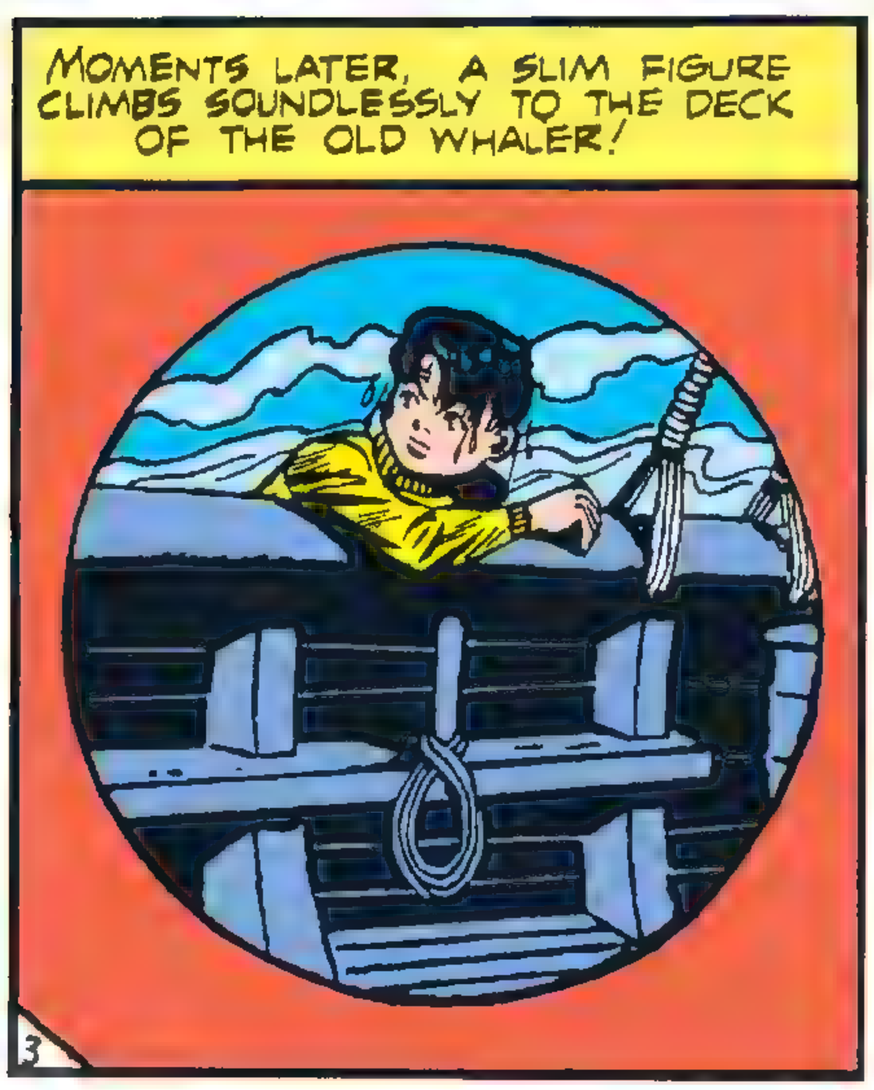
---TOO DETERMINED, DICK. PUT ON THESE CLOTHES. WE'RE GOING TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NOTORIOUS CAPTAIN BURLY!
AT HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE SPEAKS TO HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON.

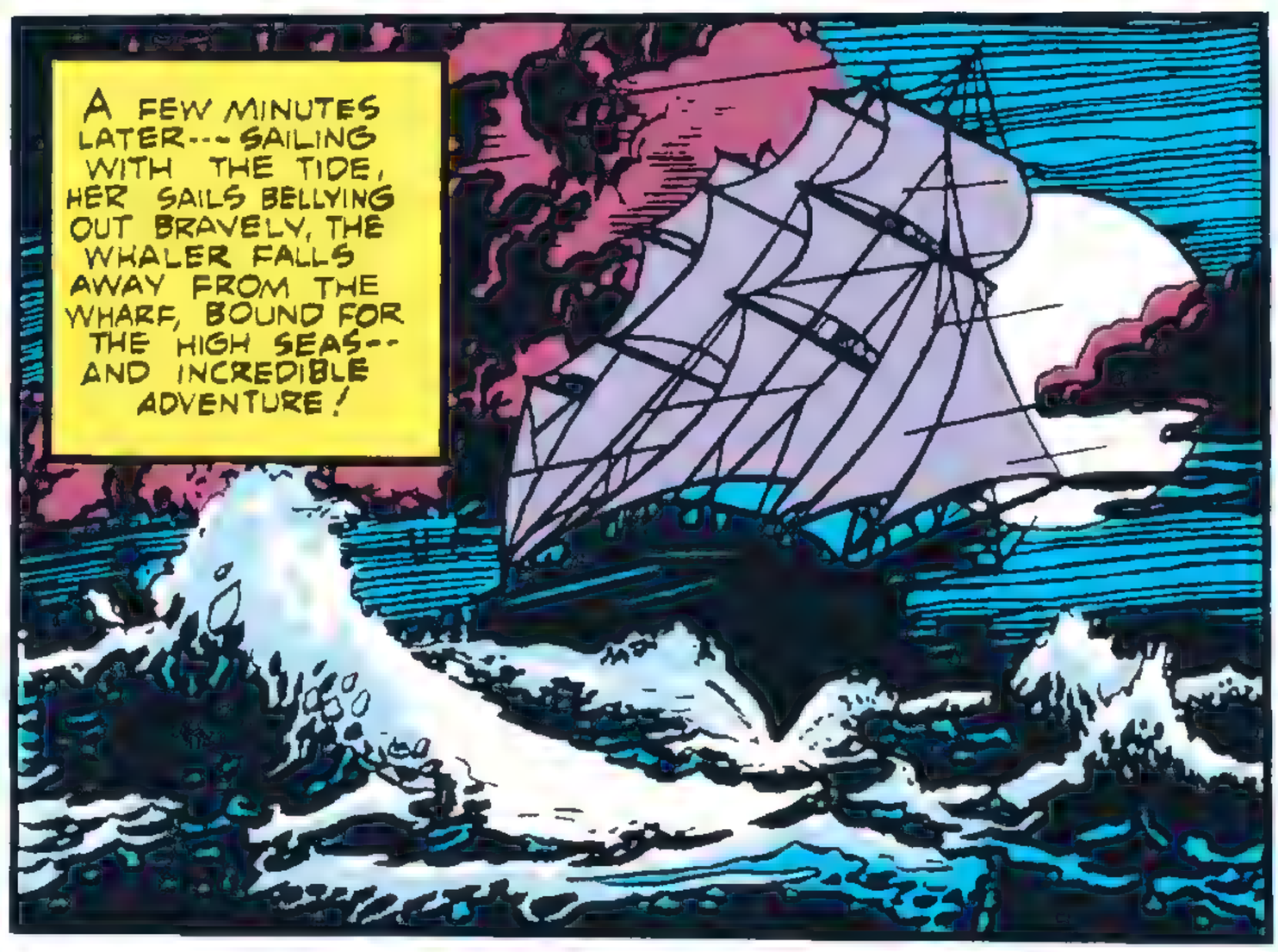

NIGHT! TWO SHADOWS MOVE THROUGH THE STILL, DEEPER SHADOWS OF THE BROODING WATERFRONT-
YOU STAY HERE! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MAY HAPPEN NOW, SO JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD! OKAY?
RIGHT, BRUCE-- BUT BE CAREFUL!

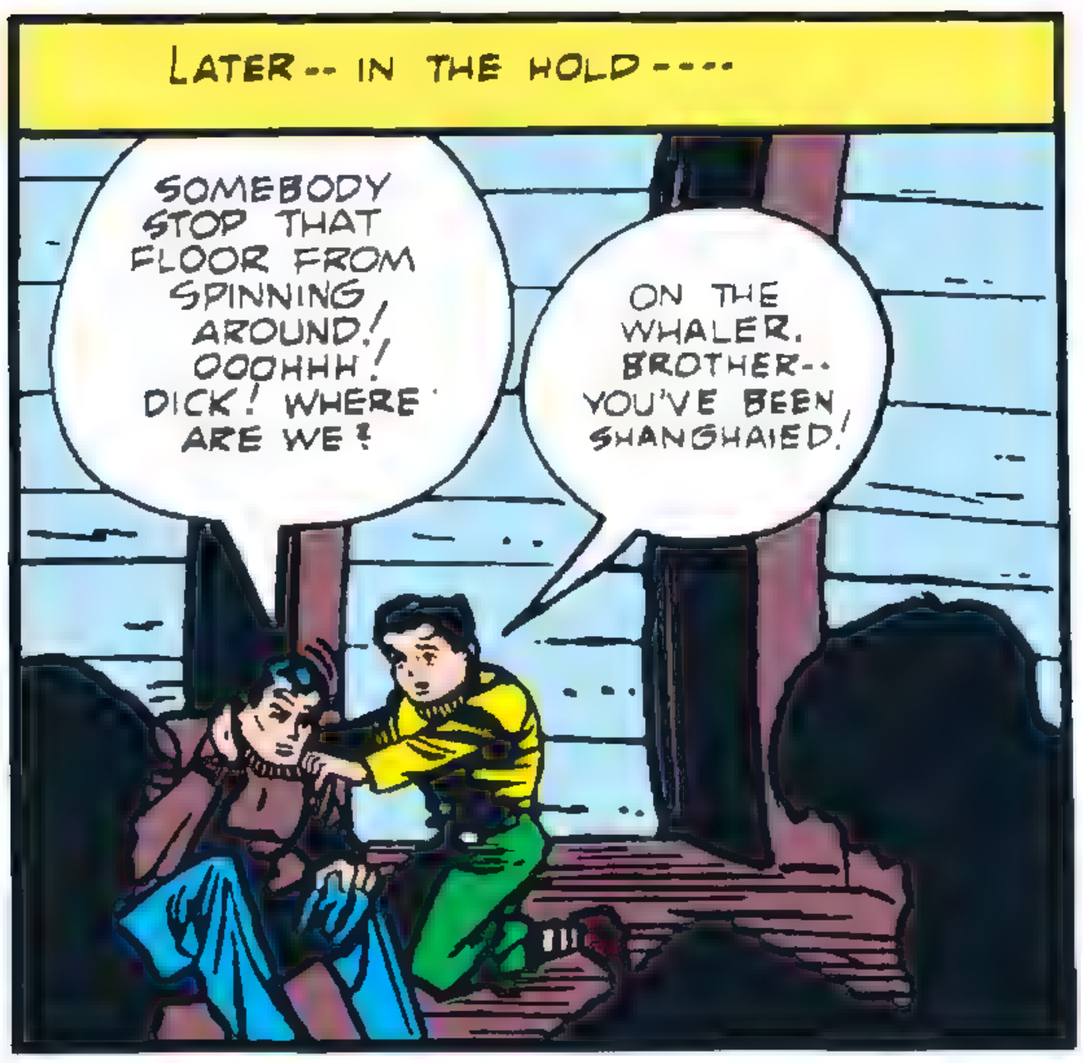
WARILY, BRUCE SCOUTS AMONG THE GLOOM-MANTLED DOCK WHEN--
GOT A MATCH, BUD!
I GUESS SO.. SURE!

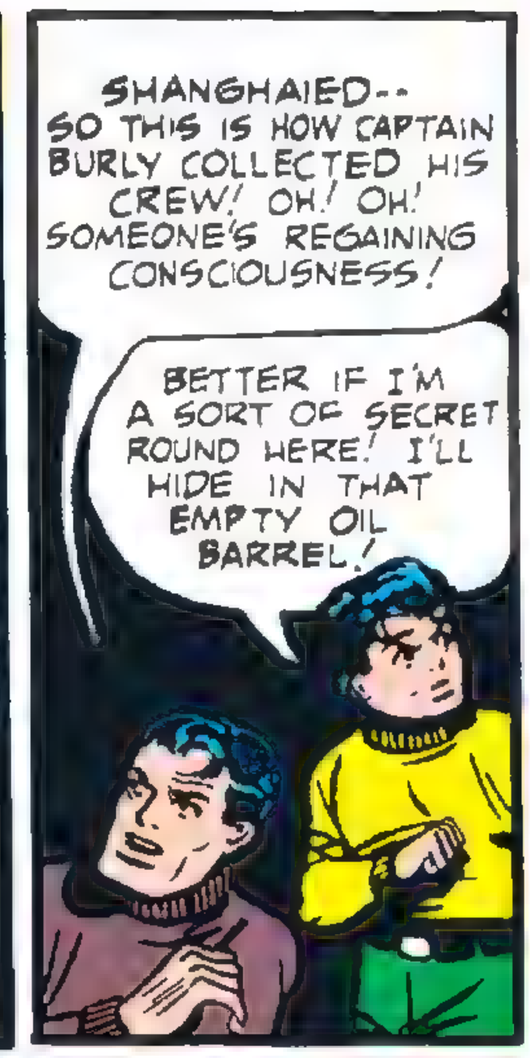
SUDDENLY---
WACK

HE'S THE LAST ONE! DUMP HIM IN WITH THE OTHERS!
RIGHT, CAP'N! WE'LL CAST OFF AT ONCE!


MOMENTS LATER, A SLIM FIGURE CLIMBS SOUNDLESSLY TO THE DECK OF THE OLD WHALER!
3

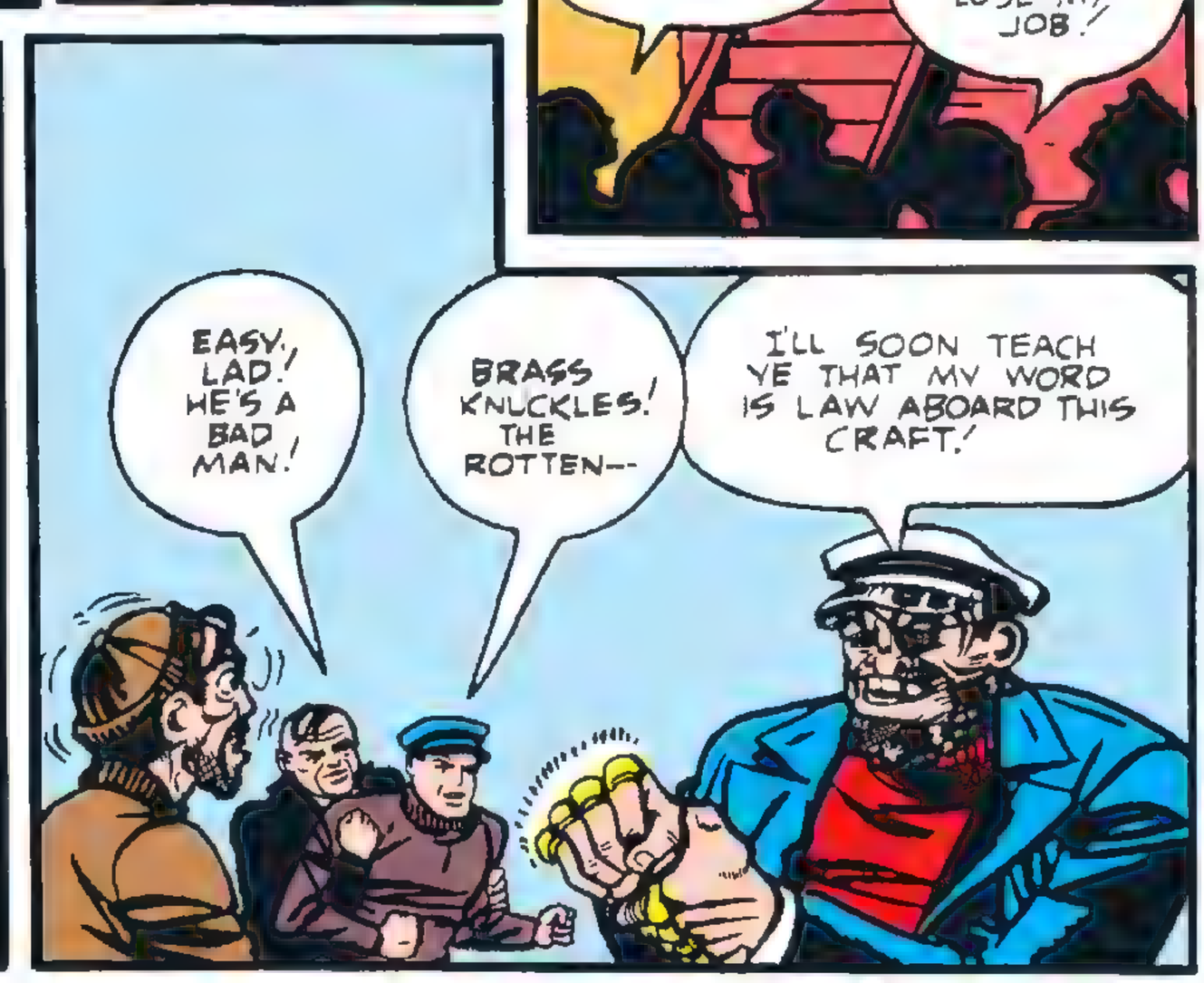

A FEW MINUTES LATER--- SAILING WITH THE TIDE, HER SAILS BELLYING OUT BRAVELY, THE WHALER FALLS AWAY FROM THE WHARF, BOUND FOR THE HIGH SEAS-- AND INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE!


LATER-- IN THE HOLD----
SOMEBODY STOP THAT FLOOR FROM SPINNING AROUND! OOOHHH! DICK! WHERE ARE WE?
ON THE WHALER, BROTHER-- YOU'VE BEEN SHANGHAIED!


SHANGHAIED-- SO THIS IS HOW CAPTAIN BURLY COLLECTED HIS CREW! OH! OH! SOMEONE'S REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS!
BETTER IF I'M A SORT OF SECRET ROUND HERE! I'LL HIDE IN THAT EMPTY OIL BARREL!

MORNING-- AND THE MOTLEY CREW IS ASSEMBLED ON DECK--TO FACE CAPTAIN BURLY!
STOP YER SNIVELIN'-- ALL OF YE! I'M THE MASTER HERE! LIKE IT OR NOT, YER THE CREW OF MY SHIP--AN' WE'RE GOING AFTER THE WHITE WHALE!
WOT'S TH' IDEA O' SHANGHAIING US, CAP'N?
PLEASE TAKE ME BACK HOME. I'LL LOSE MY JOB!

I'M NOT-- UGH!
UGH!


EASY, LAD! HE'S A BAD MAN!
BRASS KNUCKLES! THE ROTTEN--
I'LL SOON TEACH YE THAT MY WORD IS LAW ABOARD THIS CRAFT!

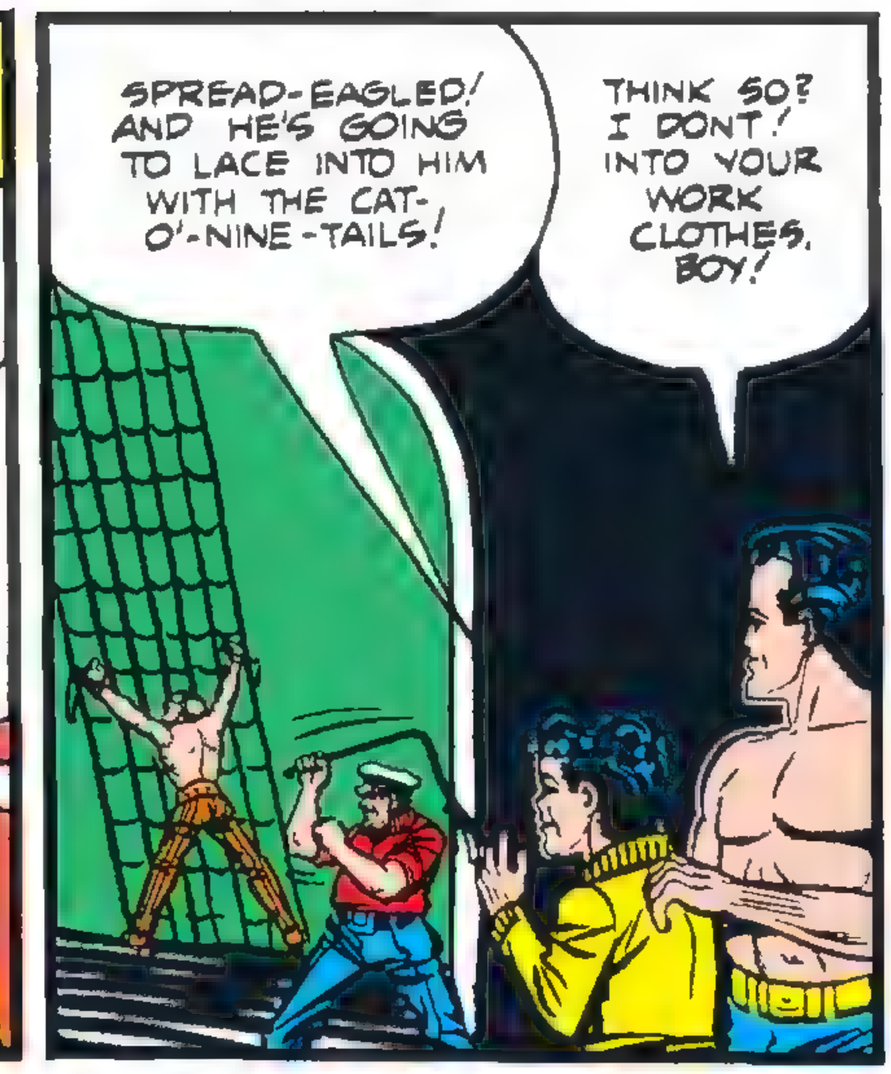
USING THE NAME "JACK TAR", BRUCE ASSUMES THE ROLE OF A SEAMAN WHILE DICK STOWS AWAY IN THE HOLD!
UP YE GO, YE LANDLUBBER-- LIVELY NOW, OR I'LL TAKE A CLUB TO YE!

THEN ---ONE NIGHT--
THAT MAN IS WORKING US TO DEATH! HE'S A TYRANT! I THINK IT'S TIME THE BATMAN PUT IN HIS APPEARANCE!
AND DON'T FORGET ROB'N! BUT HOW CAN YOU DO IT WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION UPON "JACK TAR"?

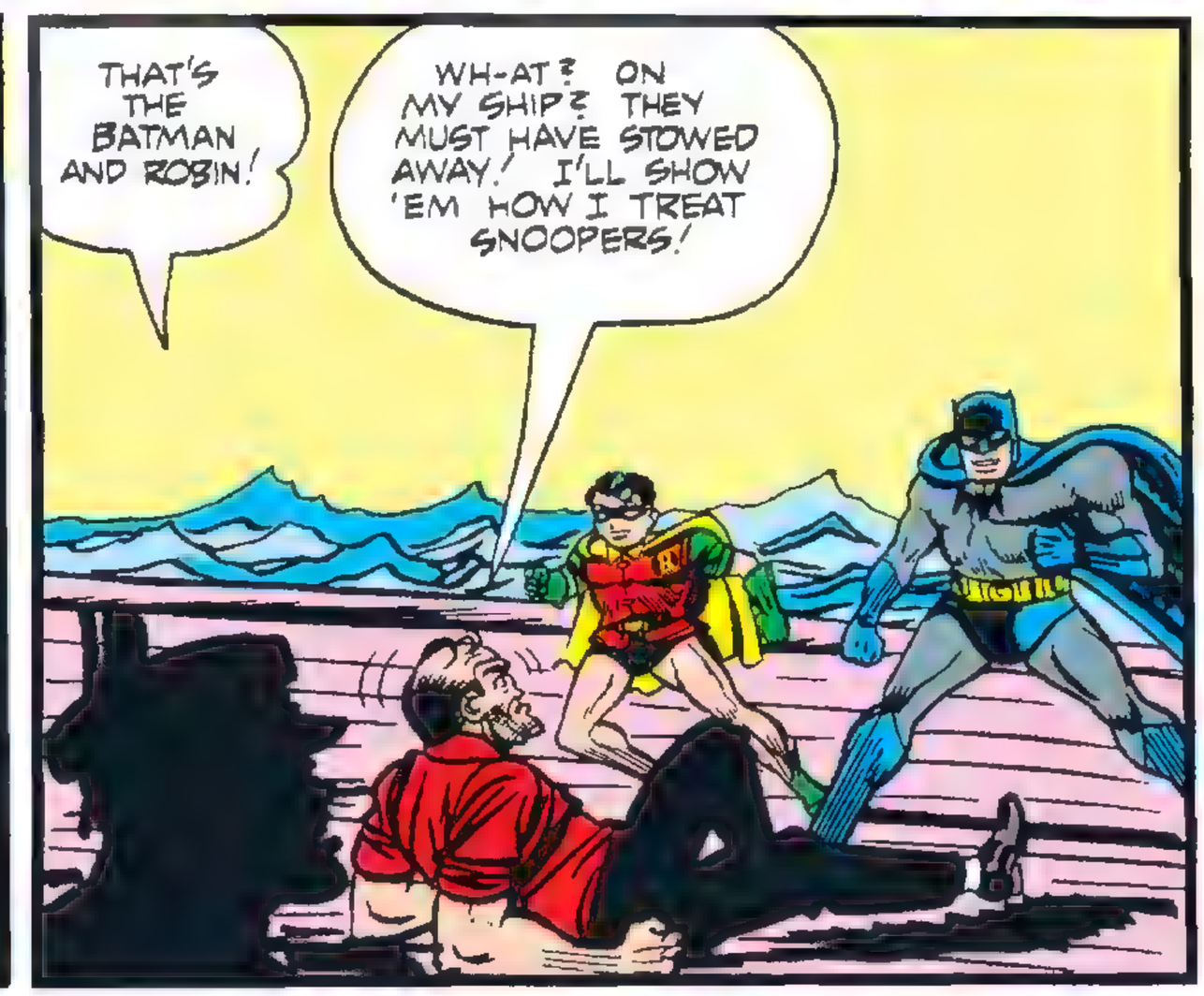
THE NEXT MORNING---
MAN OVERBOARD! IT'S JACK TAR! MAN OVER-BOARD!

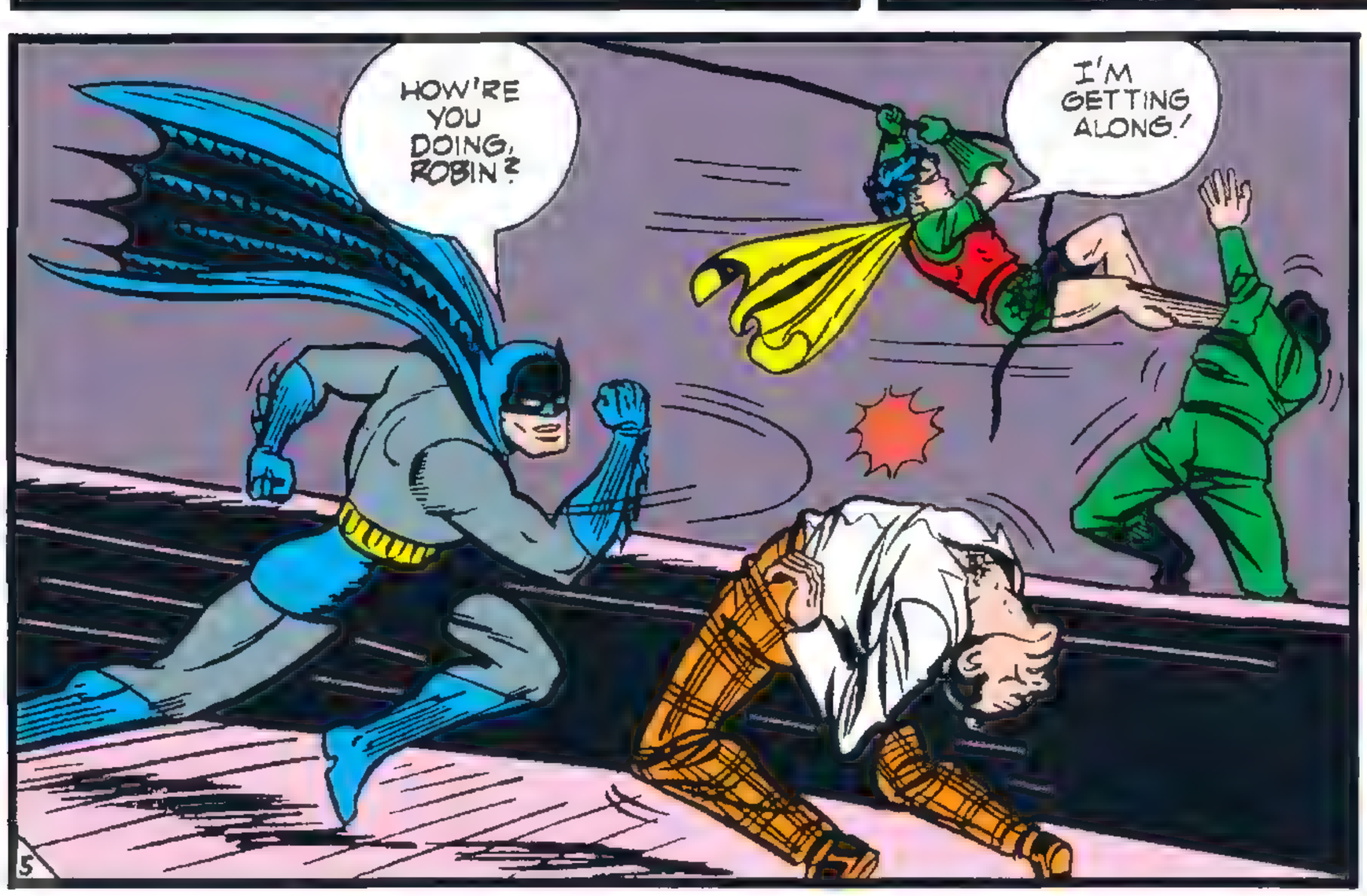
SOMETIME LATER---
THAT JACK TAR SUNK LIKE A LOG!
NOT A TRACE OF HIM! SHALL WE SEARCH SOME MORE, CAP'N?
WE'RE SEARCHIN' FOR WHALES, NOT FOR MEN-- WE'RE SETTIN' FULL SAIL AHEAD!

BUT DOWN IN THE HOLD, "JACK TAR" IS VERY MUCH ALIVE.
NICE STUNT, THAT-- THROWING A RIGGED-UP DUMMY OVER-BOARD!
SAY-- SOMETHING'S UP!
I'LL TEACH YE TO SPLASH WATER OVER MY FEET---


SPREAD-EAGLED! AND HE'S GOING TO LACE INTO HIM WITH THE CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS!
THINK SO? I DONT! INTO YOUR WORK CLOTHES, BOY!

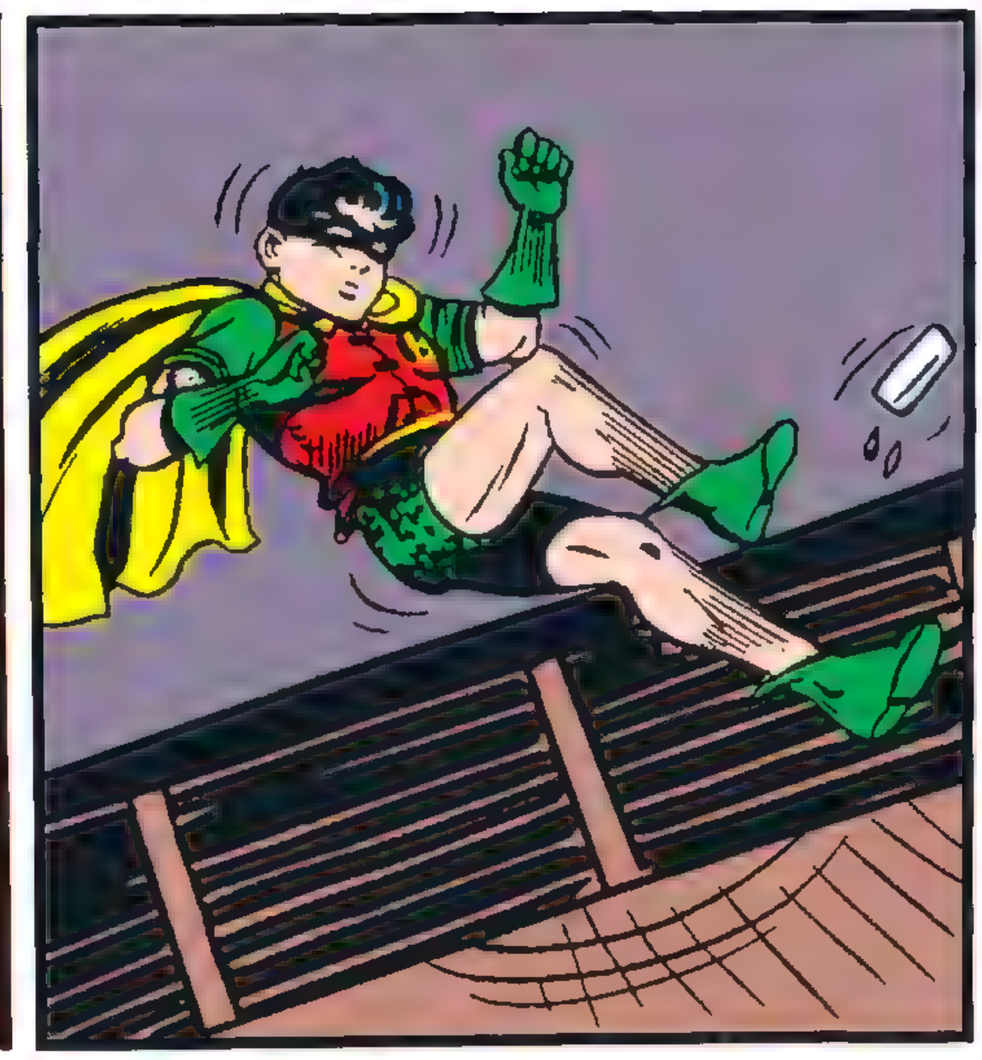
A QUICK DISCARD OF OUTER CLOTHING--AND TWO CAPED FIGURES CHARGE TO THE DECK-
I'LL TAKE THIS--AND YOU TAKE THIS!


THAT'S THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WH-AT? ON MY SHIP? THEY MUST HAVE STOWED AWAY! I'LL SHOW 'EM HOW I TREAT SNOOPERS!

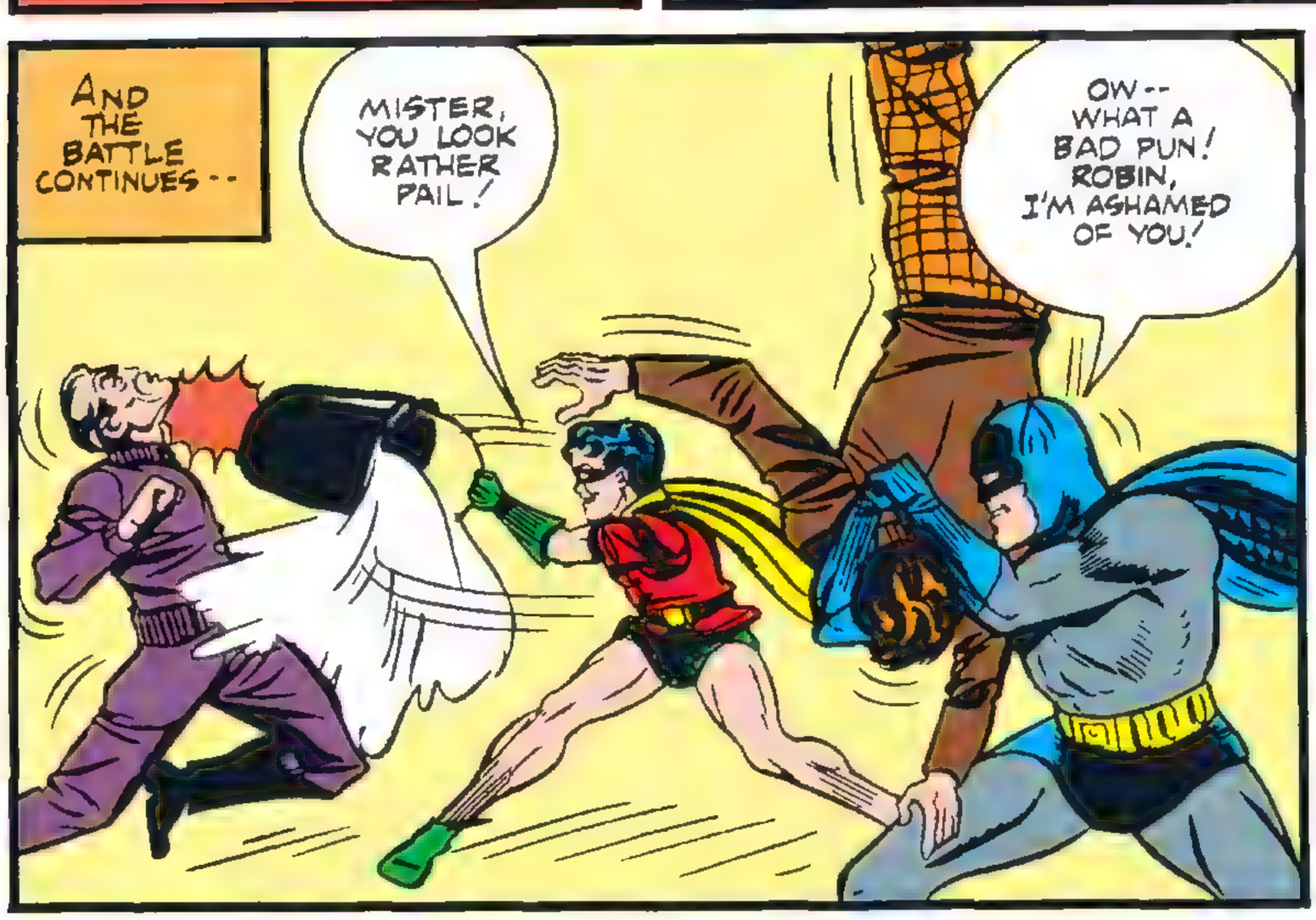

HOW'RE YOU DOING, ROBIN?
I'M GETTING ALONG!

UH--UH! ATTACK FROM THE REAR-- HAVE TO STOP IT--

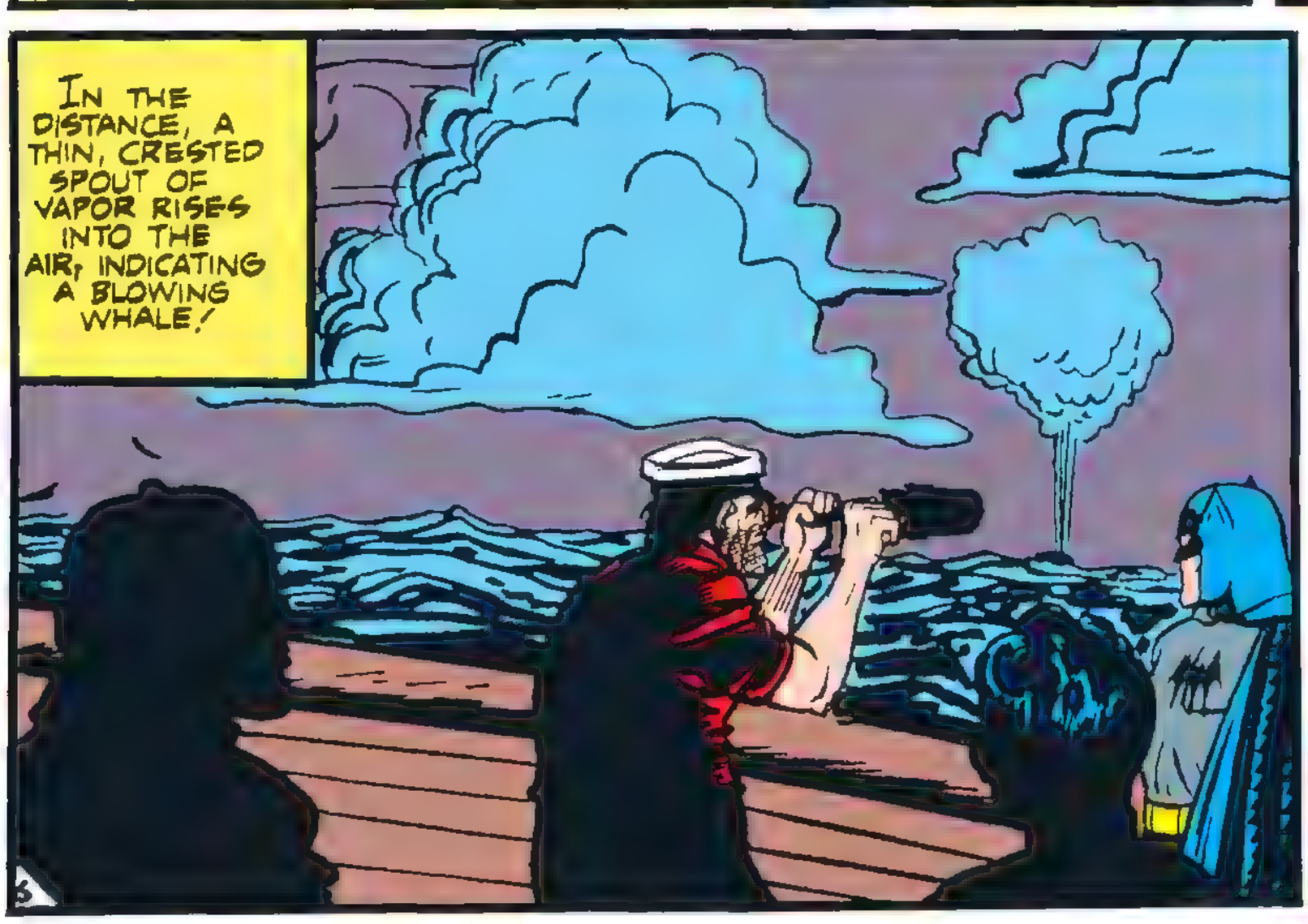
BUT EAGER ROBIN HAS NO EYES FOR THE SOAP UNDERFOOT, AND---
SOAP



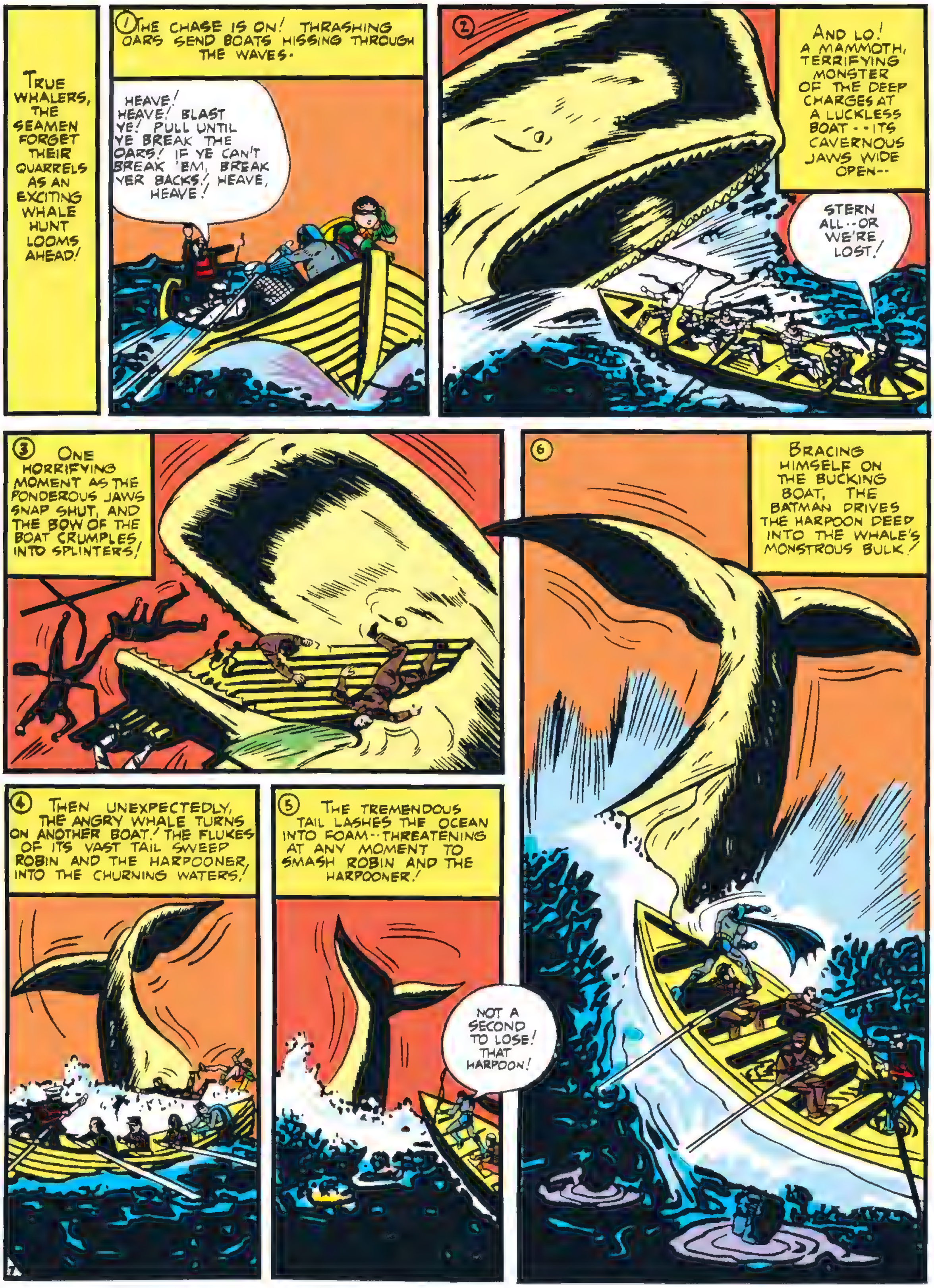
GLU--MMM..
SOAP

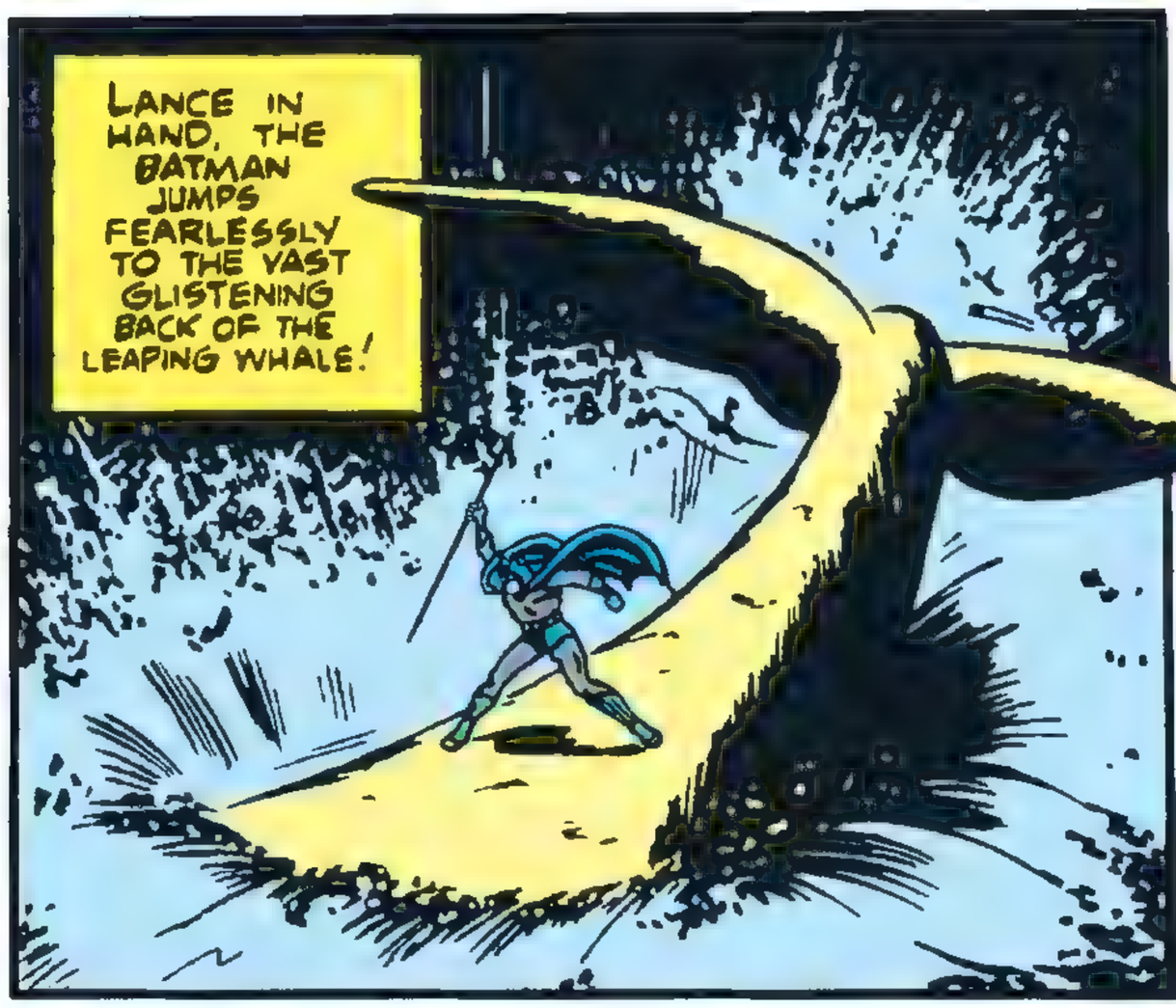

AND THE BATTLE CONTINUES--
MISTER, YOU LOOK RATHER PAIL!
OW-- WHAT A BAD PUN! ROBIN, I'M ASHAMED OF YOU!

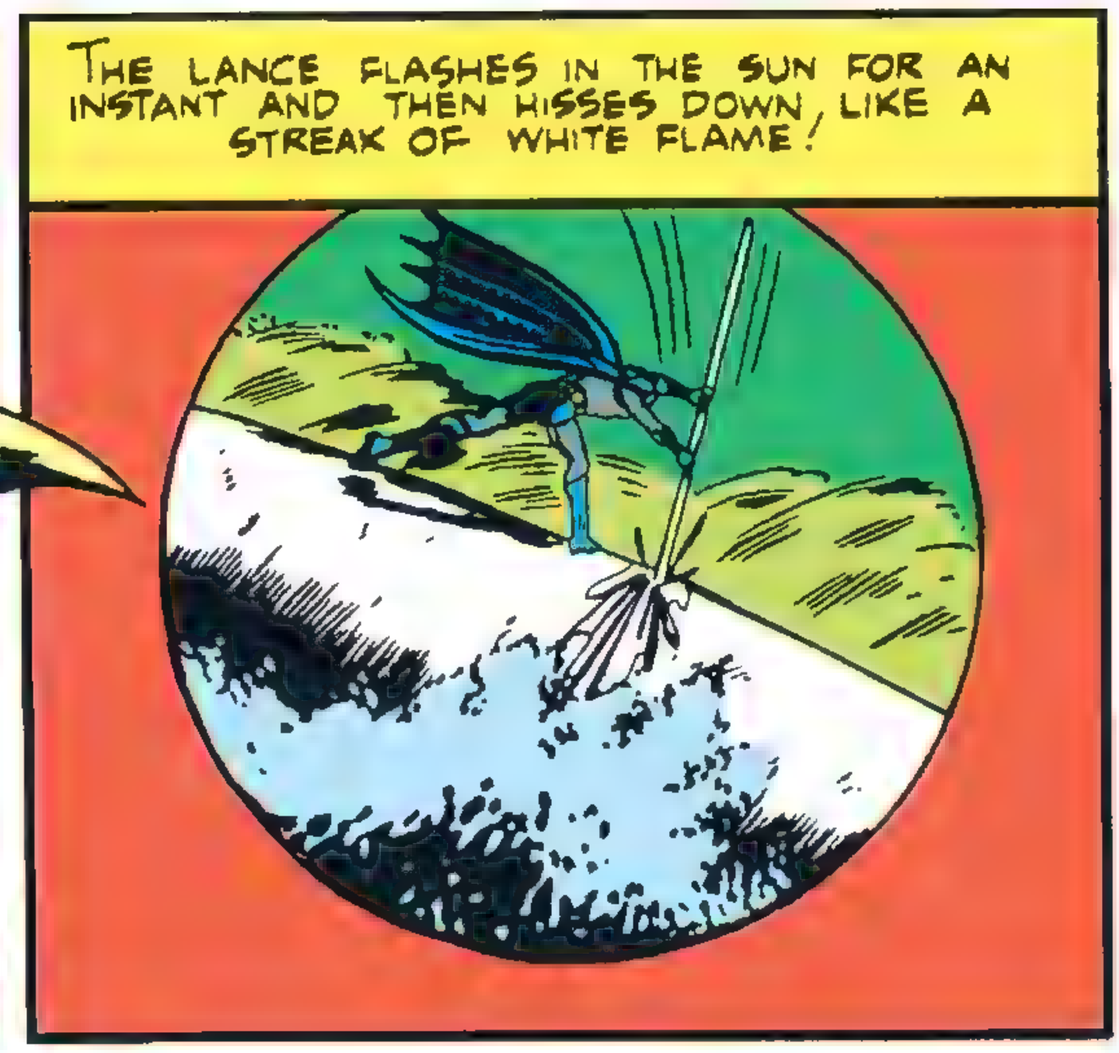
THEN ALL FREEZE STOCK-STILL AS A LOUD CRY IS HEARD---
THAR SHE BLOWS! A WHALE... A WHALE!

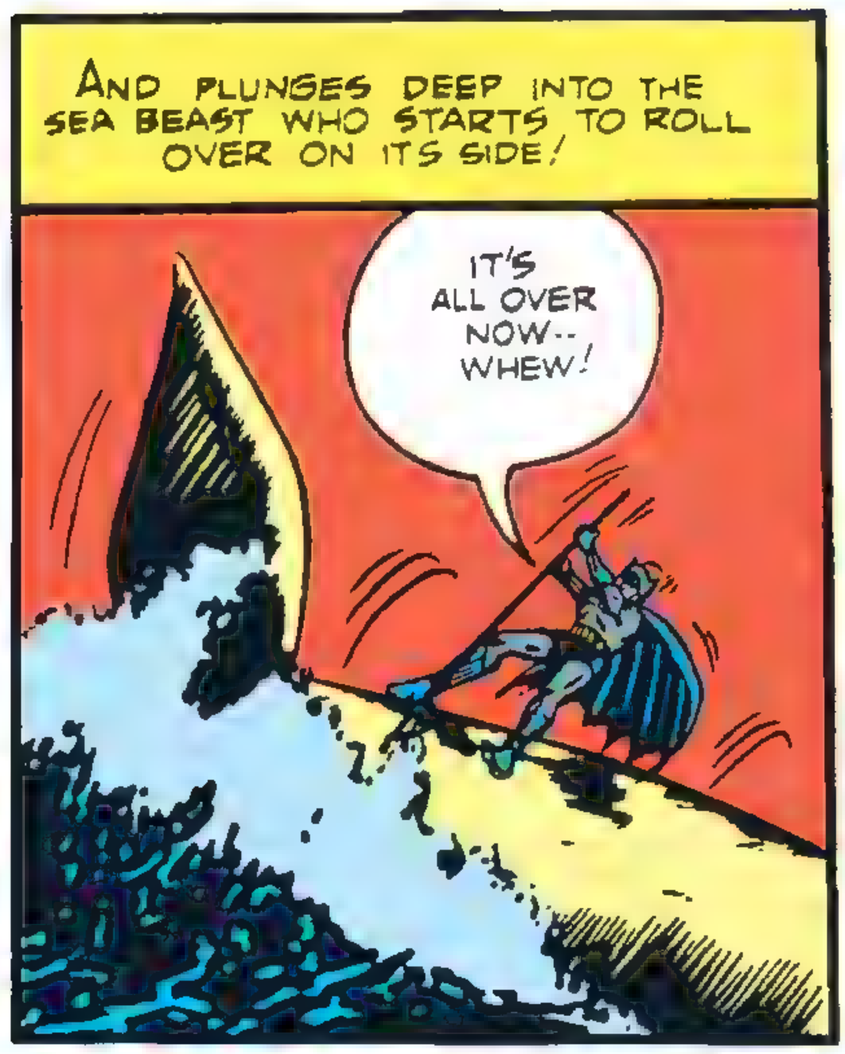

IN THE DISTANCE, A THIN, CRESTED SPOUT OF VAPOR RISES INTO THE AIR, INDICATING A BLOWING WHALE!

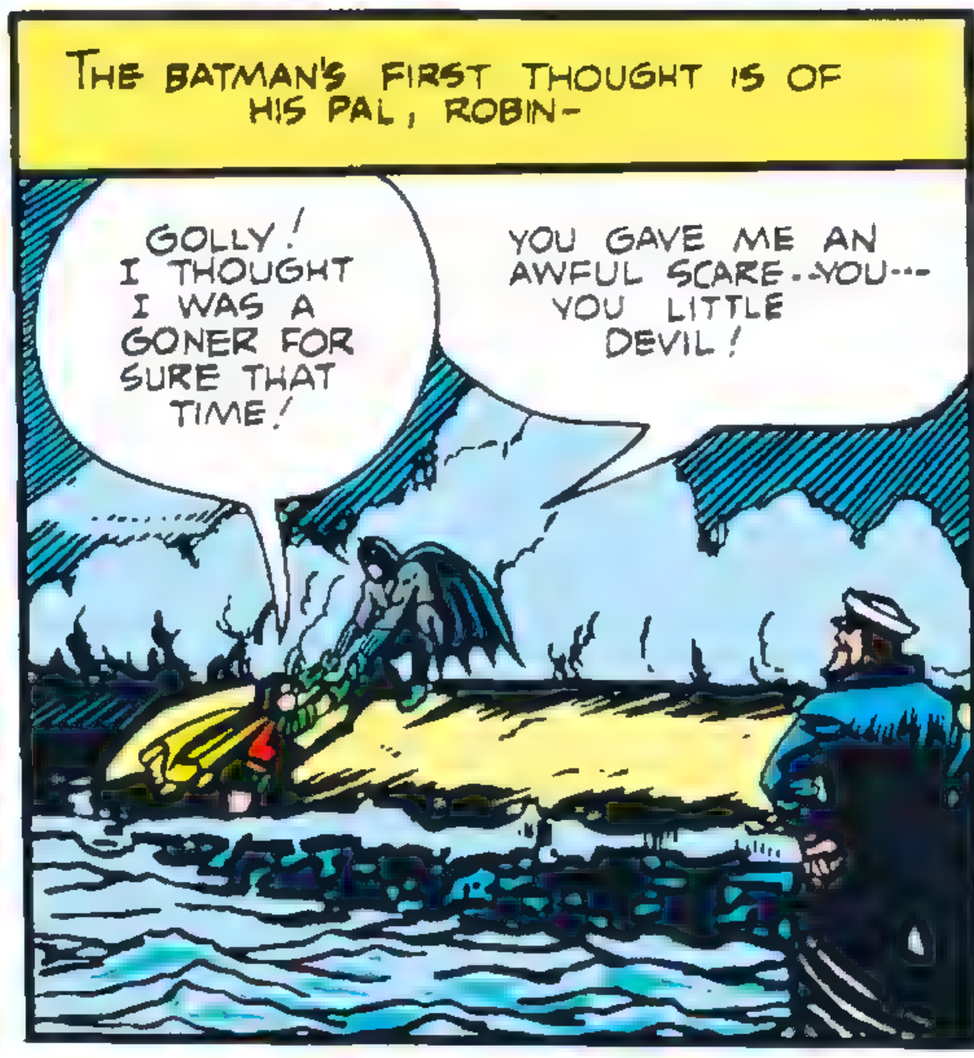
INTO THE BOAT WITH YE! YOU'RE GOIN' A-WHALIN' THIS DAY! WE'LL SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES LATER!

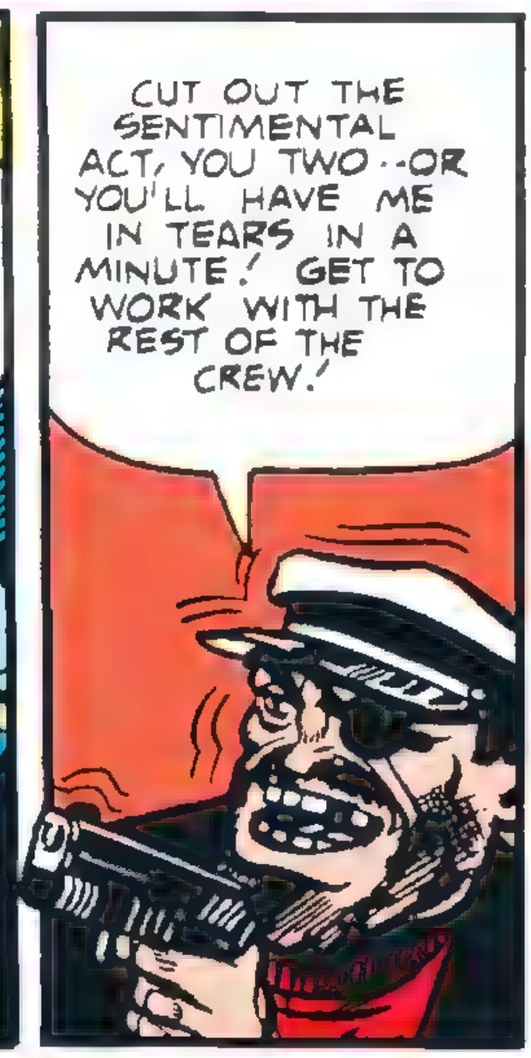

TRUE WHALERS, THE SEAMEN FORGET THEIR QUARRELS AS AN EXCITING WHALE HUNT LOOMS AHEAD!
1 THE CHASE IS ON! THRASHING OARS SEND BOATS HISSING THROUGH THE WAVES.
HEAVE! HEAVE! BLAST YE! PULL UNTIL YE BREAK THE OARS! IF YE CAN'T BREAK 'EM, BREAK YER BACKS! HEAVE, HEAVE!
2
AND LO! A MAMMOTH, TERRIFYING MONSTER OF THE DEEP CHARGES AT A LUCKLESS BOAT--ITS CAVERNOUS JAWS WIDE OPEN--
STERN ALL--OR WE'RE LOST!
3 ONE HORRIFYING MOMENT AS THE PONDEROUS JAWS SNAP SHUT, AND THE BOW OF THE BOAT CRUMPLES INTO SPLINTERS!
4 THEN UNEXPECTEDLY, THE ANGRY WHALE TURNS ON ANOTHER BOAT! THE FLUKES OF ITS VAST TAIL SWEEP ROBIN AND THE HARPOONER, INTO THE CHURNING WATERS!
5 THE TREMENDOUS TAIL LASHES THE OCEAN INTO FOAM--THREATENING AT ANY MOMENT TO SMASH ROBIN AND THE HARPOONER!
NOT A SECOND TO LOSE! THAT HARPOON!
6
BRACING HIMSELF ON THE BUCKING BOAT, THE BATMAN DRIVES THE HARPOON DEEP INTO THE WHALE'S MONSTROUS BULK!

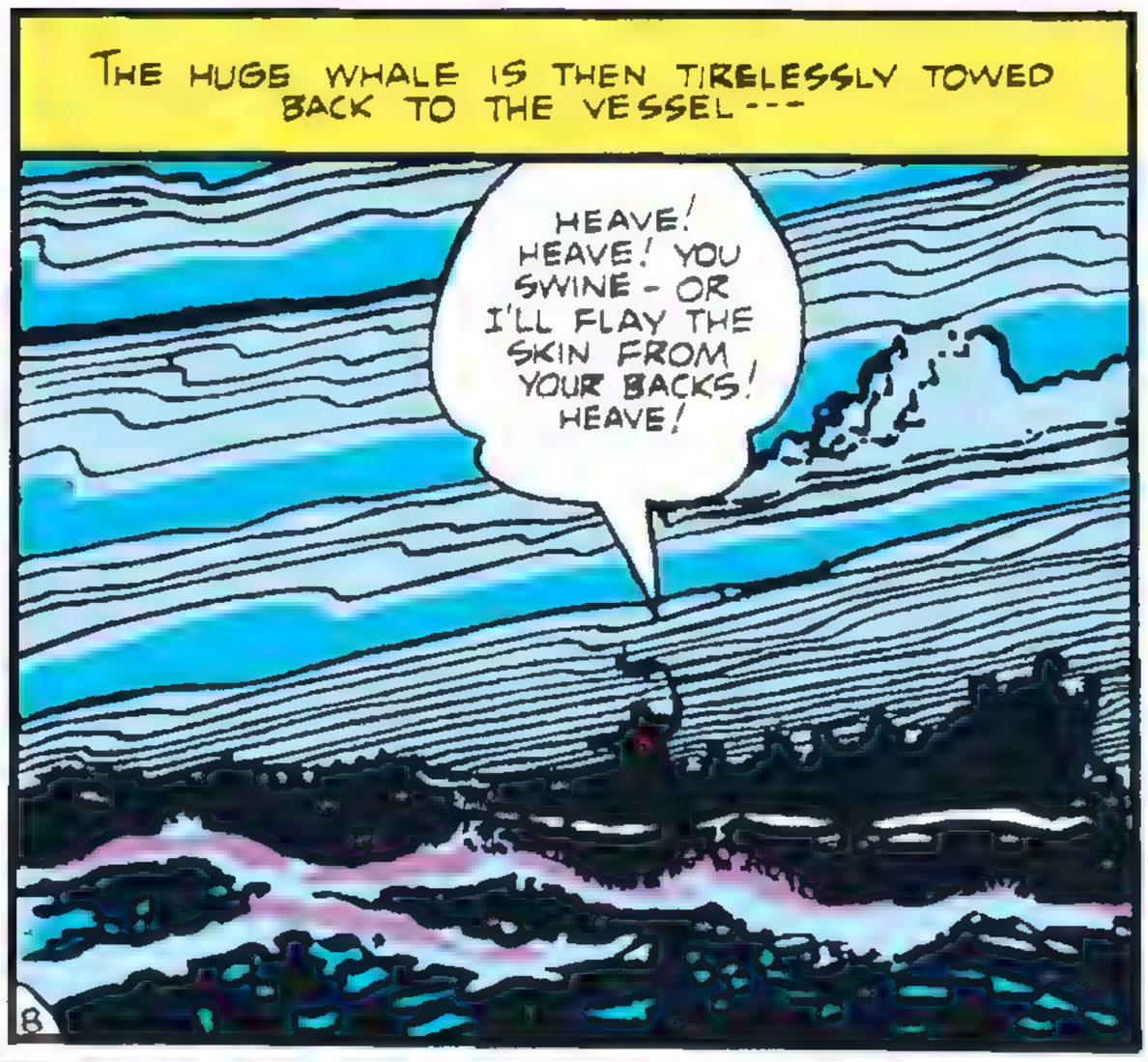

LANCE IN HAND, THE BATMAN JUMPS FEARLESSLY TO THE VAST GLISTENING BACK OF THE LEAPING WHALE!

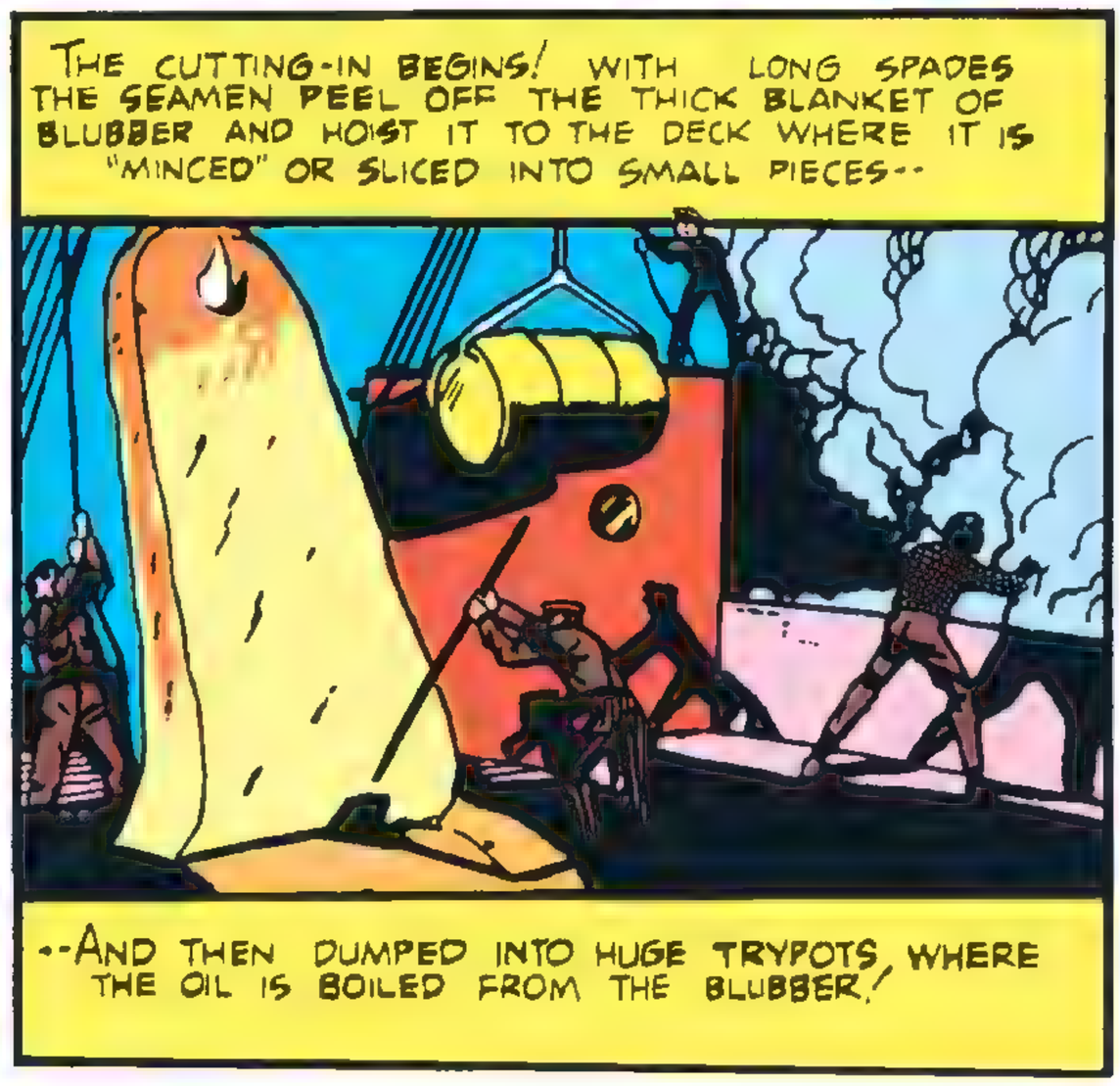

THE LANCE FLASHES IN THE SUN FOR AN INSTANT AND THEN HISSES DOWN, LIKE A STREAK OF WHITE FLAME!

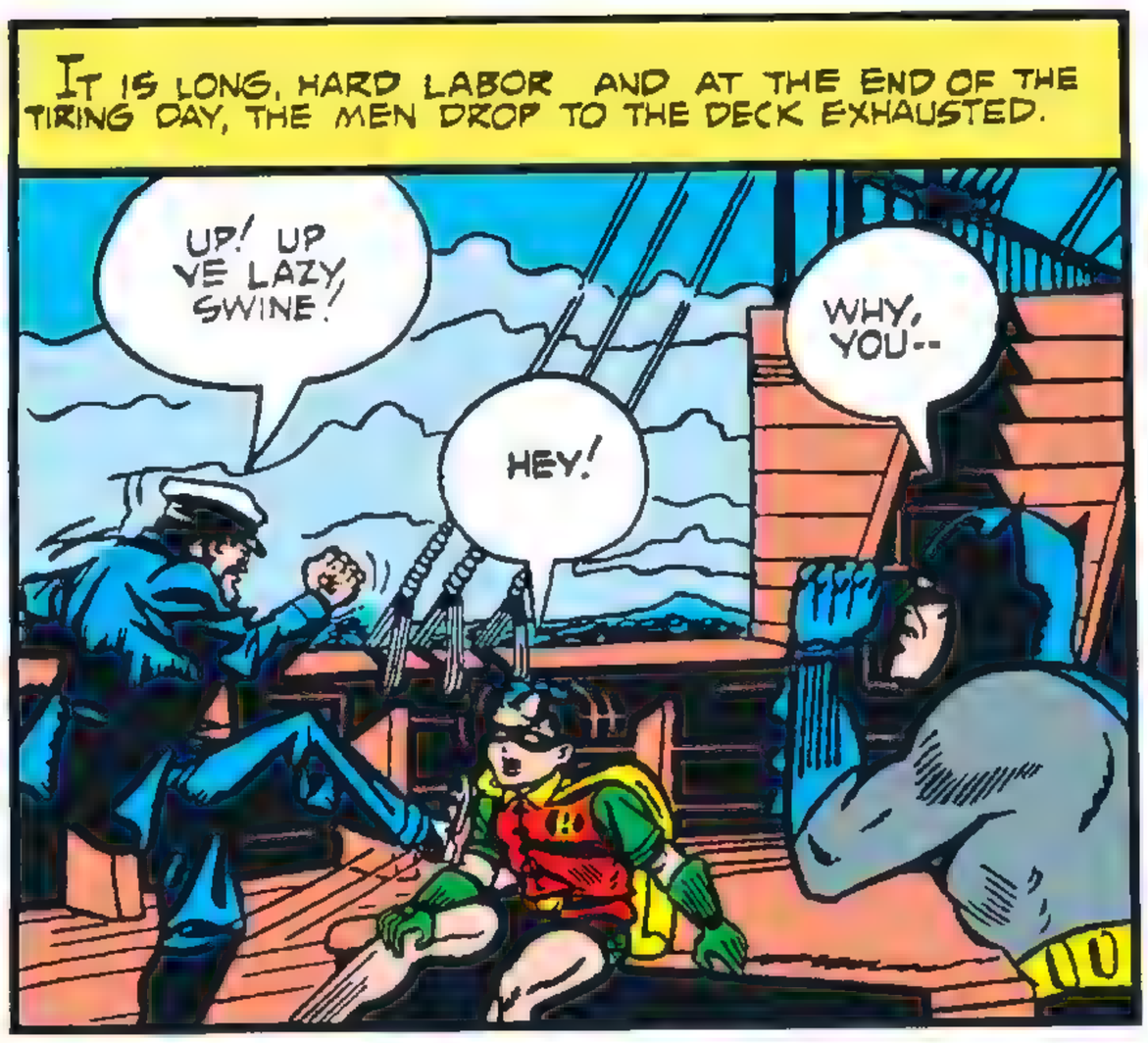

AND PLUNGES DEEP INTO THE SEA BEAST WHO STARTS TO ROLL OVER ON ITS SIDE!
IT'S ALL OVER NOW-- WHEW!


THE BATMAN'S FIRST THOUGHT IS OF HIS PAL, ROBIN-
GOLLY! I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER FOR SURE THAT TIME!
YOU GAVE ME AN AWFUL SCARE--YOU--- YOU LITTLE DEVIL!


CUT OUT THE SENTIMENTAL ACT, YOU TWO--OR YOU'LL HAVE ME IN TEARS IN A MINUTE! GET TO WORK WITH THE REST OF THE CREW!

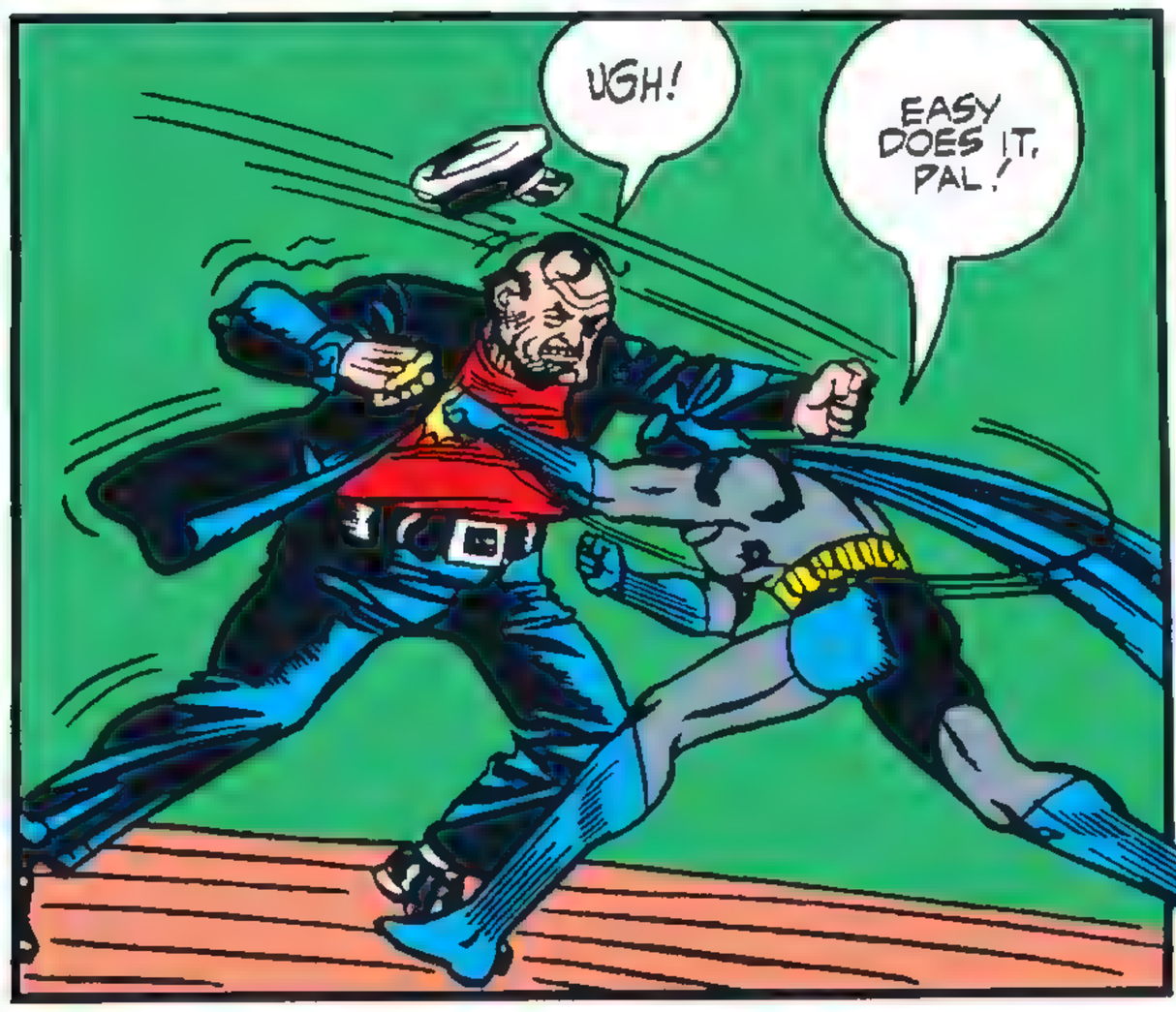

THE HUGE WHALE IS THEN TIRELESSLY TOWED BACK TO THE VESSEL---
HEAVE! HEAVE! YOU SWINE - OR I'LL FLAY THE SKIN FROM YOUR BACKS! HEAVE!

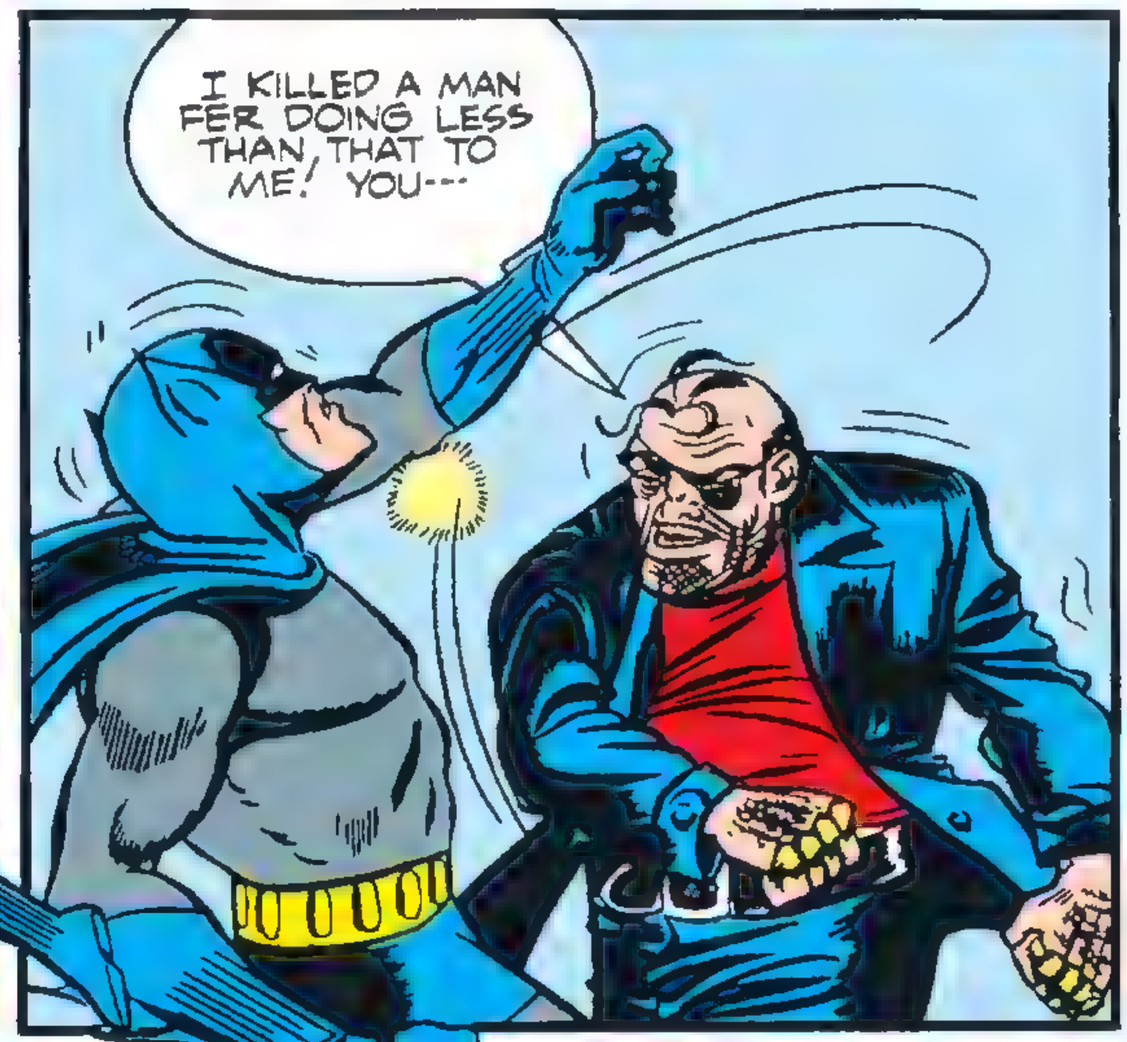

THE CUTTING-IN BEGINS! WITH LONG SPADES THE SEAMEN PEEL OFF THE THICK BLANKET OF BLUBBER AND HOIST IT TO THE DECK WHERE IT IS "MINCED" OR SLICED INTO SMALL PIECES--
--AND THEN DUMPED INTO HUGE TRYPOTS, WHERE THE OIL IS BOILED FROM THE BLUBBER!

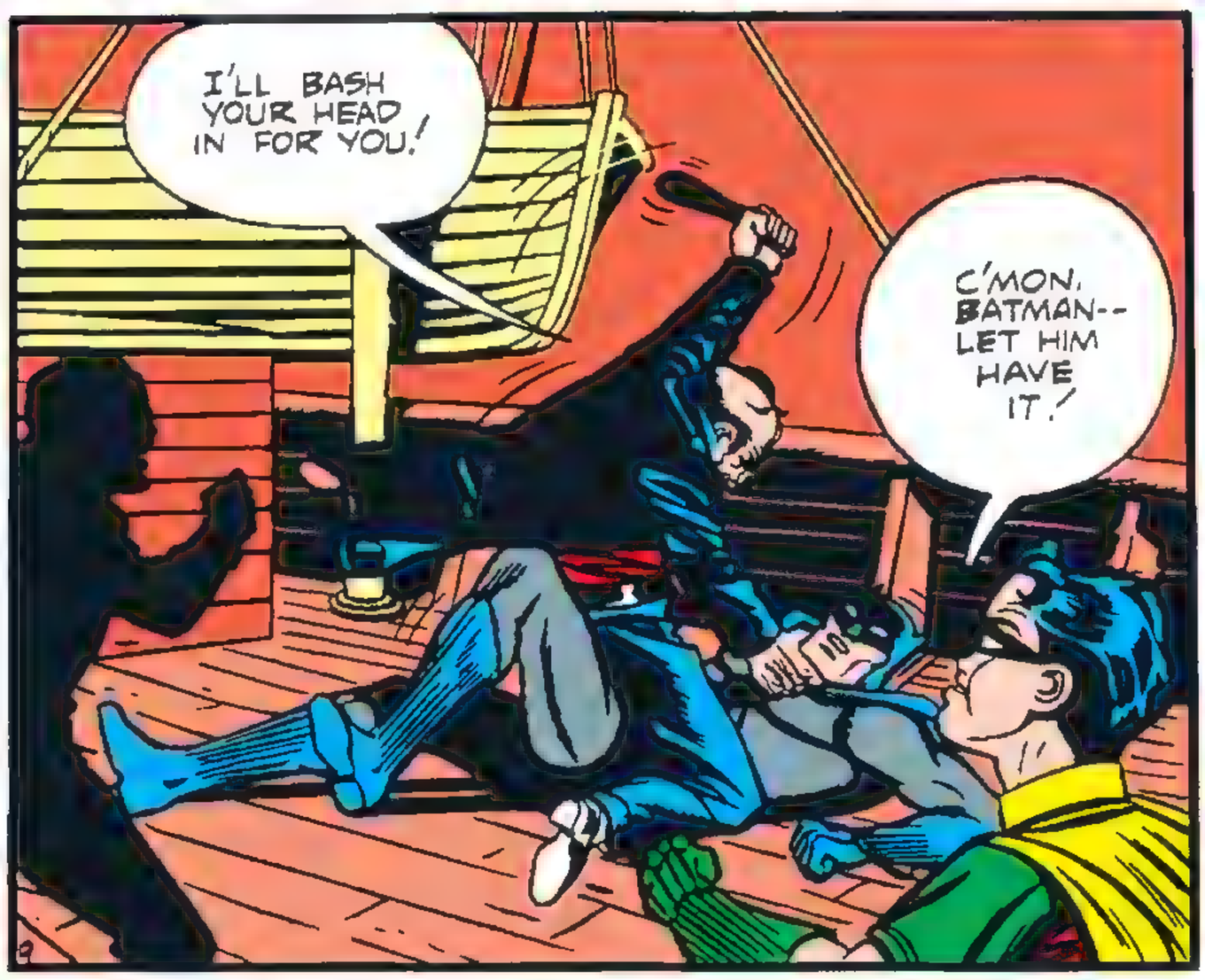

IT IS LONG, HARD LABOR AND AT THE END OF THE TIRING DAY, THE MEN DROP TO THE DECK EXHAUSTED.
UP! UP YE LAZY SWINE!
HEY!
WHY, YOU--

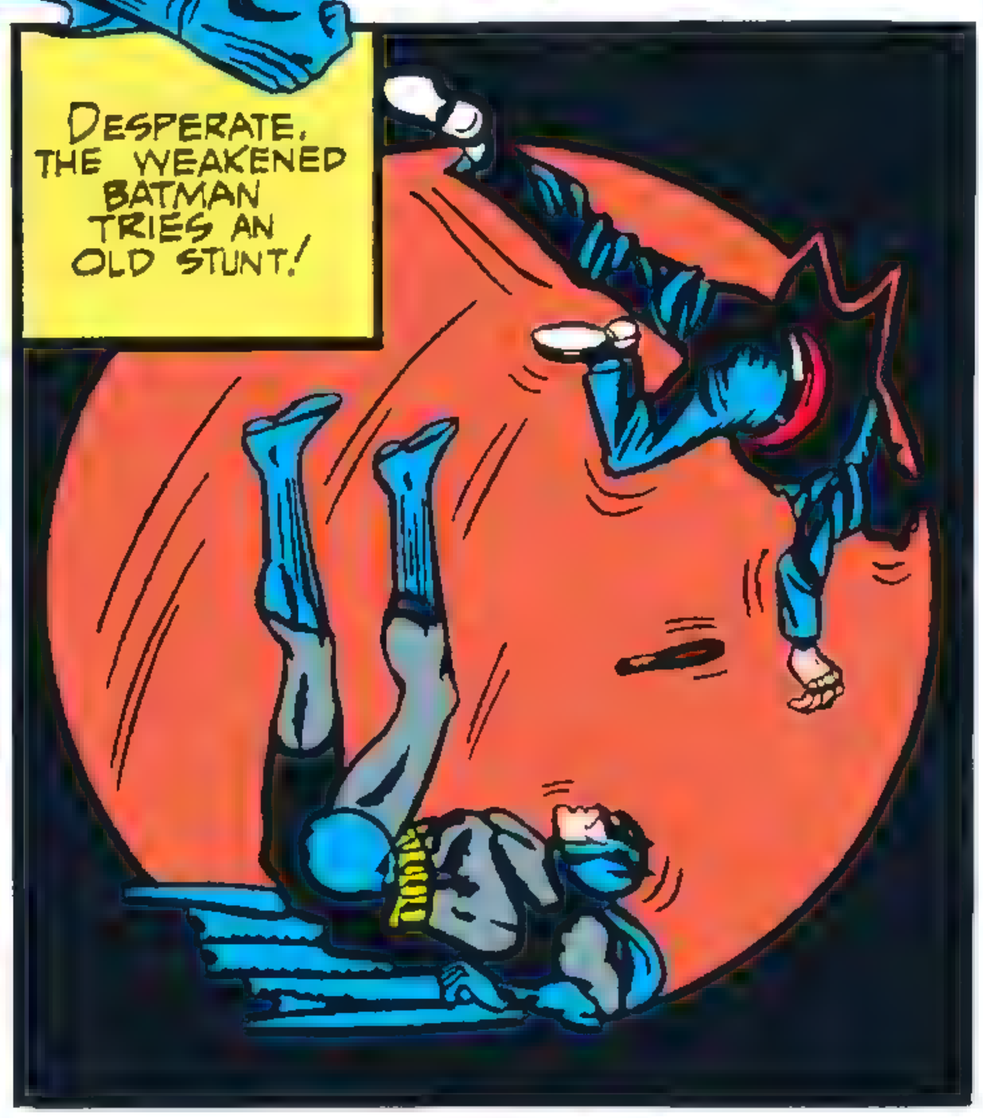
BUT BURLY IS WAITING. HIS HUGE FIST SMASHES INTO BATMAN'S FACE!
I BIN' WAITIN' FER THIS!

I SEE---WORKED ME TILL I'M TOO TIRED TO STAND--AND THEN GOADED ME INTO A FIGHT! CRAFTY SORT OF DEVIL, AREN'T YOU?
ME BRASS KNUCKLES ON--- NOW TO GIVE YE THE WORST BEATIN' YOU EVER GOT!

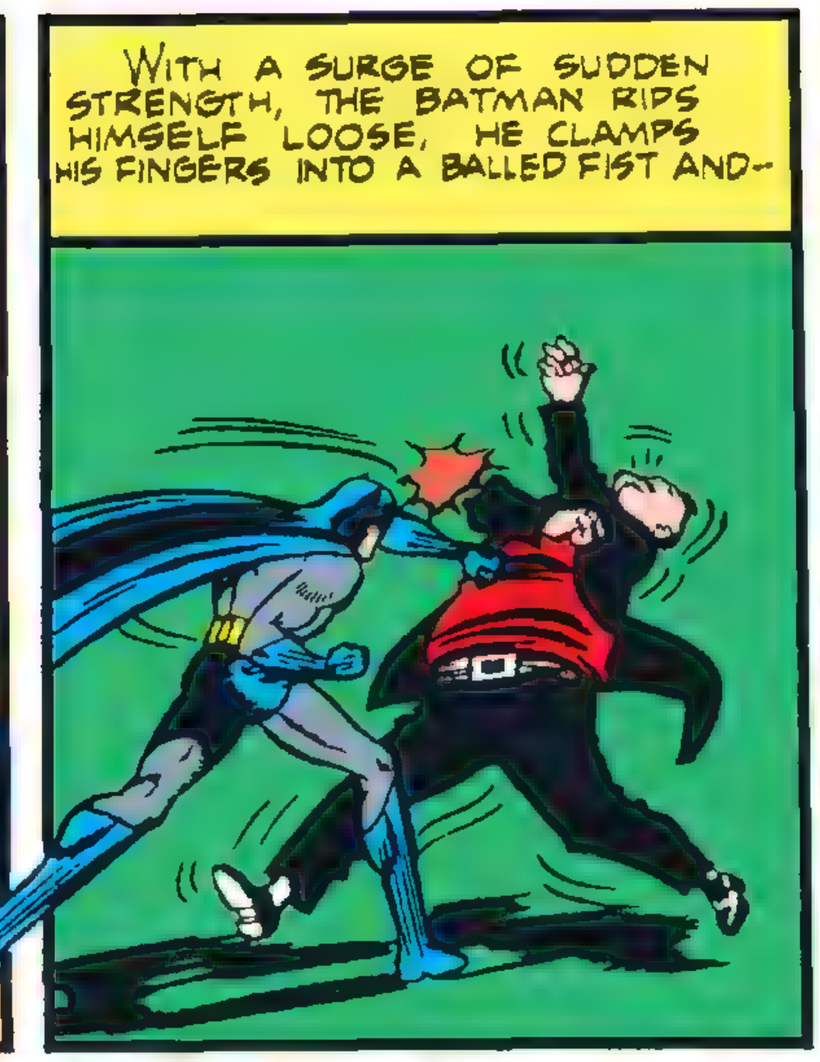

UGH!
EASY DOES IT, PAL!


I KILLED A MAN FER DOING LESS THAN THAT TO ME! YOU---

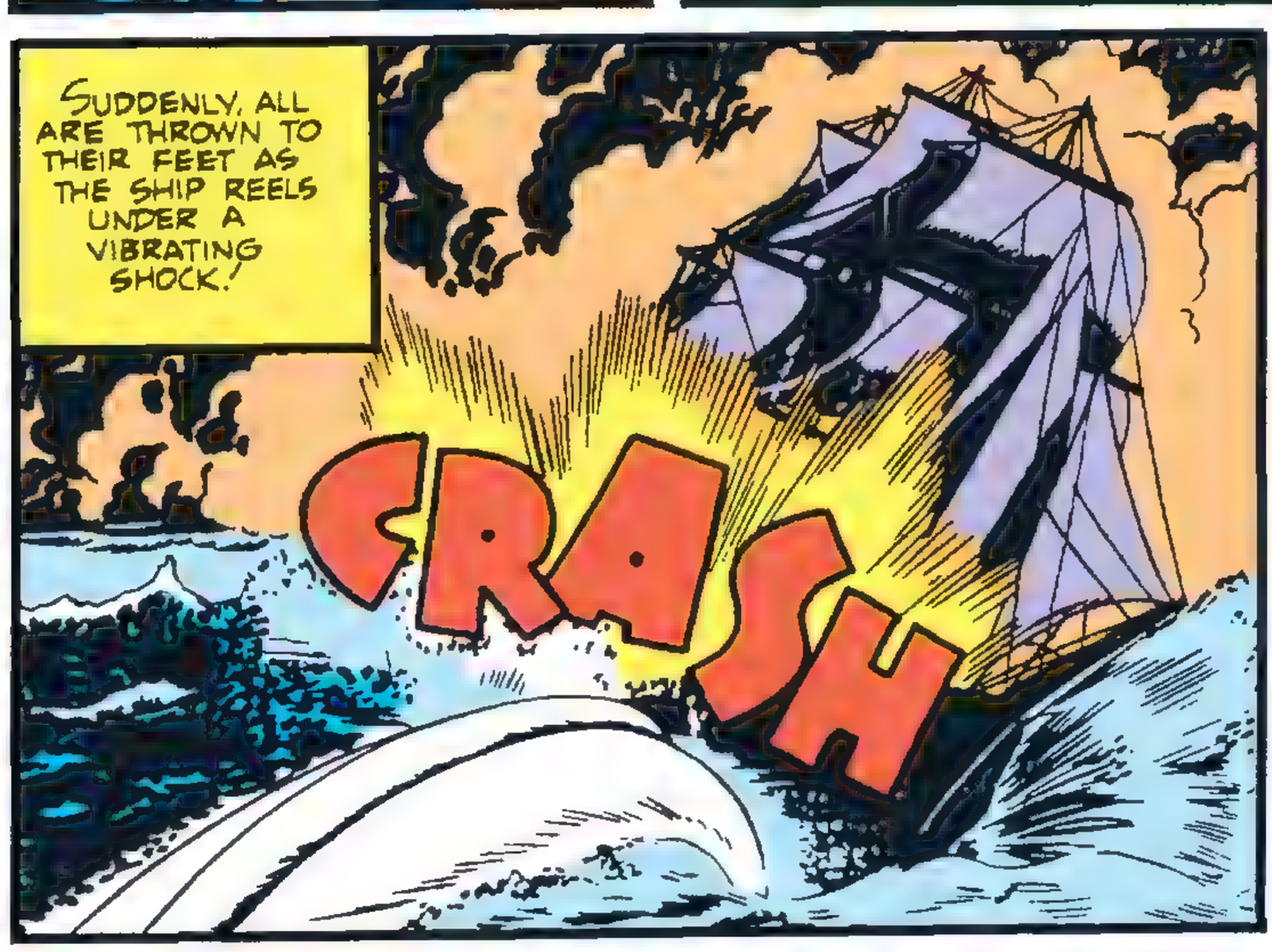

I'LL BASH YOUR HEAD IN FOR YOU!
C'MON, BATMAN--LET HIM HAVE IT!


DESPERATE, THE WEAKENED BATMAN TRIES AN OLD STUNT!

COMING TOGETHER AGAIN LIKE SAVAGE BEASTS, THE TWO FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL!
I'LL CHOKE THE LIVING BREATH FROM YOUR BODY!


WITH A SURGE OF SUDDEN STRENGTH, THE BATMAN RIPS HIMSELF LOOSE, HE CLAMPS HIS FINGERS INTO A BALLED FIST AND--

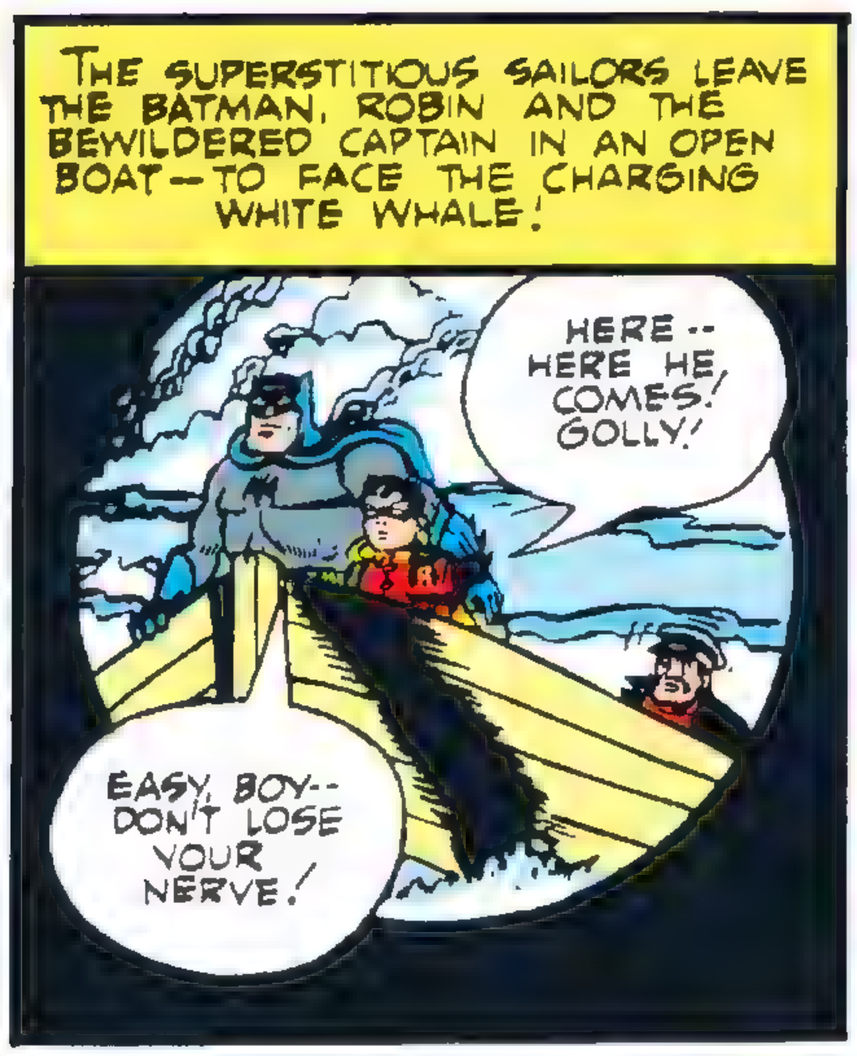
--TEARS INTO THE BRUTAL CAPTAIN WITH WILD FURY! RIGHT AND A LEFT--ANOTHER LEFT--AND THEN A FINAL TERRIBLE RIGHT--AND IT'S ALL OVER!

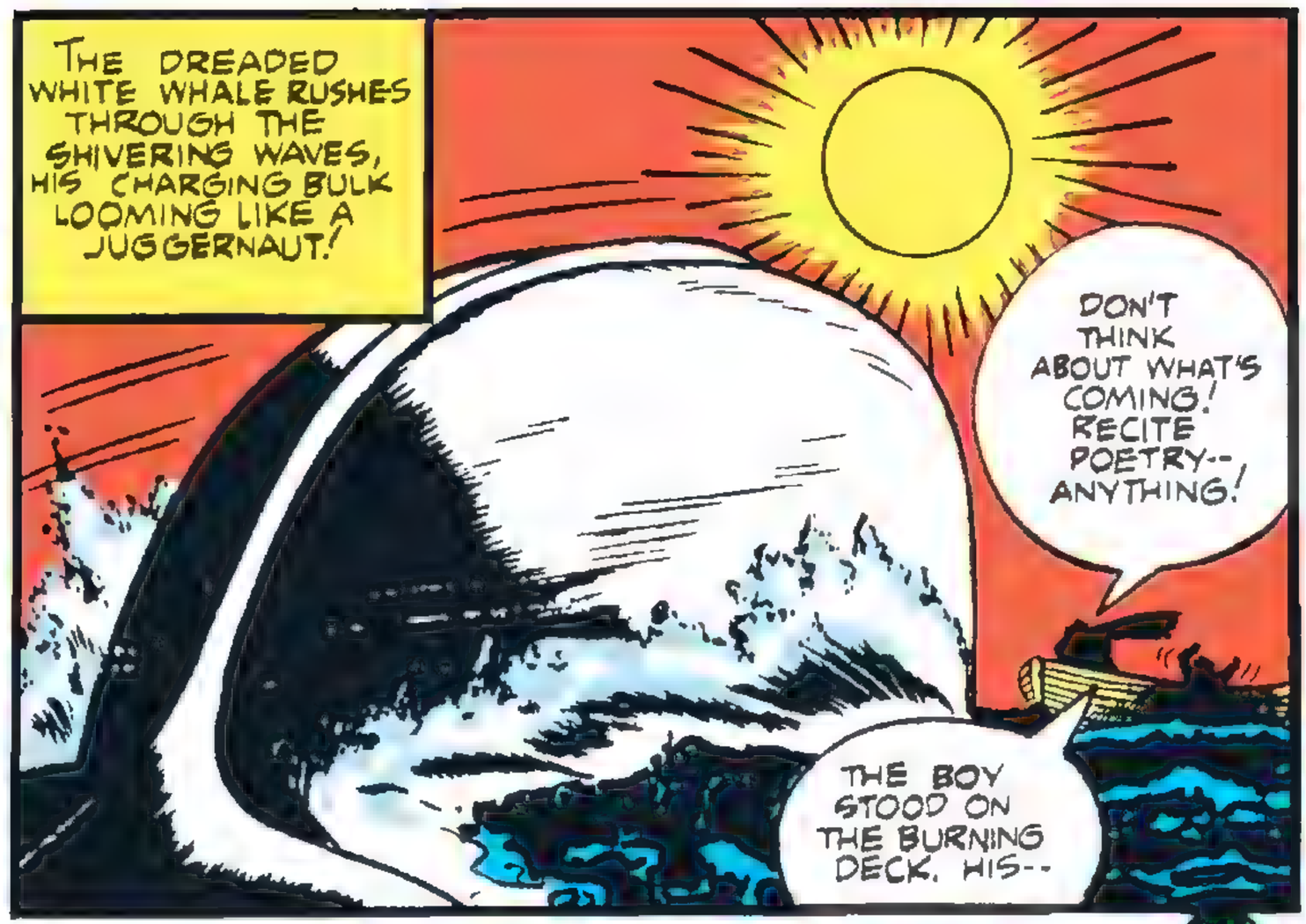

SUDDENLY, ALL ARE THROWN TO THEIR FEET AS THE SHIP REELS UNDER A VIBRATING SHOCK!
CRASH

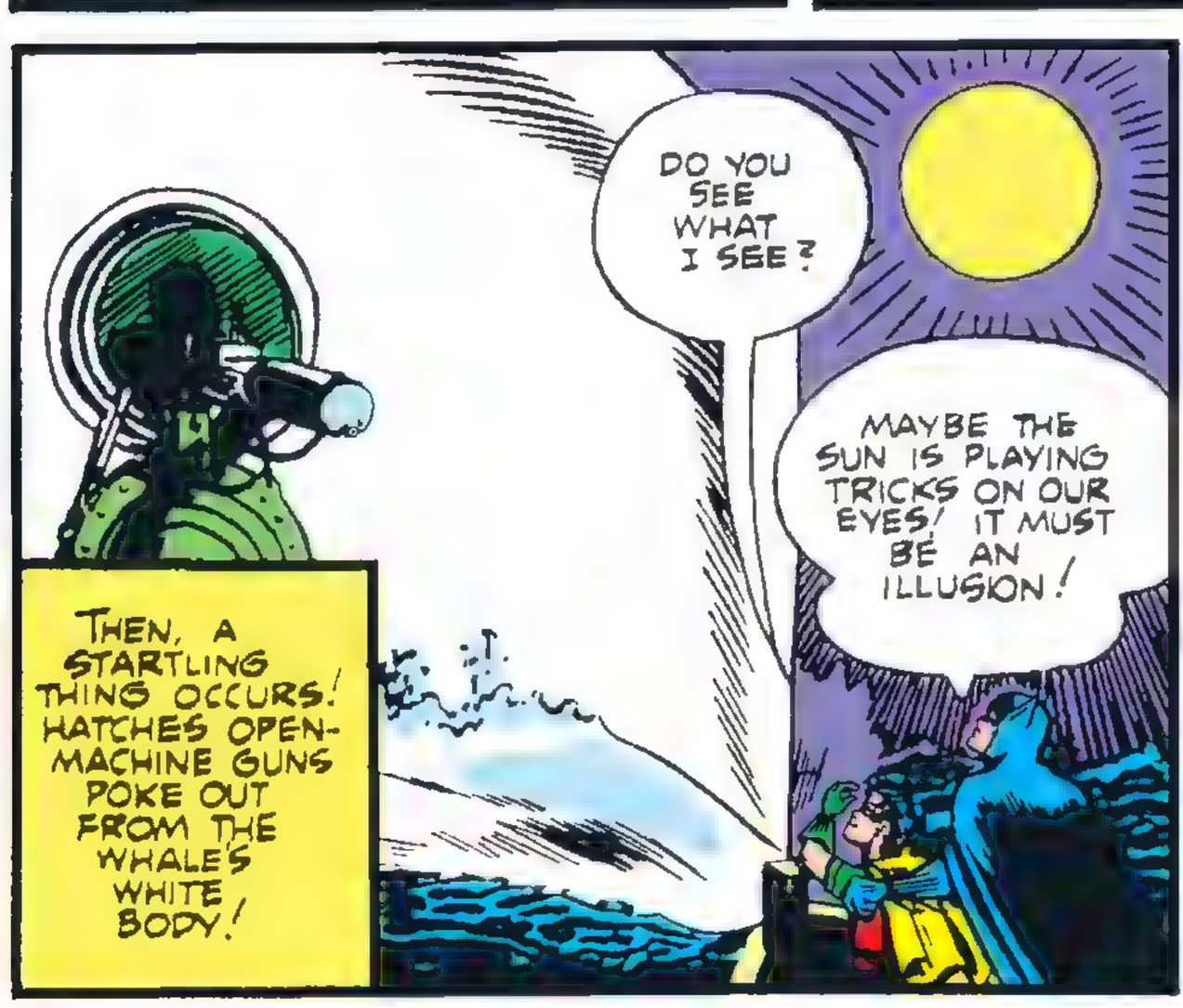
IT'S HIM--THE WHITE WHALE!
WE'RE DOOMED!
AHHHHH!
HEAVING UP OUT OF THE SEA IS A COLOSSAL MOUNTAIN--LIVID, GHASTLY WHITE--A WHALE OF ALL WHALES--THE WHITE WHALE!

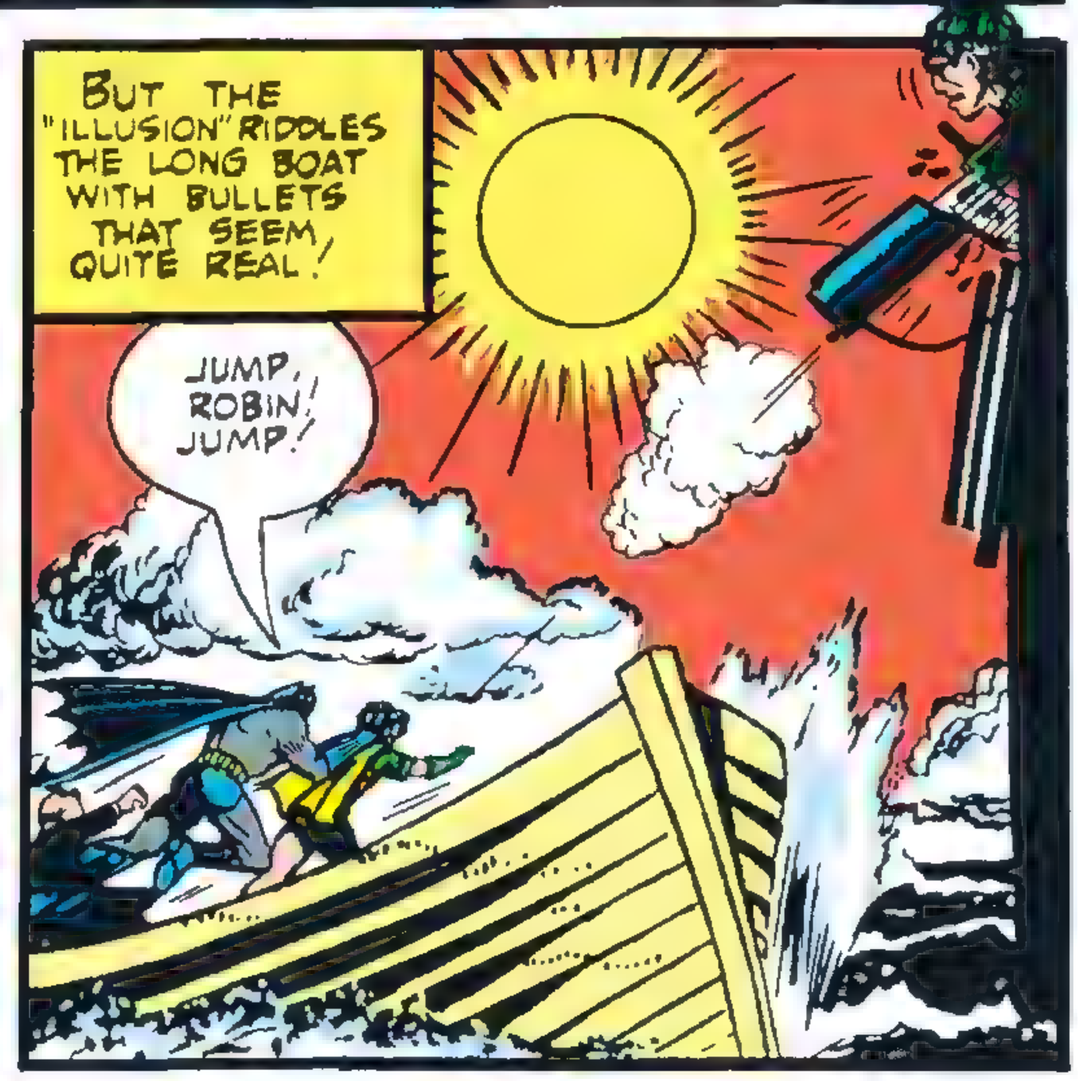
W-WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO!
HE'S GOING TO CHARGE US AGAIN! WE'VE GOT TO DIVERT HIS ATTENTION, SOMEHOW!
I GOT IT--THE CAPTAIN--LET'S SHOVE HIM IN A BOAT AND WHILE THE WHALE GOES FOR HIM WE'LL STEER AWAY FROM HERE FAST!

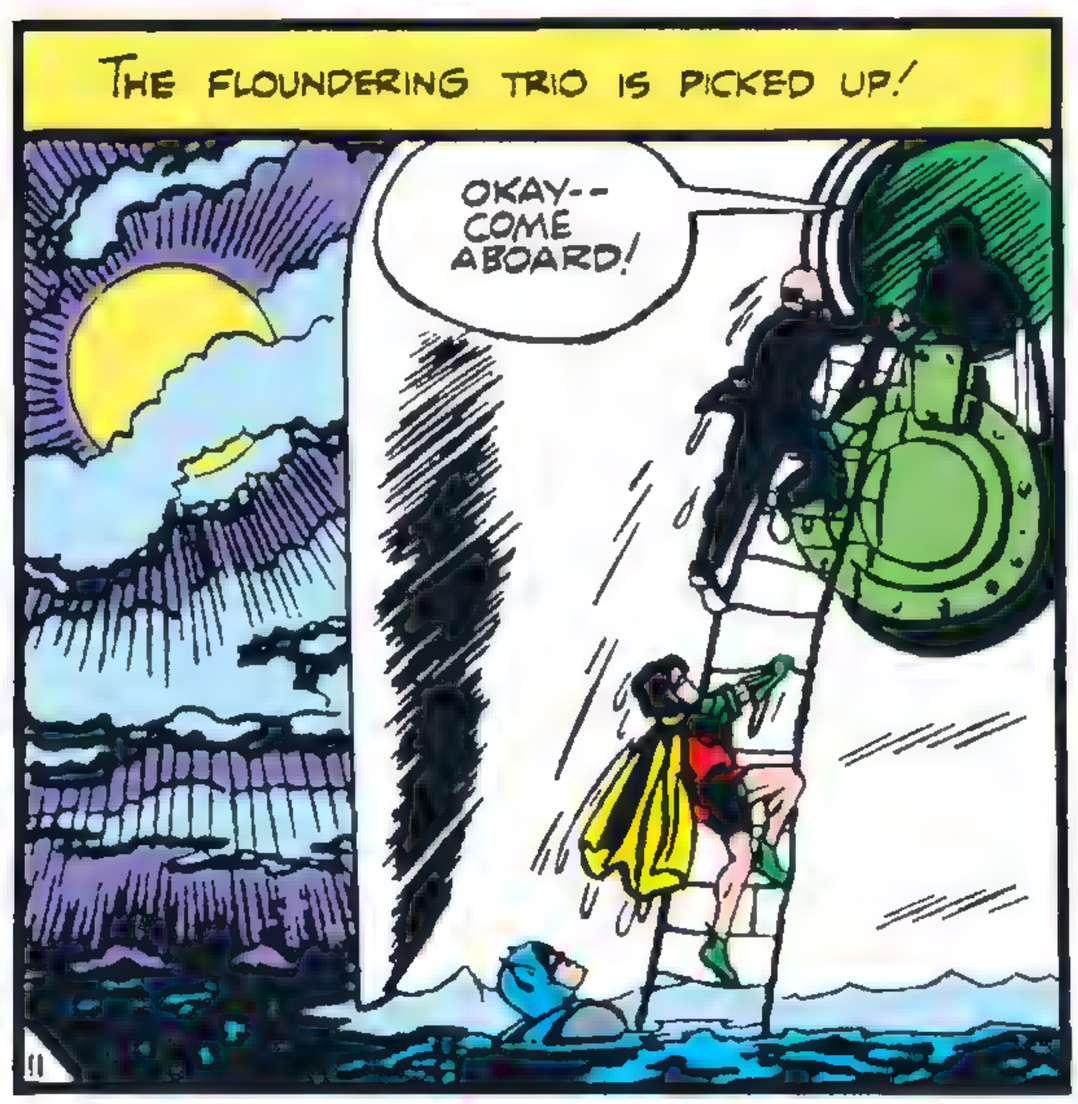
BUT IT'S COLD-BLOODED MURDER!
MAYBE YOU AIN'T ANXIOUS TO GET RID O' THE CAPTAIN. BUT WE ARE!
PUT THE BATMAN AND THAT KID IN THE BOAT TOO! WE CAN'T LET THEM LIVE TO REPORT THIS MUTINY!


THE SUPERSTITIOUS SAILORS LEAVE THE BATMAN, ROBIN AND THE BEWILDERED CAPTAIN IN AN OPEN BOAT—TO FACE THE CHARGING WHITE WHALE!
HERE-- HERE HE COMES! GOLLY!
EASY, BOY-- DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE!

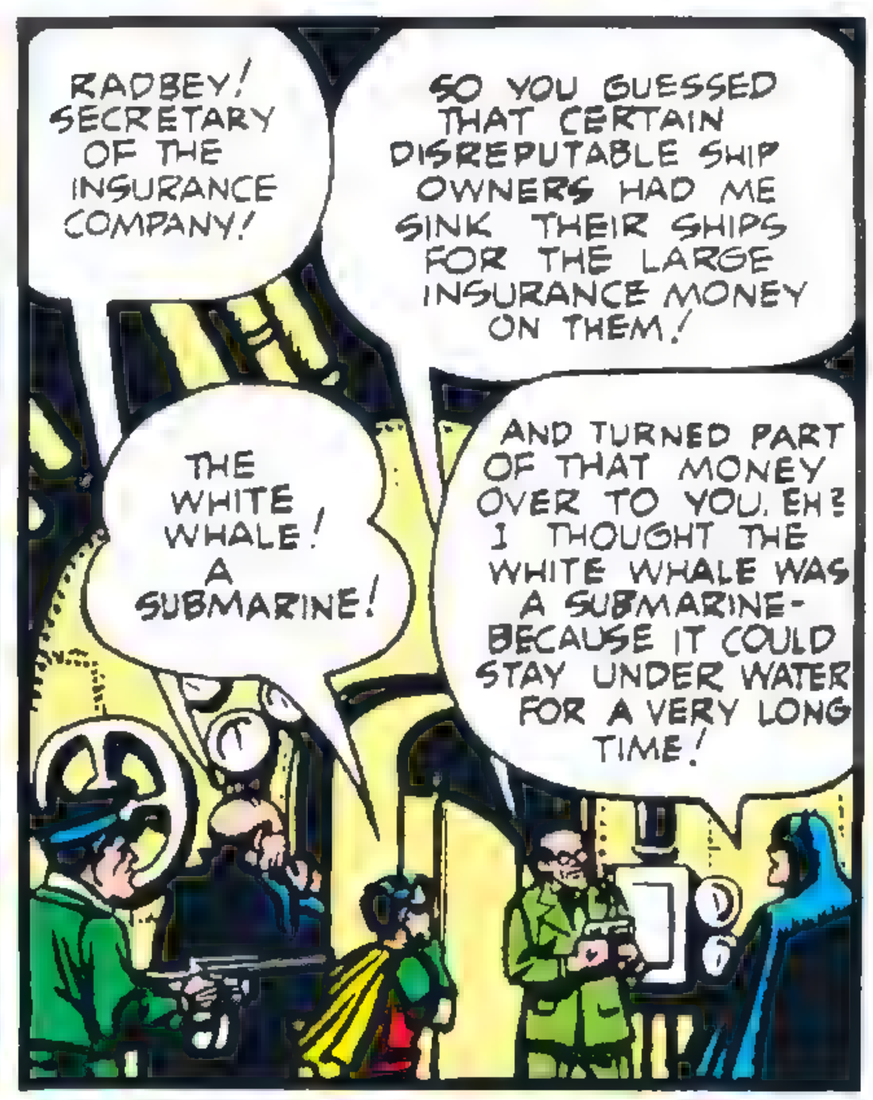

THE DREADED WHITE WHALE RUSHES THROUGH THE SHIVERING WAVES, HIS CHARGING BULK LOOMING LIKE A JUGGERNAUT!
DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT'S COMING! RECITE POETRY-- ANYTHING!
THE BOY STOOD ON THE BURNING DECK. HIS--

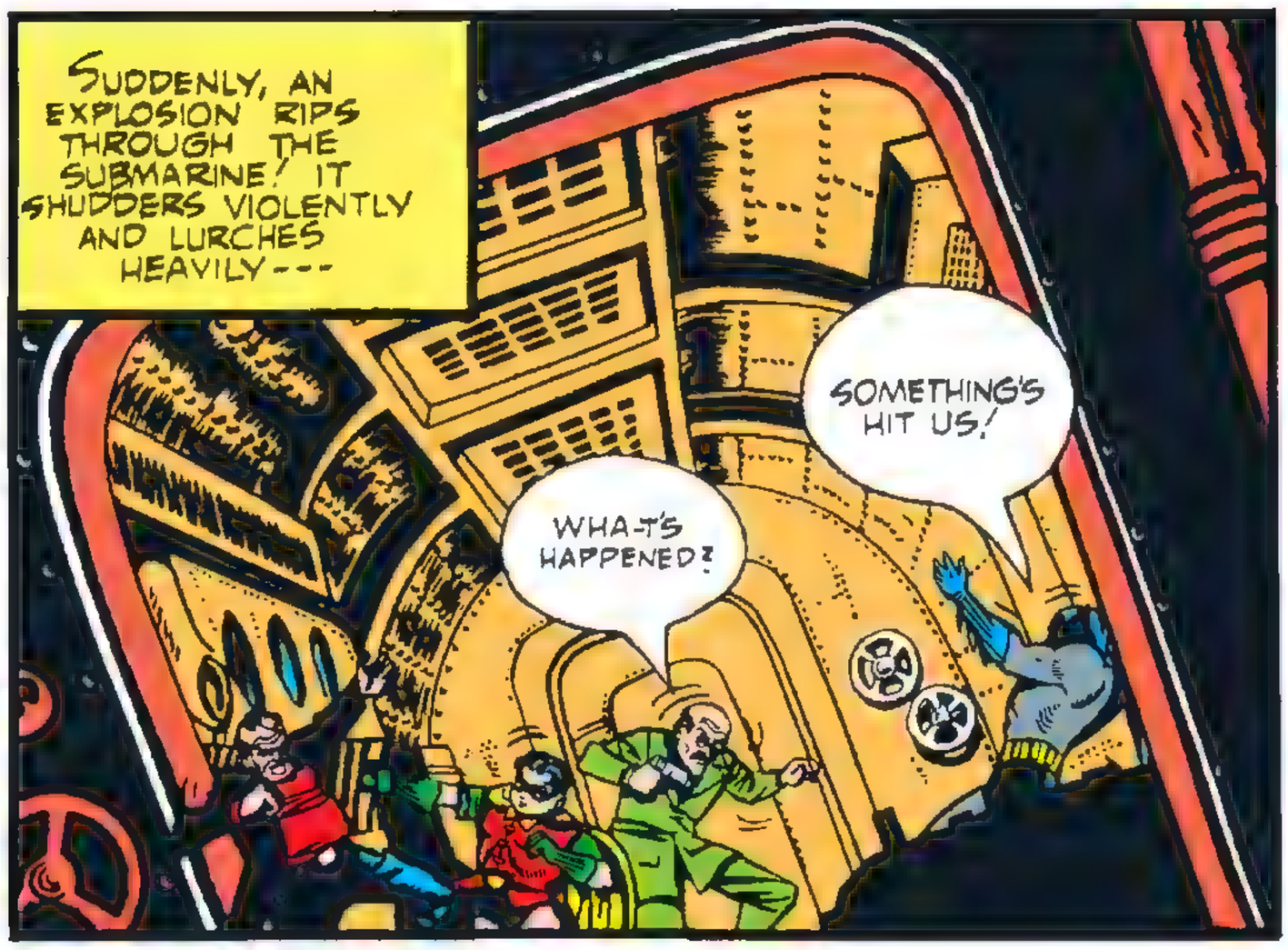

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
MAYBE THE SUN IS PLAYING TRICKS ON OUR EYES! IT MUST BE AN ILLUSION!
THEN, A STARTLING THING OCCURS! HATCHES OPEN- MACHINE GUNS POKE OUT FROM THE WHALE'S WHITE BODY!


BUT THE "ILLUSION" RIDDLES THE LONG BOAT WITH BULLETS THAT SEEM QUITE REAL!
JUMP, ROBIN! JUMP!

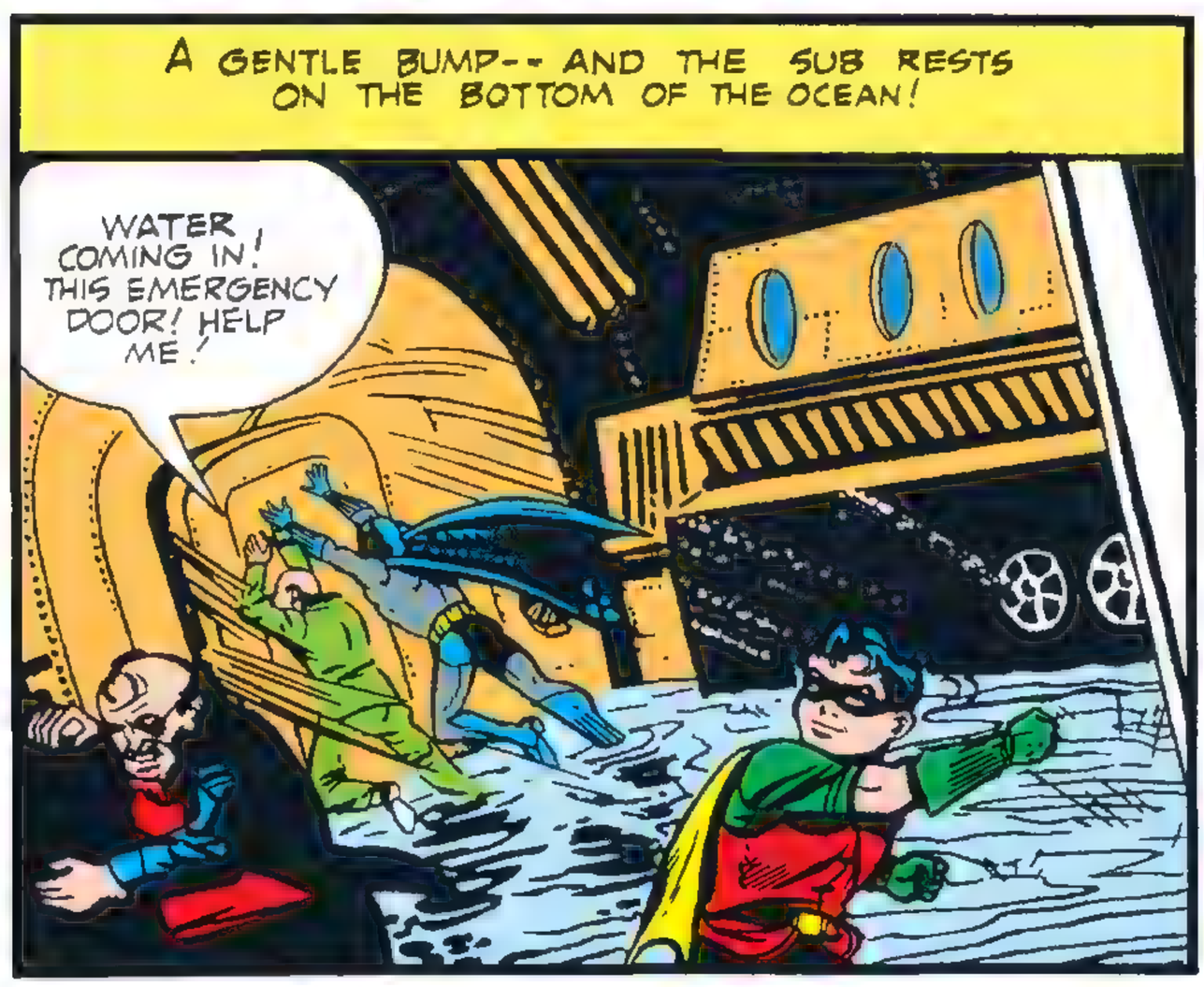

THE FLOUNDERING TRIO IS PICKED UP!
OKAY-- COME ABOARD!

--AND INSIDE THE "STRANGE WHALE!"
THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT, MEN. GREETINGS, BATMAN-WELCOME TO MY-- SUBMARINE!


RADBEY! SECRETARY OF THE INSURANCE COMPANY!
SO YOU GUESSED THAT CERTAIN DISREPUTABLE SHIP OWNERS HAD ME SINK THEIR SHIPS FOR THE LARGE INSURANCE MONEY ON THEM!
THE WHITE WHALE! A SUBMARINE!
AND TURNED PART OF THAT MONEY OVER TO YOU, EH? I THOUGHT THE WHITE WHALE WAS A SUBMARINE- BECAUSE IT COULD STAY UNDER WATER FOR A VERY LONG TIME!


SUDDENLY, AN EXPLOSION RIPS THROUGH THE SUBMARINE! IT SHUDDERS VIOLENTLY AND LURCHES HEAVILY---
SOMETHING'S HIT US!
WHA-T'S HAPPENED?

WE'RE SINKING!


A GENTLE BUMP-- AND THE SUB RESTS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN!
WATER COMING IN! THIS EMERGENCY DOOR! HELP ME!

ONLY FIFTY FEET DOWN!--ODD! WE MUST BE RESTING ON THE TOP OF A SUBMERGED ISLAND!
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES ALIVE! AND WE WON'T LAST LONG WHEN THE AIR GIVES OUT! WE'LL DIE BY SUFFOCATION!
NOT ME! ONLY FIFTY FEET DOWN, EH?

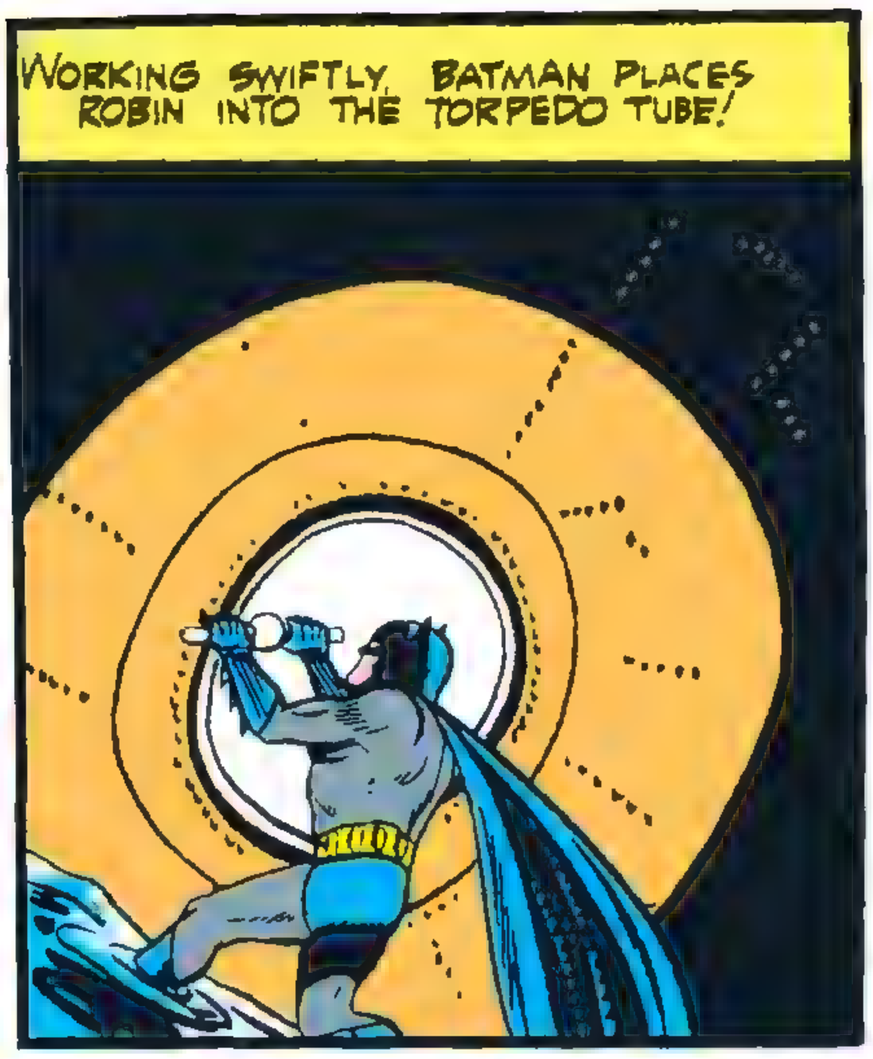
I'VE PREPARED FOR THIS! THIS IS THE ONLY HELMET! ALL I'VE GOT TO DO NOW IS OPEN THIS DOOR--LET THE WATER IN--AND SWIM TO THE SURFACE-- YOU'LL DROWN LIKE RATS!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! I'M TAKING THAT DIVING HELMET!

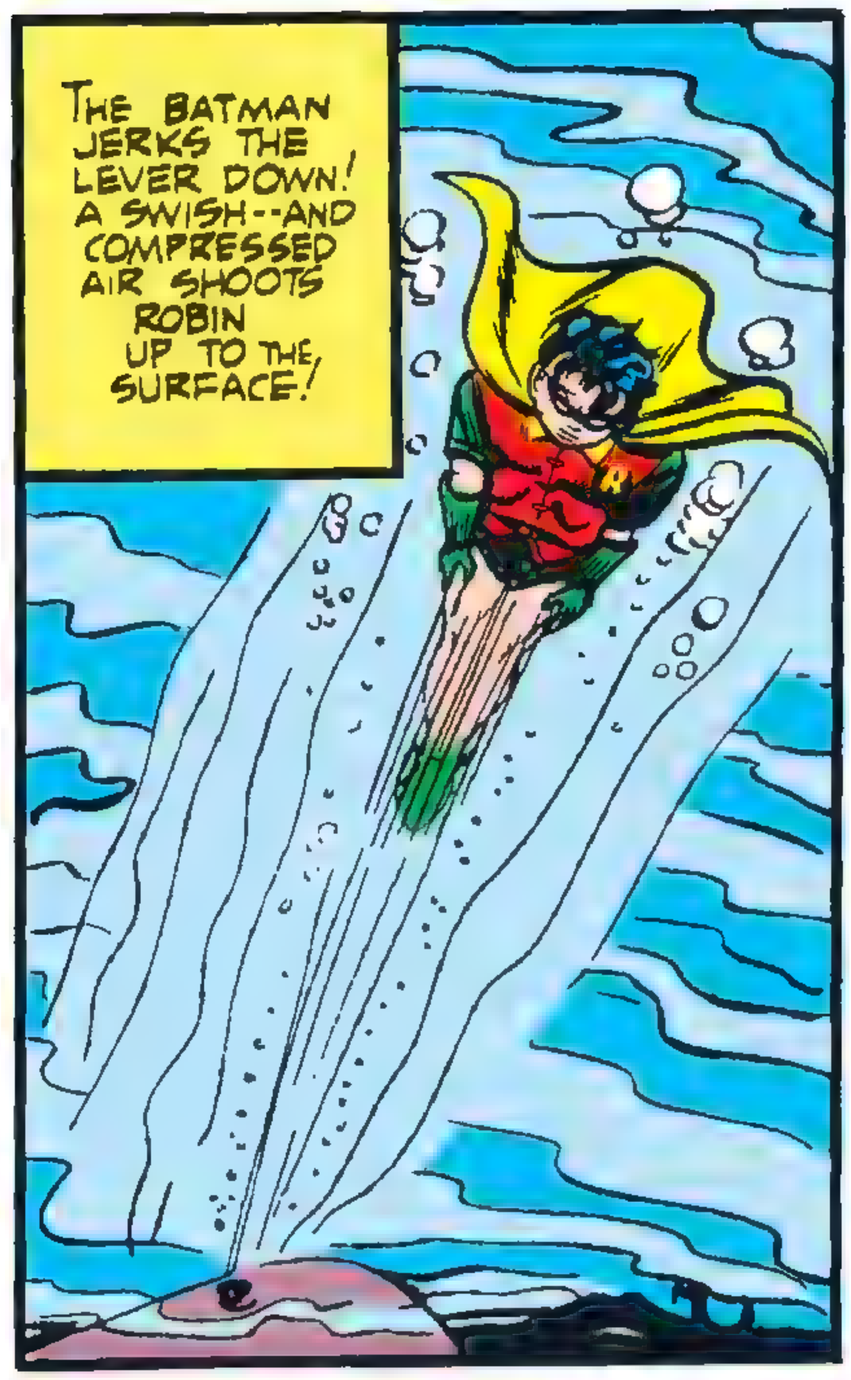
GUNFIRE CRASHES THROUGH THE SILENCE---
CRACK!

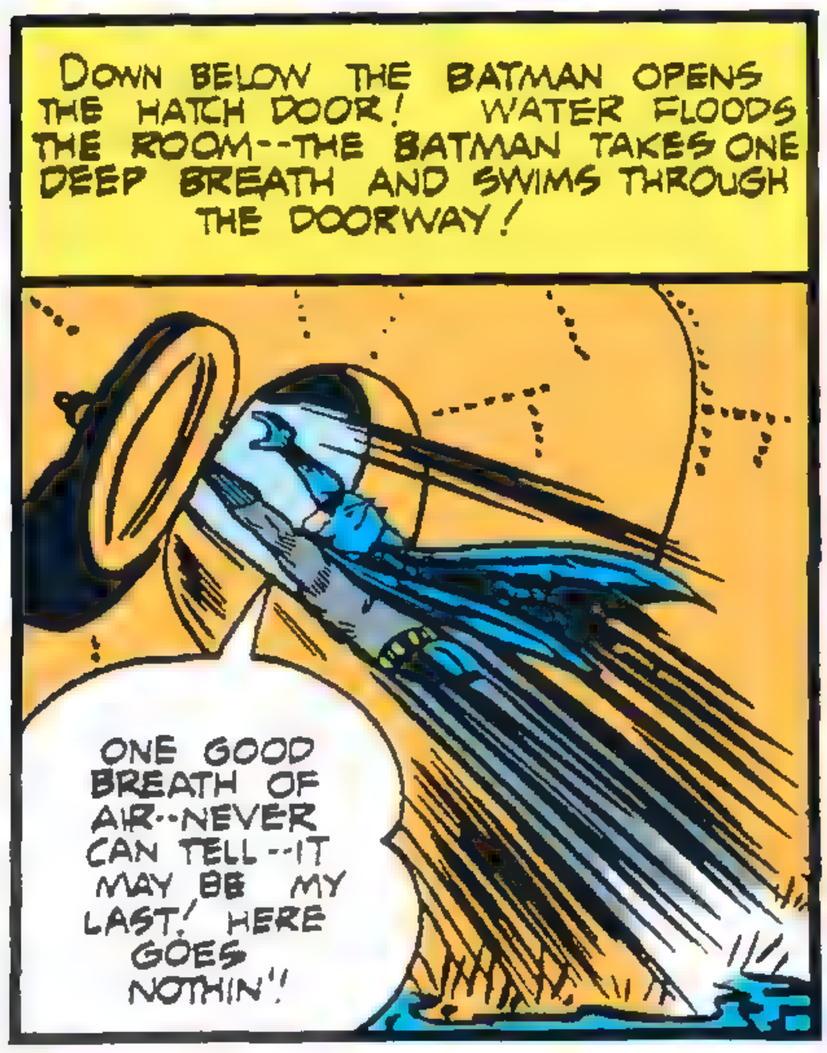
DEATH ON THE OCEAN BOTTOM!
DEAD! BOTH OF THEM! THEIR GREED KILLED THEM!
THAT HELMET'S NO GOOD ANY MORE! IT'S SMASHED. WE'LL BE JOINING THEM IN A LITTLE WHILE WHEN THE AIR GIVES OUT!

THE TORPEDO TUBES POINT STRAIGHT UP! CAN WE BE SHOT THROUGH THE TUBES TO THE SURFACE?
IT MIGHT WORK! BUT WAIT! SOMEONE HAS TO STAY BEHIND TO WORK THE VALVE!

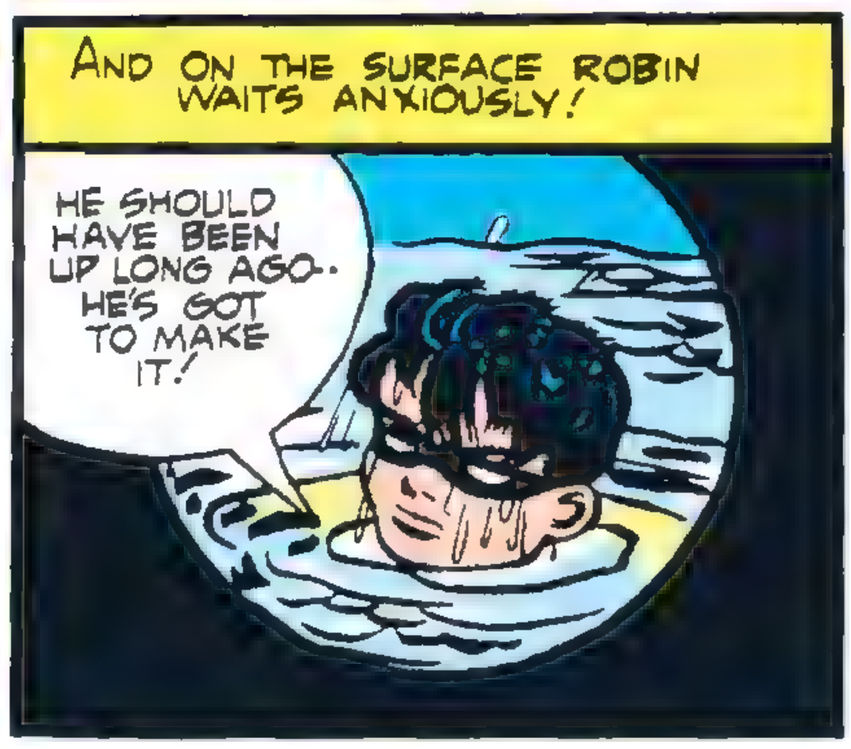
NO YOU DON'T! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES! YOU WANT TO SHOOT ME TO THE SURFACE WHILE YOU STAY BEHIND.. ..UGH!
SORRY, PAL!


WORKING SWIFTLY, BATMAN PLACES ROBIN INTO THE TORPEDO TUBE!

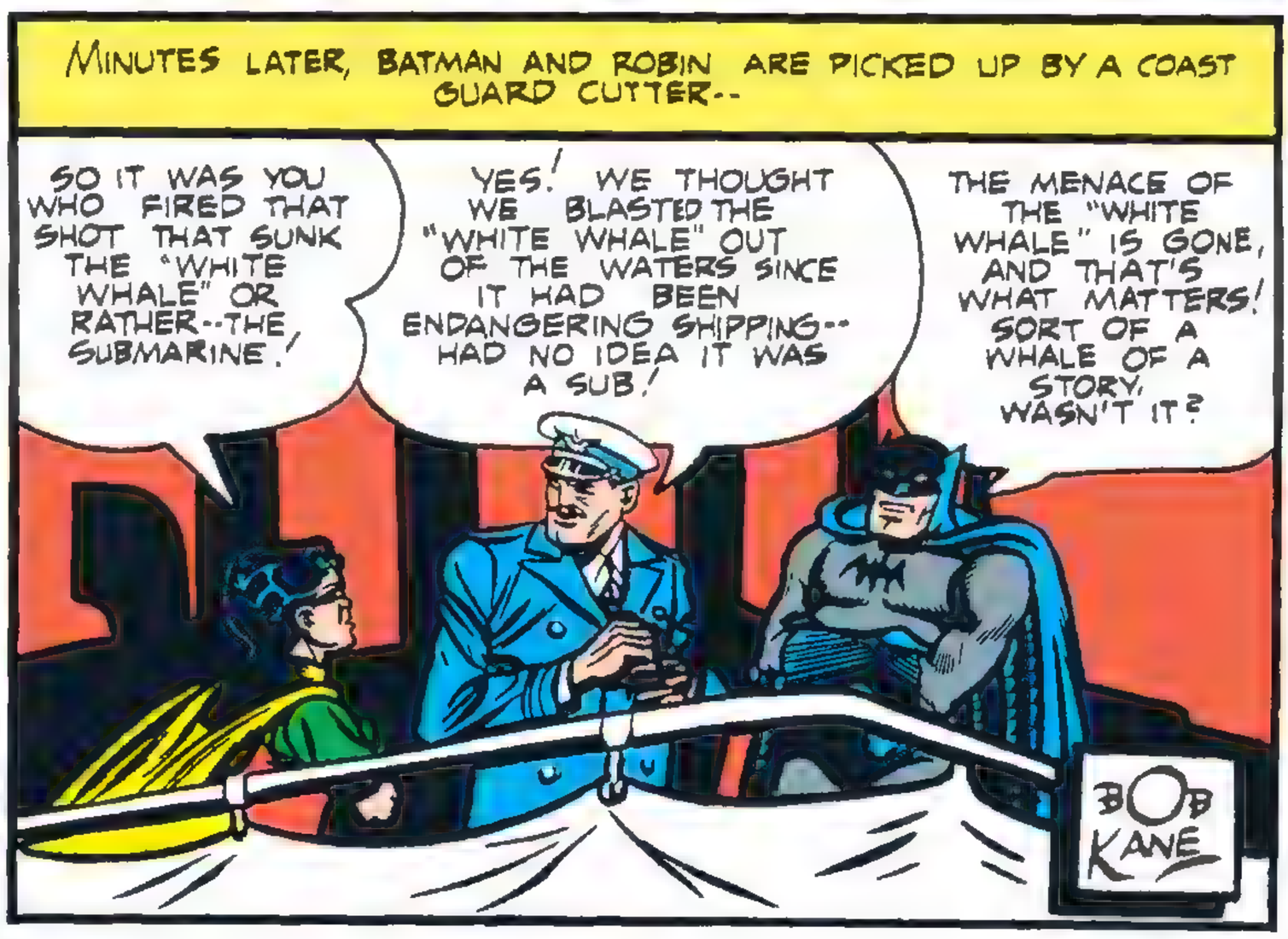

THE BATMAN JERKS THE LEVER DOWN! A SWISH--AND COMPRESSED AIR SHOOTS ROBIN UP TO THE SURFACE!


DOWN BELOW THE BATMAN OPENS THE HATCH DOOR! WATER FLOODS THE ROOM--THE BATMAN TAKES ONE DEEP BREATH AND SWIMS THROUGH THE DOORWAY!
ONE GOOD BREATH OF AIR--NEVER CAN TELL--IT MAY BE MY LAST! HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

THE LONG FIGHT UPWARD BEGINS!

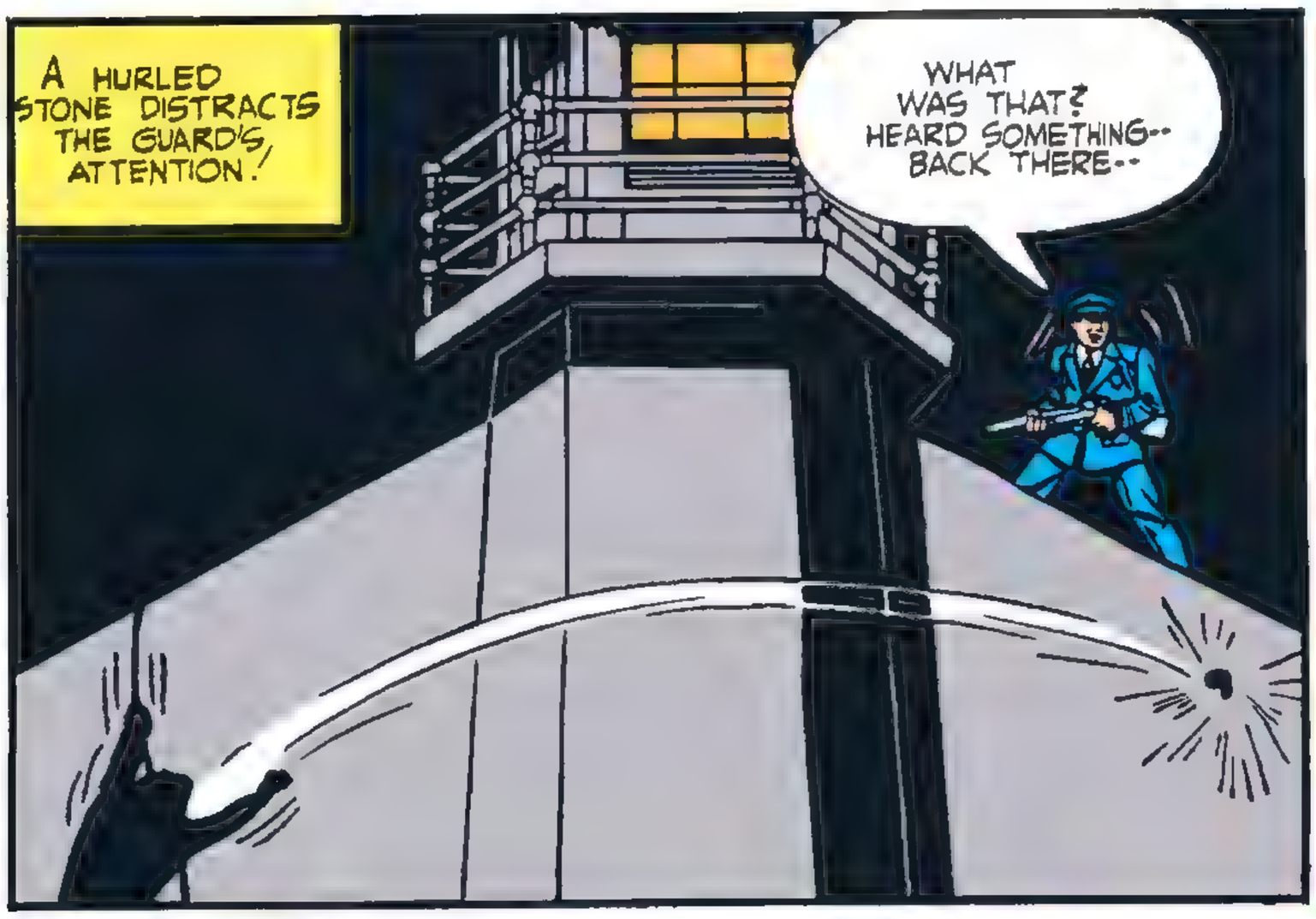

AND ON THE SURFACE ROBIN WAITS ANXIOUSLY!
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN UP LONG AGO.. HE'S GOT TO MAKE IT!

SUDDENLY, A COWLED HEAD BREAKS THE SURFACE--
BATMAN! BATMAN! YOU MADE IT!
AIR--SWEET FRESH AIR--HI, ROBIN! SURPRISED TO SEE ME?
13

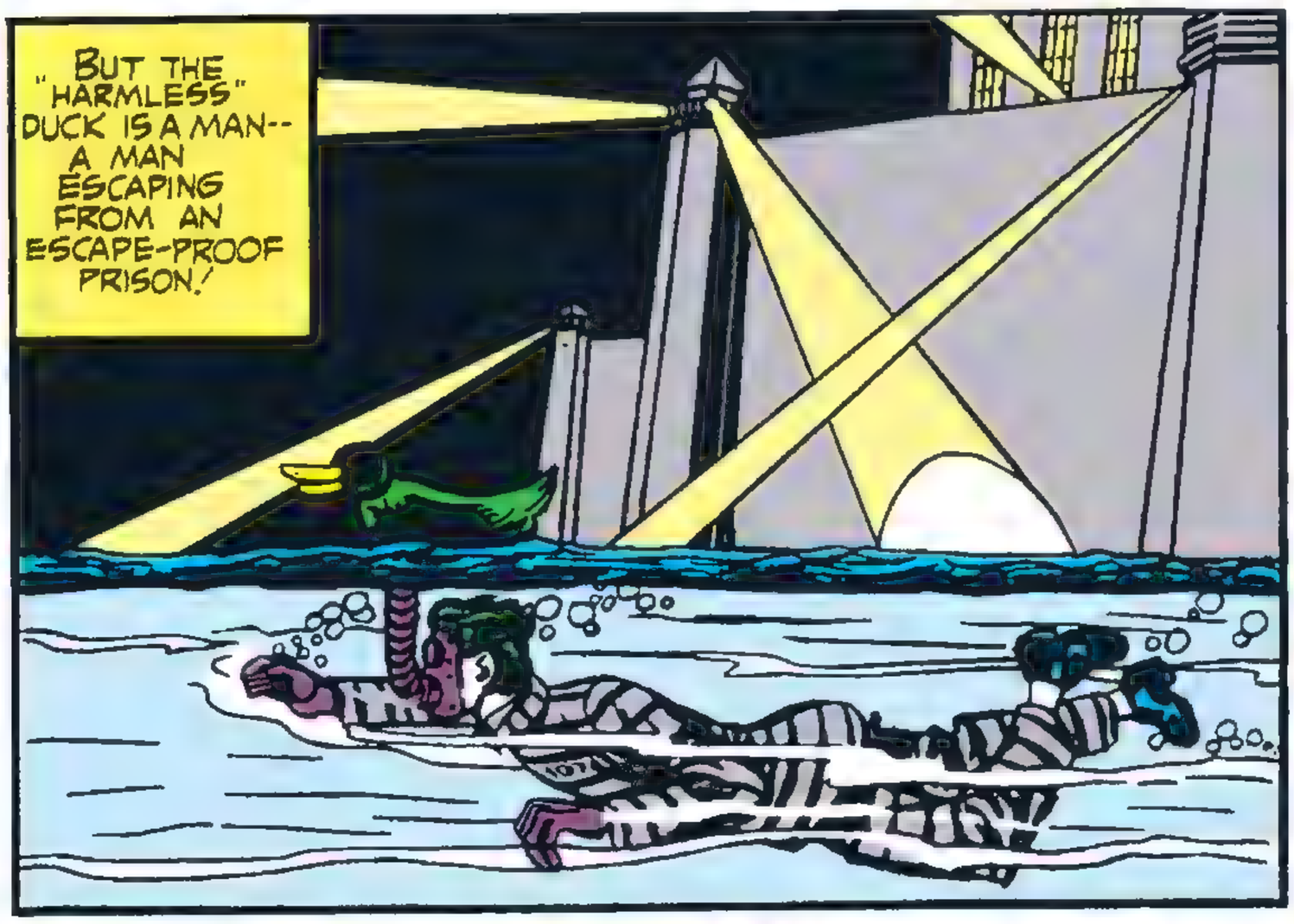

MINUTES LATER, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE PICKED UP BY A COAST GUARD CUTTER--
SO IT WAS YOU WHO FIRED THAT SHOT THAT SUNK THE "WHITE WHALE" OR RATHER--THE SUBMARINE!
YES! WE THOUGHT WE BLASTED THE "WHITE WHALE" OUT OF THE WATERS SINCE IT HAD BEEN ENDANGERING SHIPPING--HAD NO IDEA IT WAS A SUB!
THE MENACE OF THE "WHITE WHALE" IS GONE, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS! SORT OF A WHALE OF A STORY, WASN'T IT?
BOB KANE

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

THE **JOKER**, KING OF KNAVES, WOOS LADY LUCK, QUEEN OF CHANCE, IN QUEST OF HIS GREATEST PRIZE! BUT EVEN THOUGH THE CUNNING CRIME CLOWN LOADS THE DICE AND STACKS THE CARDS IN HIS FAVOR, JUSTICE, IN THE FORM OF THAT DYNAMITE TEAM, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER, HOPS THE RIM OF THE WHIRLING WHEEL OF FORTUNE AND REAPS A LAST LAUGH ON THE JOKER-- in "THE CASE OF THE LUCKY LAW-BREAKERS!"

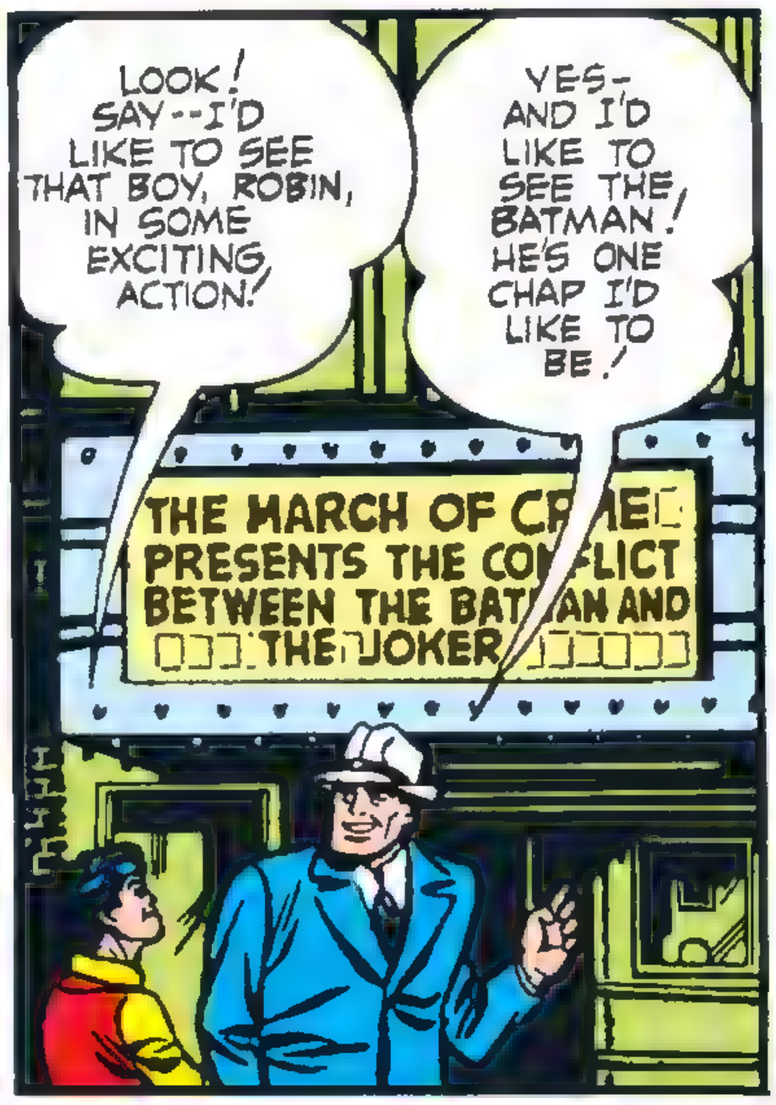

A HURLED STONE DISTRACTS THE GUARD'S ATTENTION!
WHAT WAS THAT? HEARD SOMETHING-- BACK THERE--

NOTHING- MUST HAVE BEEN THAT DUCK WADDLING INTO THE RIVER-- JUST A HARMLESS DUCK--

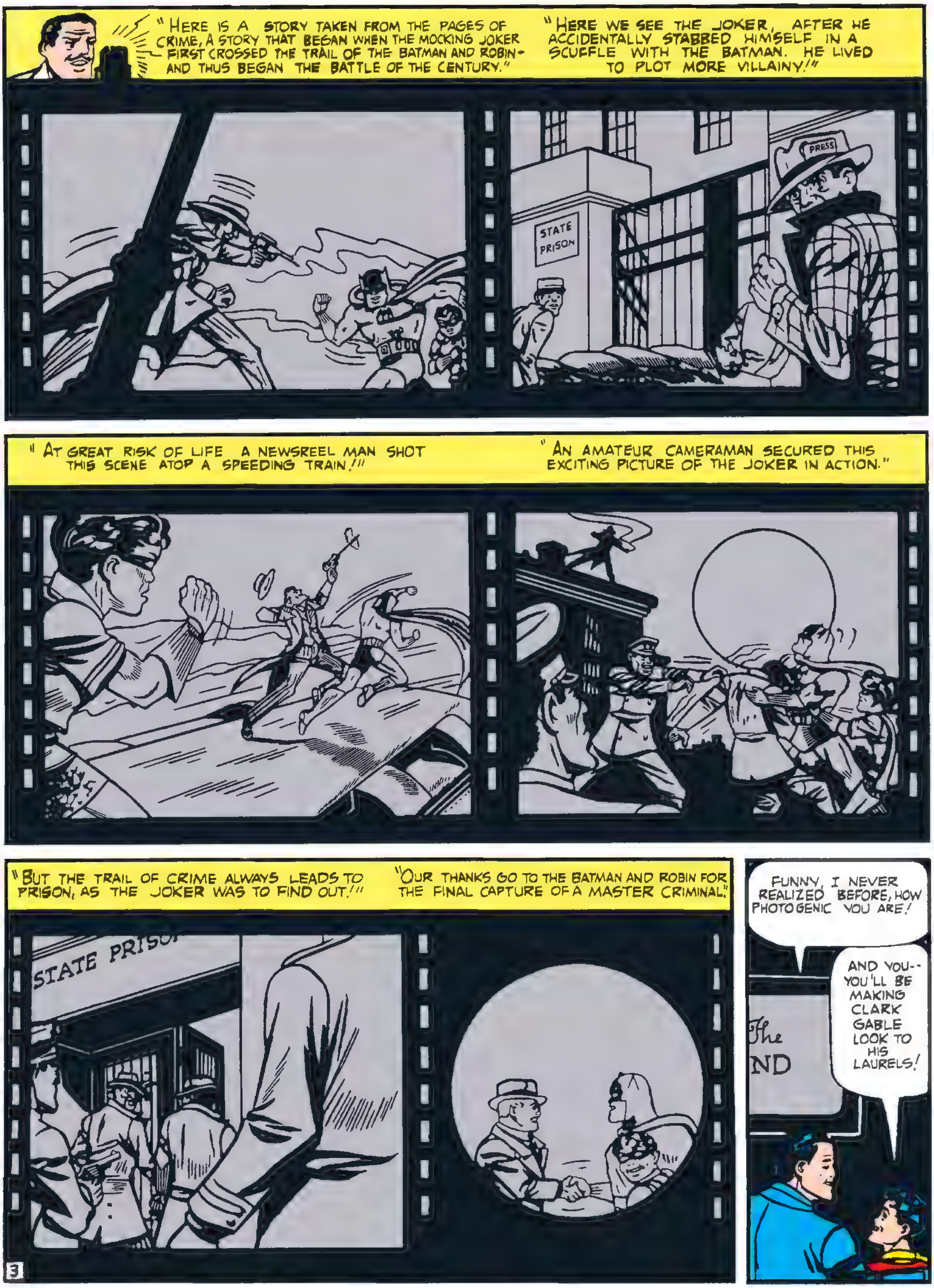

BUT THE "HARMLESS" DUCK IS A MAN-- A MAN ESCAPING FROM AN ESCAPE-PROOF PRISON!

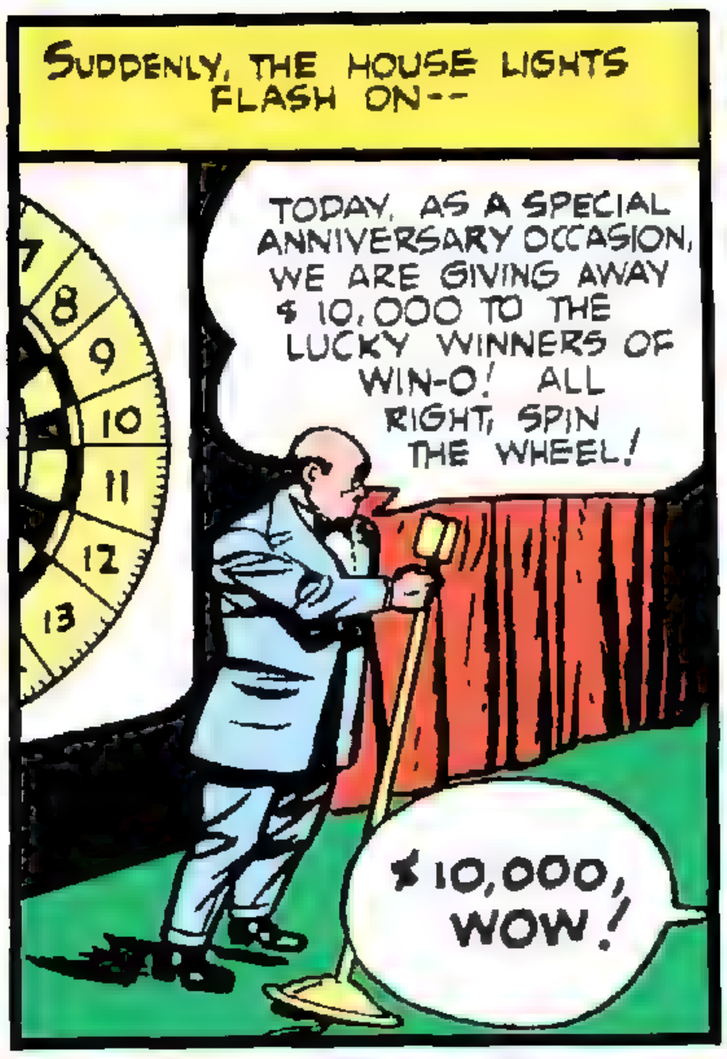
A DRIPPING FIGURE HAULS ITSELF ONTO THE OPPOSITE SHORE!
THE FOOLS SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET ME WORK IN THE TOOL SHOP! I MADE THIS DECOY DUCK-- AND MY ESCAPE-- HA! HA!
THE JOKER! ARCH-VILLAIN OF ALL TIME, IS FREE-FREE ONCE AGAIN TO WREAK HIS CRIMINAL CUNNING!

THE NEXT MORNING, AN EXTRA HITS THE STREETS--
EXTRA! MIDTOWN BANK ROBBED OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!
HMM-- SOMEONE'S MADE A NICE HAUL!
THE PAPER SAYS IT WAS A CLEVER JOB, TOO!

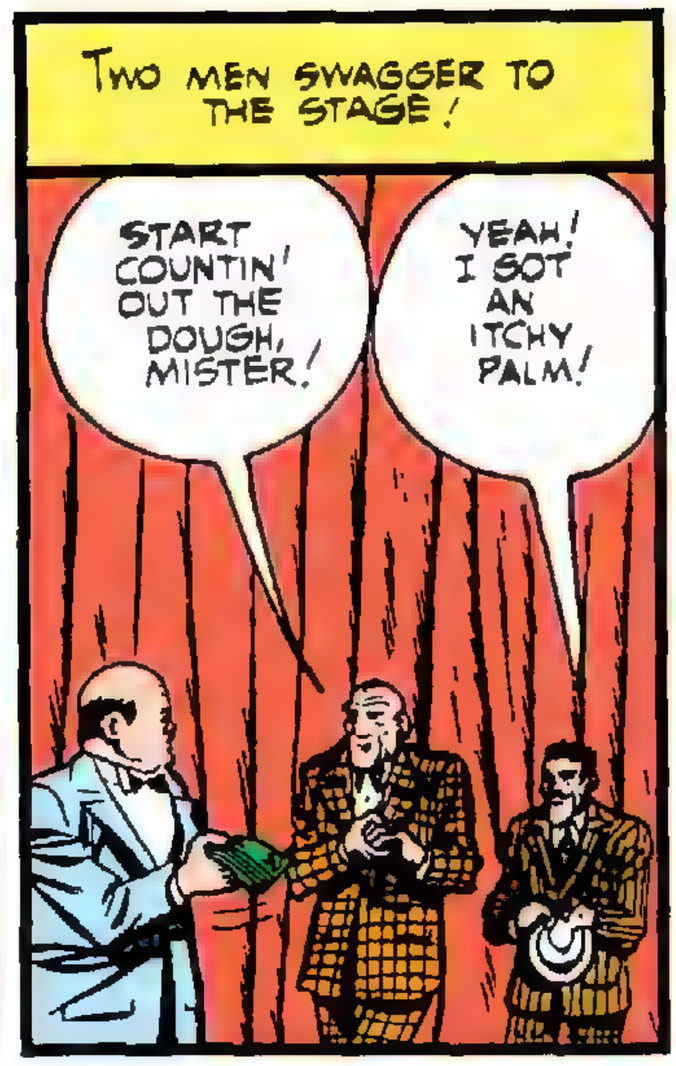

LOOK! SAY--I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT BOY, ROBIN, IN SOME EXCITING ACTION!
YES- AND I'D LIKE TO SEE THE BATMAN! HE'S ONE CHAP I'D LIKE TO BE!
THE MARCH OF CRIME PRESENTS THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE BATMAN AND THE JOKER

THE TWO FRIENDS TAKE THEIR SEATS AS THE SHOW BEGINS--
THE MARCH OF CRIME PRESENTS
THE MOST SENSATIONAL NEWSREEL OF ALL TIME
THE JOKER VERSUS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN! EXCLUSIVE!


"HERE IS A STORY TAKEN FROM THE PAGES OF CRIME, A STORY THAT BEGAN WHEN THE MOCKING JOKER FIRST CROSSED THE TRAIL OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN - AND THUS BEGAN THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY."
"HERE WE SEE THE JOKER, AFTER HE ACCIDENTALLY STABBED HIMSELF IN A SCUFFLE WITH THE BATMAN. HE LIVED TO PLOT MORE VILLAINY!"
PRESS
STATE PRISON
"AT GREAT RISK OF LIFE A NEWSREEL MAN SHOT THIS SCENE ATOP A SPEEDING TRAIN!"
"AN AMATEUR CAMERAMAN SECURED THIS EXCITING PICTURE OF THE JOKER IN ACTION."
"BUT THE TRAIL OF CRIME ALWAYS LEADS TO PRISON, AS THE JOKER WAS TO FIND OUT!"
"OUR THANKS GO TO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FOR THE FINAL CAPTURE OF A MASTER CRIMINAL."
STATE PRISON
3
FUNNY, I NEVER REALIZED BEFORE, HOW PHOTOGENIC YOU ARE!
AND YOU-- YOU'LL BE MAKING CLARK GABLE LOOK TO HIS LAURELS!
The
ND


SUDDENLY, THE HOUSE LIGHTS FLASH ON--
TODAY, AS A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OCCASION, WE ARE GIVING AWAY $10,000 TO THE LUCKY WINNERS OF WIN-O! ALL RIGHT, SPIN THE WHEEL!
$10,000, WOW!

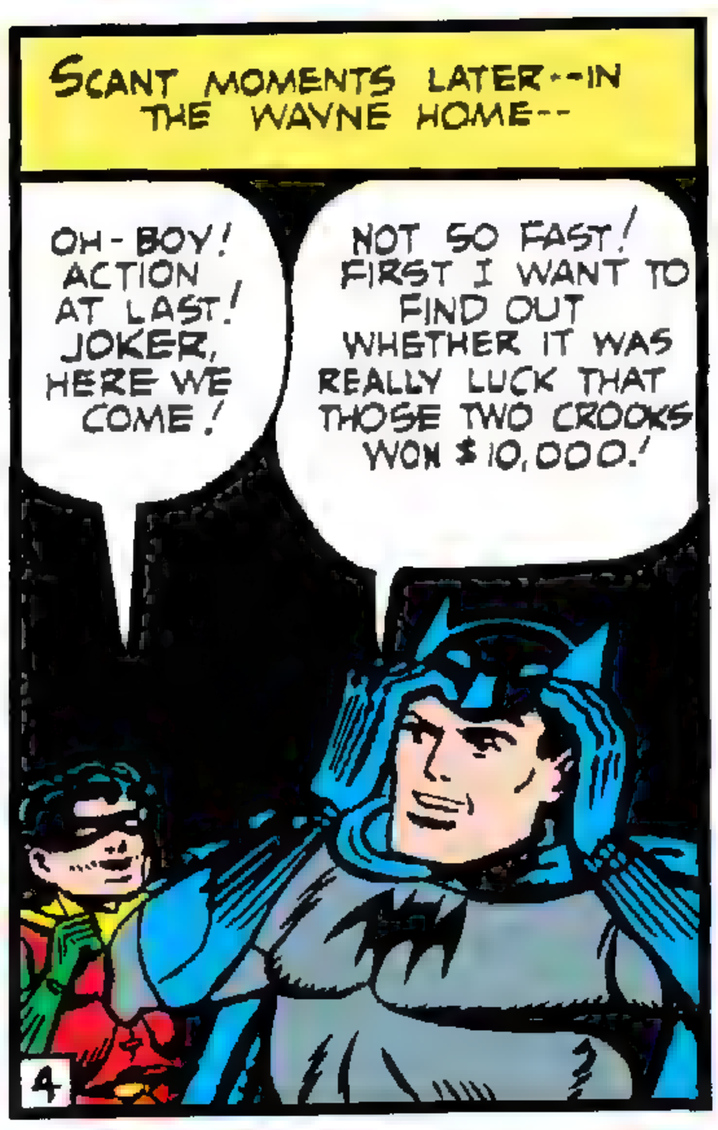
ME TOO!
WIN-O!
AW! I NEVER WIN!


TWO MEN SWAGGER TO THE STAGE!
START COUNTIN' OUT THE DOUGH, MISTER!
YEAH! I GOT AN ITCHY PALM!

TRIGGER TOM AND NICK BACY!
JUST RELEASED FROM PR.SON! ODD THAT THE TWO OF THEM SHOULD WIN $10,000 BETWEEN THEM!
WIN-O
WIN-O

ER--W-WOULD YOU CARE TO T-TELL THE AUDIENCE YOUR REACTION UPON WINNING THIS GREAT SUM?
THIS FIVE GRAND IS THE FIRST HONEST DOUGH I MADE IN A LONG TIME!
ME TOO- AND I HOPE THE COPPERS REMEMBER THAT!

SUDDENLY, A MAN RACES TO THE STAGE, SHOUTS A DRAMATIC NEWS-FLASH!
THE JOKER HAS ESCAPED! FOUND A DUMMY IN HIS CELL THIS MORNING .....
THE JOKER.. FREE?


SCANT MOMENTS LATER--IN THE WAYNE HOME--
OH-BOY! ACTION AT LAST! JOKER, HERE WE COME!
NOT SO FAST! FIRST I WANT TO FIND OUT WHETHER IT WAS REALLY LUCK THAT THOSE TWO CROOKS WON $10,000!
4

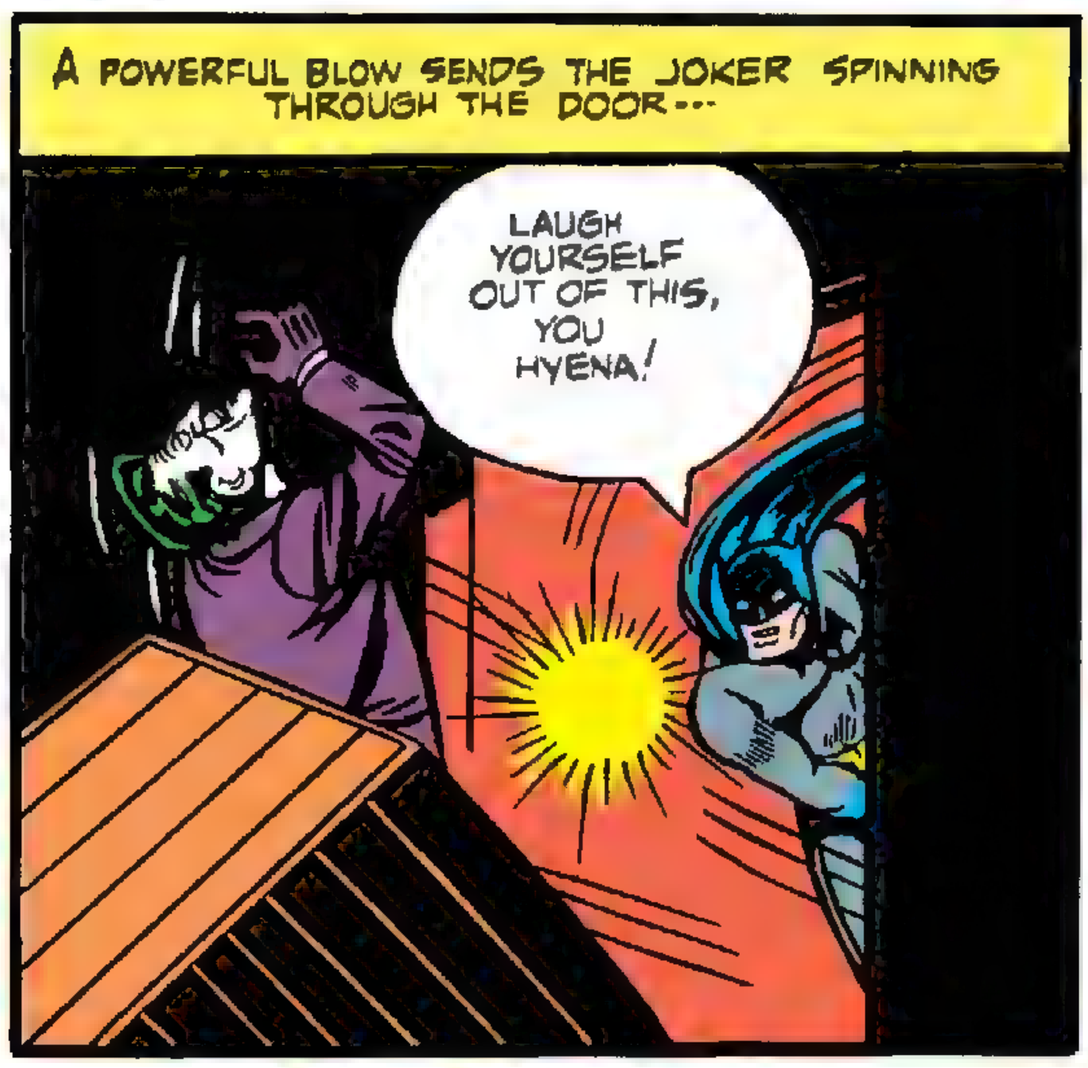
LATER...
NO-- I TELL YOU--I DIDN'T CALL THE POLICE-- --NO--- AGGH!
SORRY-- BUT IT SEEMS YOUR TONGUE WAGGLES A BIT TOO MUCH!
STAGE

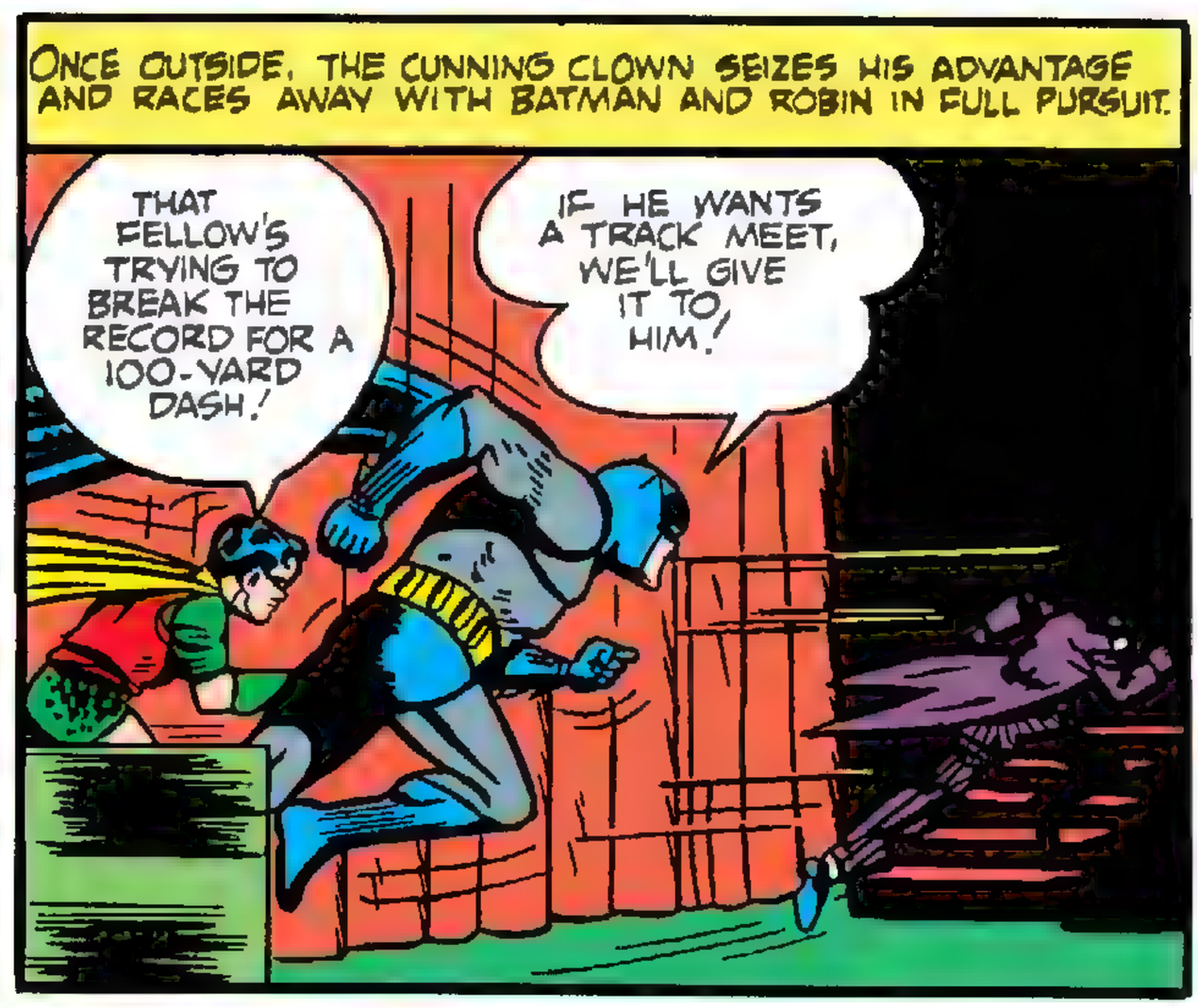
THE JOKER!
BATMAN AND ROBIN! WELL--I'M NOT SURPRISED. IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN!
SHOW

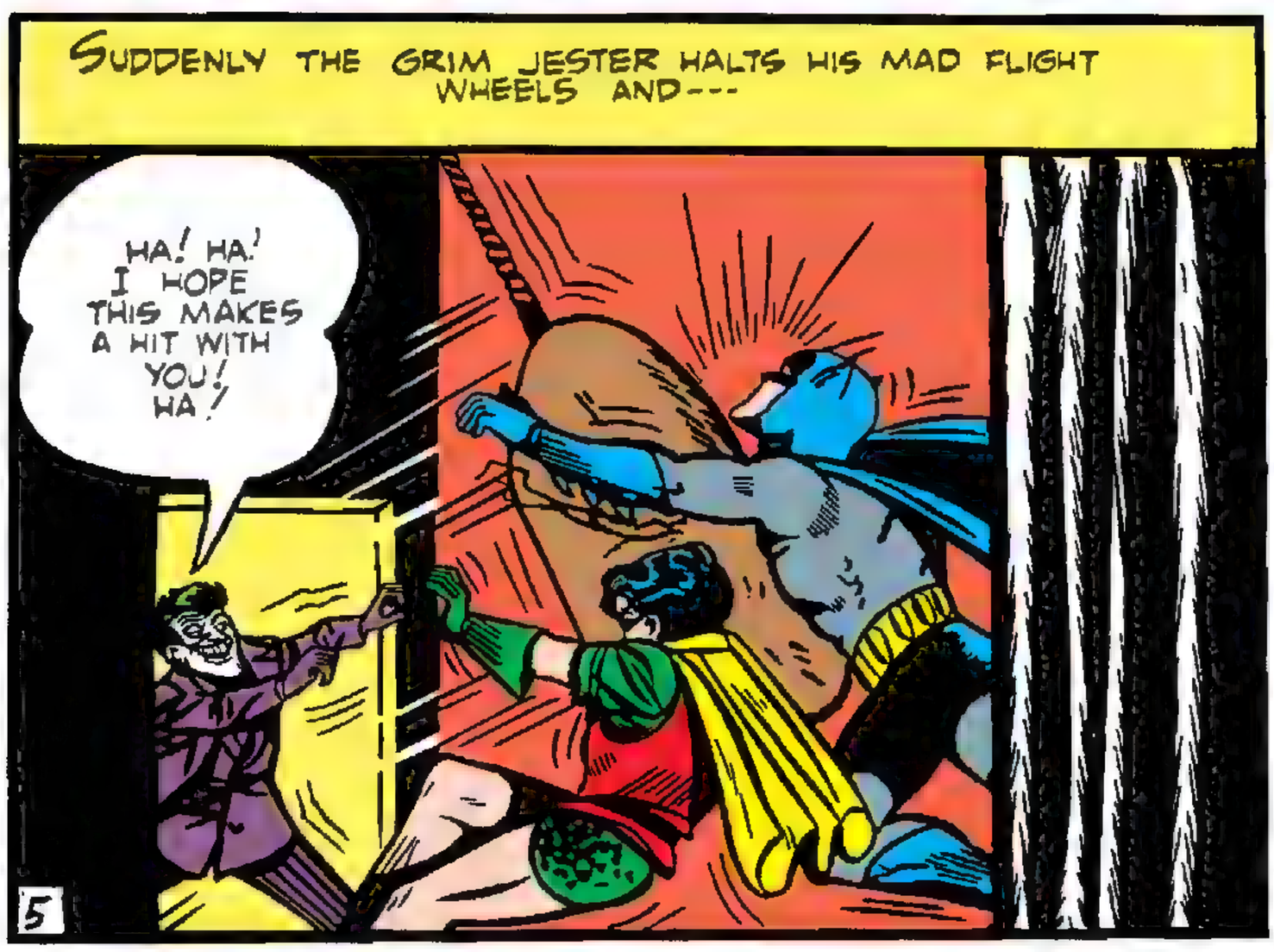
A SLASHING KICK DISPOSES OF THE DEADLY BLOW GUN!
OW!
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY THAT GRINNING DEATH OF YOURS! GET HIM, ROBIN!

YOU FORGET YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE JOKER!

ON THE CONTRARY, I'M VERY MUCH AWARE OF IT, YOU GRINNING DEVIL!

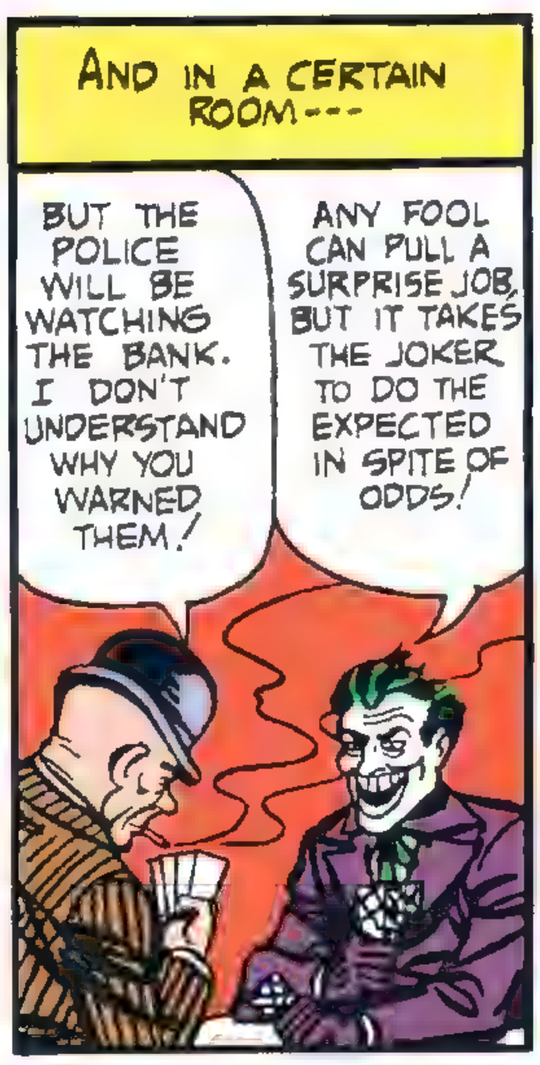

A POWERFUL BLOW SENDS THE JOKER SPINNING THROUGH THE DOOR---
LAUGH YOURSELF OUT OF THIS, YOU HYENA!


ONCE OUTSIDE, THE CUNNING CLOWN SEIZES HIS ADVANTAGE AND RACES AWAY WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN IN FULL PURSUIT.
THAT FELLOW'S TRYING TO BREAK THE RECORD FOR A 100-YARD DASH!
IF HE WANTS A TRACK MEET, WE'LL GIVE IT TO HIM!

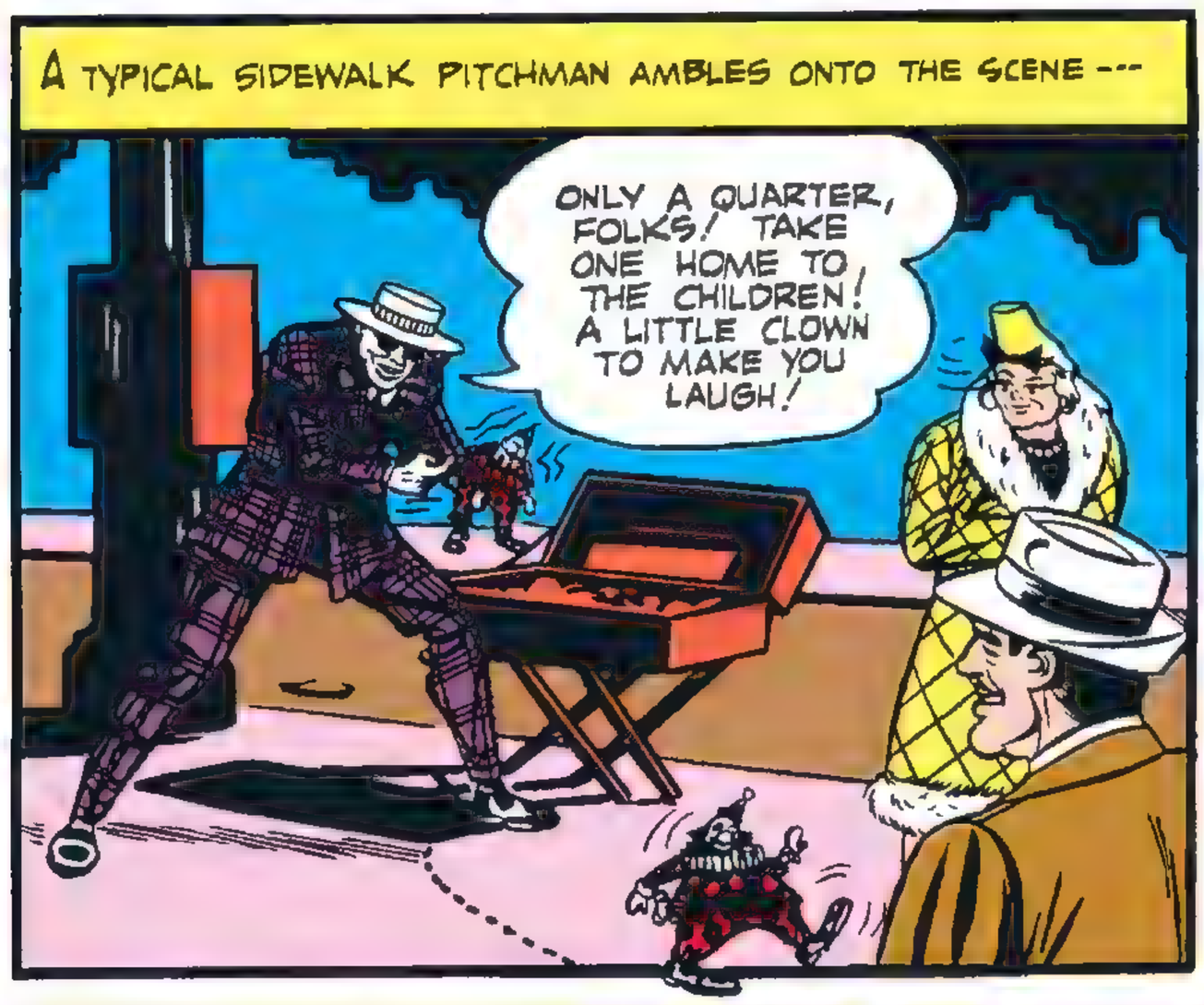

SUDDENLY THE GRIM JESTER HALTS HIS MAD FLIGHT WHEELS AND---
HA! HA! I HOPE THIS MAKES A HIT WITH YOU! HA!
5

SECONDS LATER, A SUPERCHARGED ENGINE ROARS TESTIMONY TO THE JOKER'S ESCAPE!
WELL--HE'S ESCAPED AGAIN!
---ONE THING I'M SURE OF— THE JOKER PAROLED PRISONERS AND THAT WIN-O MONEY MUST ADD UP TO A CROOKED SUM!

A WEEK GOES BY--THEN, ONE MORNING---
LOOK--THE PAPERS ARE FULL OF IT!
WELL, SO OUR PRANKISH PUNSTER IS BACK TO HIS OLD TRICKS! HERE WE GO AGAIN!
JOKER JIBES POLICE!
CARD SENT TO POLICE
You can bank on me robbing the Midtown bank today JOKER!


AND IN A CERTAIN ROOM---
BUT THE POLICE WILL BE WATCHING THE BANK. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WARNED THEM!
ANY FOOL CAN PULL A SURPRISE JOB, BUT IT TAKES THE JOKER TO DO THE EXPECTED IN SPITE OF ODDS!

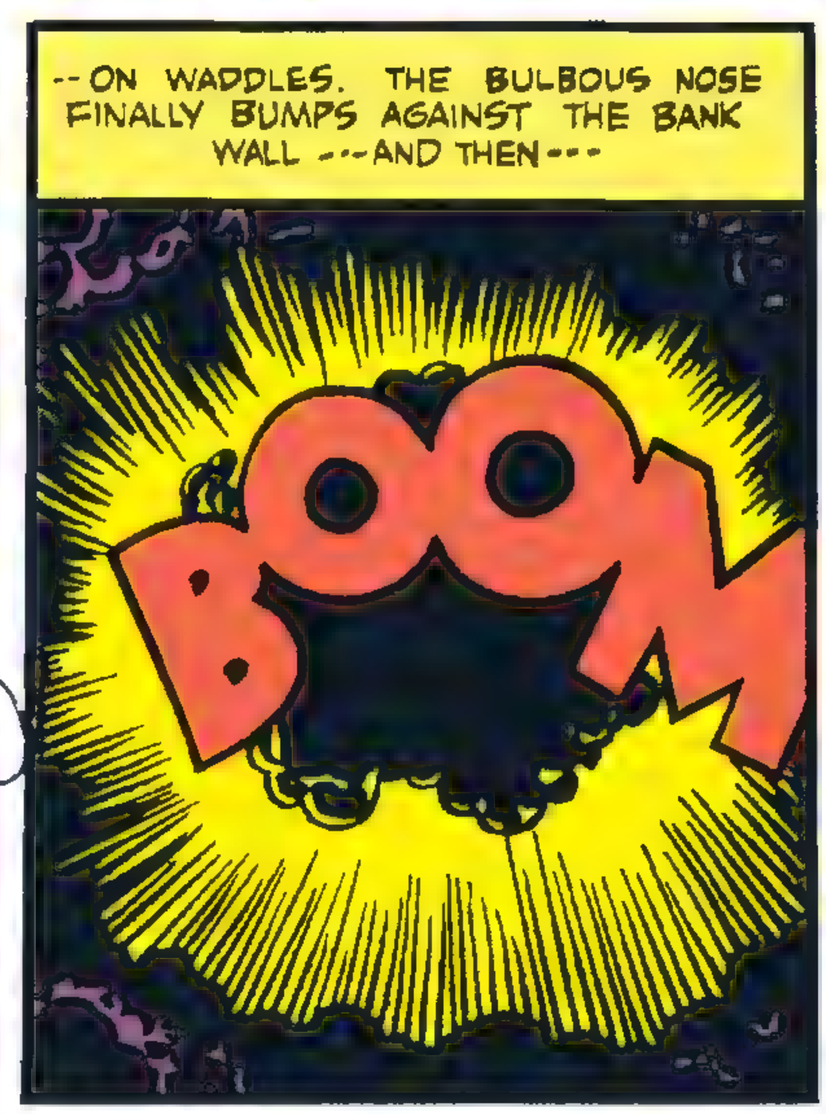
THAT AFTERNOON, A CORDON OF APPREHENSIVE POLICE SURROUND THE MIDTOWN BANK--
HE WOULDN'T DARE SHOW UP!
I DON'T KNOW---THE JOKER HAS PULLED MANY A CLEVER STUNT!
MIDTOWN BANK

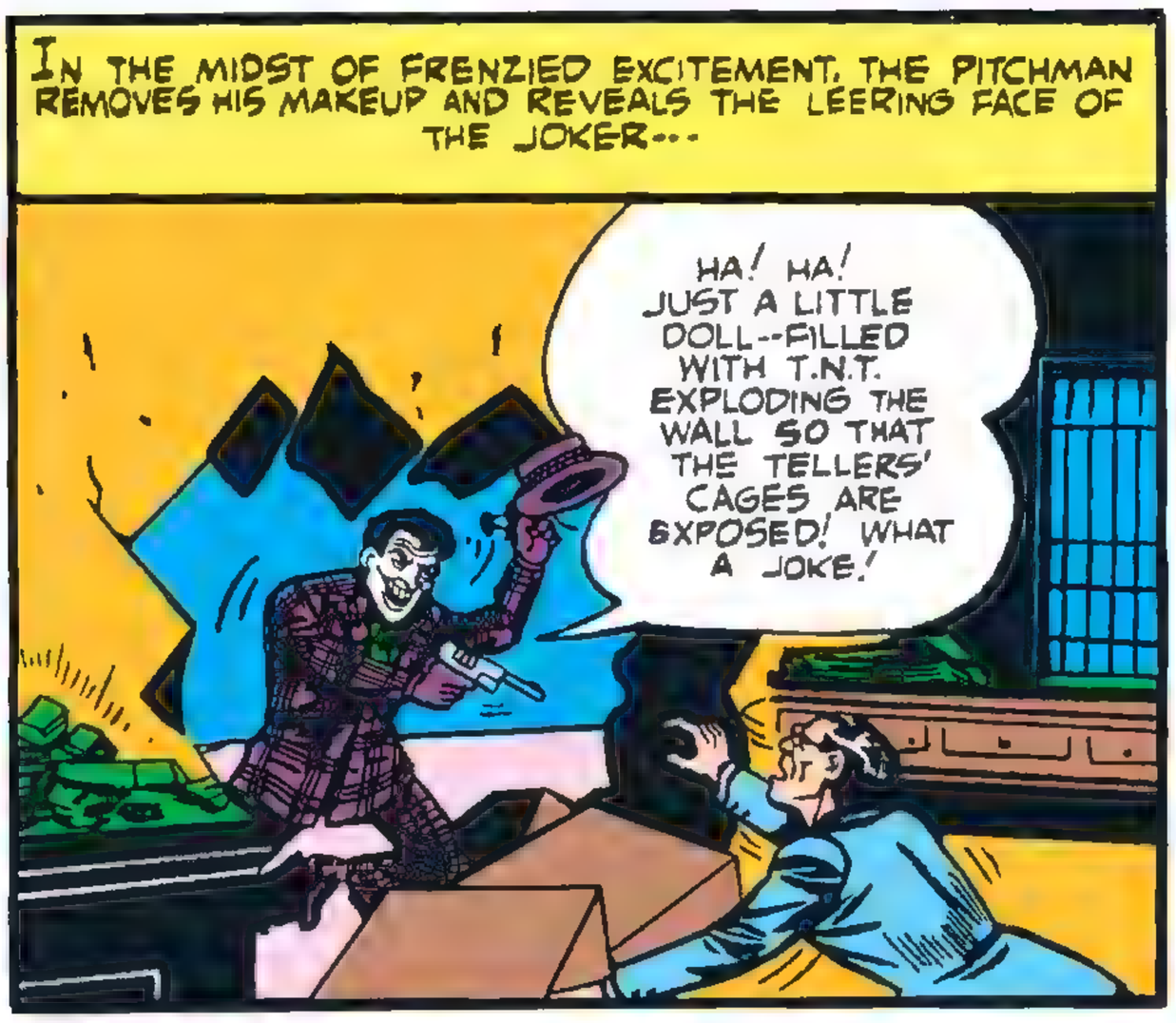

A TYPICAL SIDEWALK PITCHMAN AMBLES ONTO THE SCENE---
ONLY A QUARTER, FOLKS! TAKE ONE HOME TO THE CHILDREN! A LITTLE CLOWN TO MAKE YOU LAUGH!

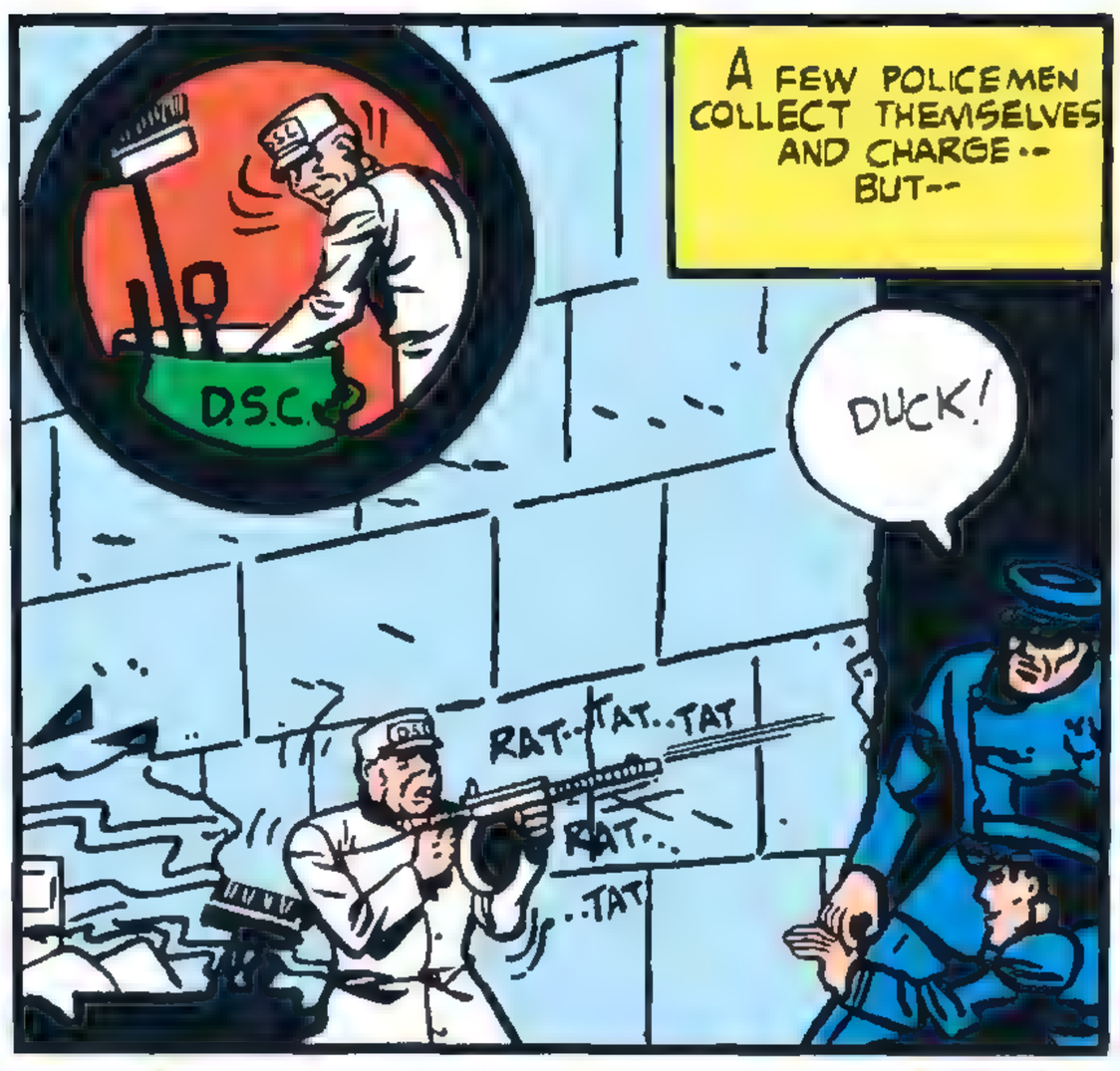
A MECHANICAL NOVELTY, FOLKS--ONLY A QUARTER!
HAW! CUTE LITTLE JIGGERS, AREN'T THEY?
YEAH--HA! HA!

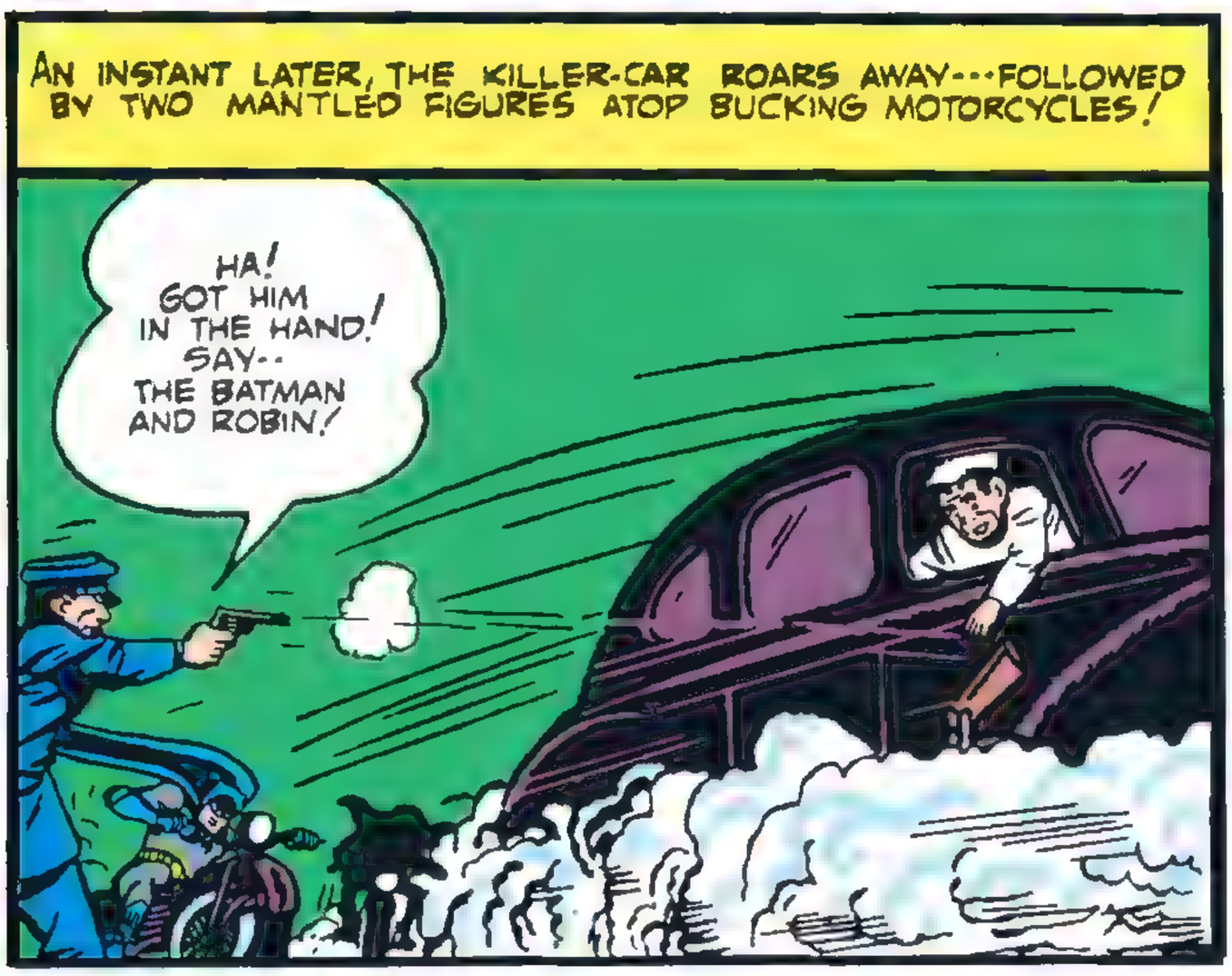
THE PITCHMAN WINDS A NEW DOLL-----
MOVE ASIDE, FOLKS! LET THE LITTLE DOLL GIVE YOU A BANG-UP DEMONSTRATION!

ON WADDLES THE DROLL, LITTLE CLOWN, HIS FLOPPY FEET CARRYING HIM STRAIGHT TOWARD THE BANK WALL---


--ON WADDLES. THE BULBOUS NOSE FINALLY BUMPS AGAINST THE BANK WALL---AND THEN---
BOOM


IN THE MIDST OF FRENZIED EXCITEMENT, THE PITCHMAN REMOVES HIS MAKEUP AND REVEALS THE LEERING FACE OF THE JOKER---
HA! HA! JUST A LITTLE DOLL--FILLED WITH T.N.T. EXPLODING THE WALL SO THAT THE TELLERS' CAGES ARE EXPOSED! WHAT A JOKE!


A FEW POLICEMEN COLLECT THEMSELVES AND CHARGE-- BUT--
D.S.C.
DUCK!
RAT-TAT..TAT
RAT..
..TAT


AN INSTANT LATER, THE KILLER-CAR ROARS AWAY---FOLLOWED BY TWO MANTLED FIGURES ATOP BUCKING MOTORCYCLES!
HA! GOT HIM IN THE HAND! SAY-- THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

A DANGEROUS CHASE BEGINS--
BOY-- OH-BOY!
WE'RE CATCHING THEM, ROBIN!

SUDDENLY, THE JOKER WHIPS HIS CAR ABOUT AND VAULTS FOR SAFETY!
THAT DEVIL HAS BLOCKED THE ROAD! CAN'T TURN! ROBIN-- ALLEY-OOP!

THE ACROBATMAN MAKES A DARING LEAP--
NOW!

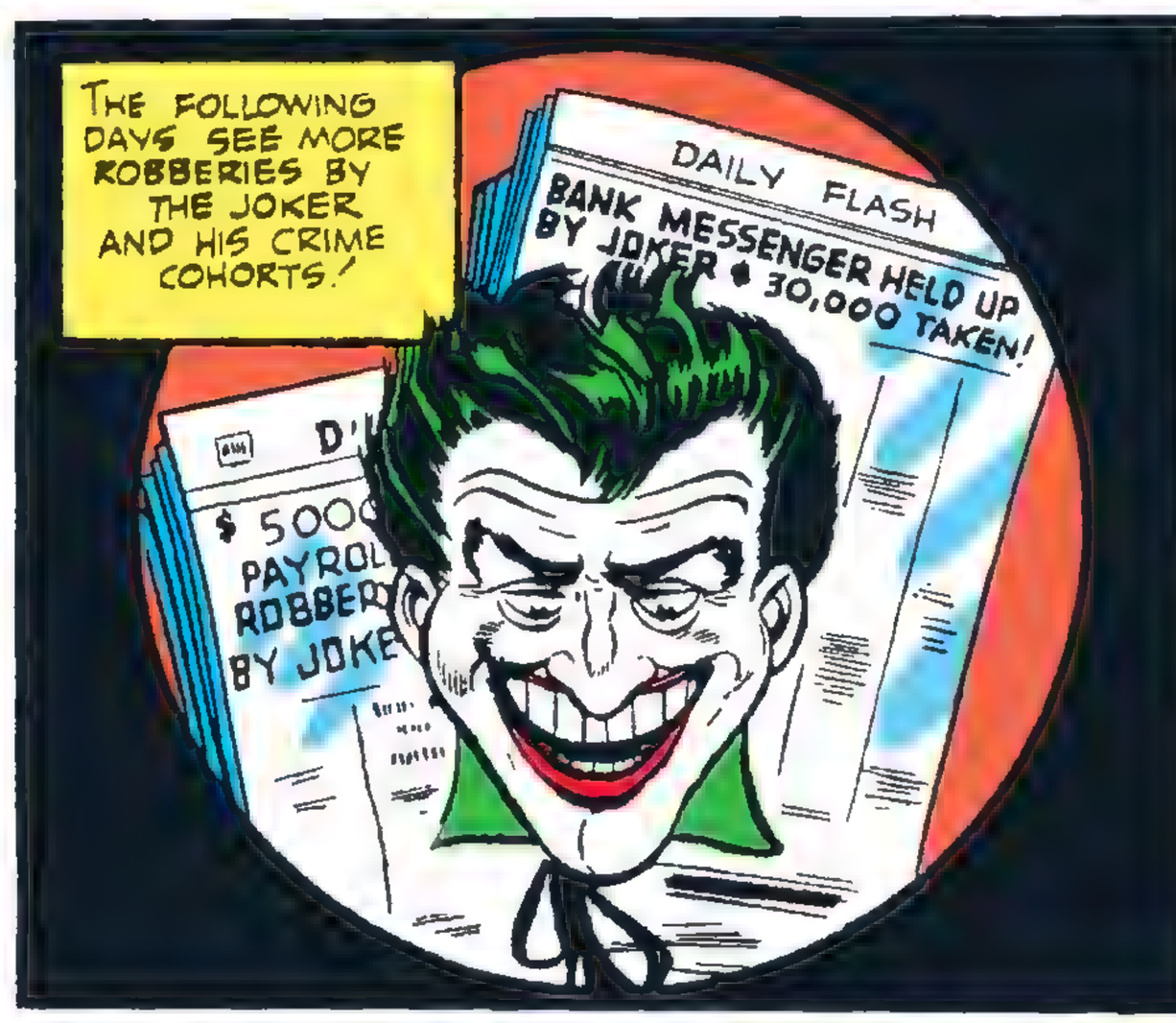
A RENDING CRASH! LIKE TWIN CANNON BALLS, THE MOTORCYCLES GRIND INTO THE AUTOMOBILE. BUT BATMAN AND ROBIN--
SAFE! WHEW-- THAT WAS CLOSE!
JUST THINK-- THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN US! OUR JOKER FRIEND HAS PULLED ANOTHER ACE FROM HIS CROOKED DECK!
CRASH

THE NEXT NIGHT...
LISTEN TO THE HEADLINE, ROBIN! "JOKER NABS $20,000 AND ELUDES BATMAN! $20,000...
--AND TONIGHT, THE BOWL O' BILLS PROGRAM GIVES AWAY $20,000 TO THE LUCKY PERSON WHO RECEIVES OUR TELEPHONE CALL!
DAILY FLASH JOKER NABS $20,000 AND ELUDES BATMAN

AH, HERE WE ARE! THE LUCKY TELEPHONE NUMBER.. CENTRAL 8549.. HELLO, MR. MONT WILY?
MONT WILY? HE WAS JUST RELEASED FROM JAIL TWO DAYS AGO!

MR. WILY..YOU ARE THE WINNER OF THE BOWL O' BILLS PROGRAM!
BOWL O' BILLS
SWELL! I JUST GOT OUTTA STIR, SO THE DOUGH WILL COME IN MIGHTY HANDY TO MAKE PAYMENTS ON A NEW CAR I JUST BOUGHT!

COME TO THINK OF IT, WILY LOOKS LIKE THE MAN WHO HELPED THE JOKER ON HIS LAST JOB!
$20,000 -- THE SAME SUM! AND THOSE TWO WIN-O WINNERS WON $10,000.. THE SAME AMOUNT STOLEN FROM THAT OTHER BANK! HMM!

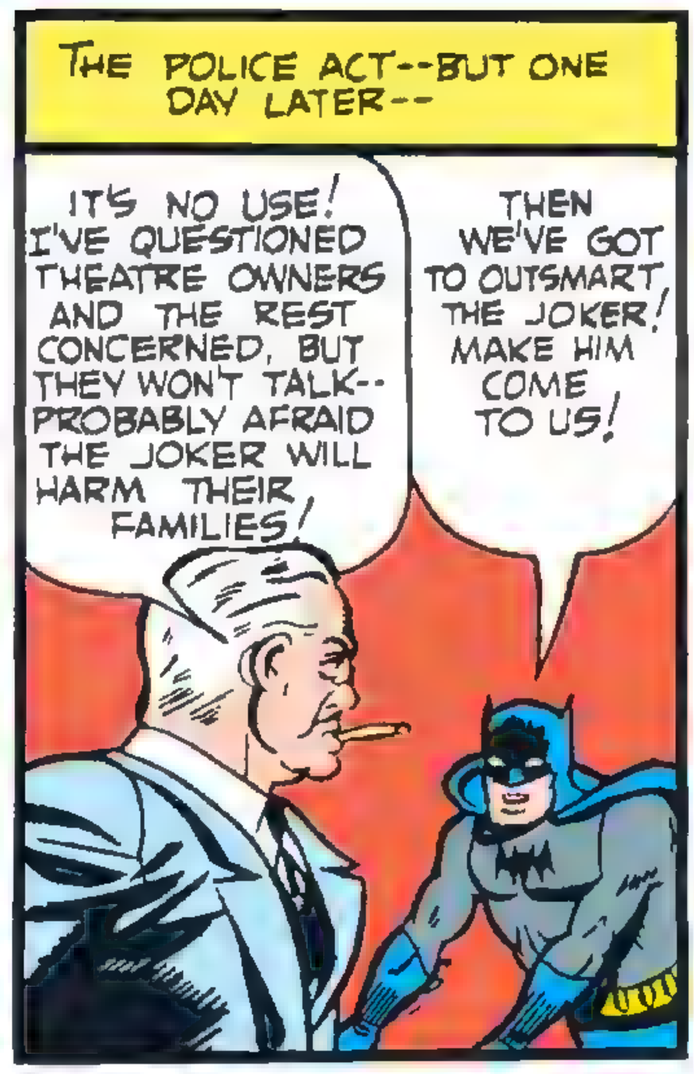

THE FOLLOWING DAYS SEE MORE ROBBERIES BY THE JOKER AND HIS CRIME COHORTS!
DAILY FLASH
BANK MESSENGER HELD UP BY JOKER $30,000 TAKEN!
$5000 PAYROLL ROBBERY BY JOKE

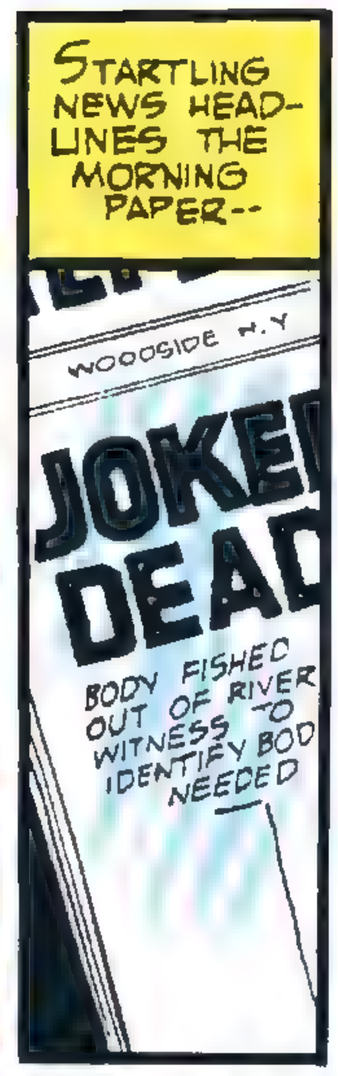
POLICE QUESTION SUSPECTS..
WHERE DID YOU GET THE MONEY FOR THIS EXPENSIVE CAR? YOU JUST GOT OUT OF JAIL YESTERDAY!
YOU GOT NOTHIN' ON ME, COPPER! DIDN'T YOU HEAR HOW I WON $30,000 IN A BIG RAFFLE LAST NIGHT?
8

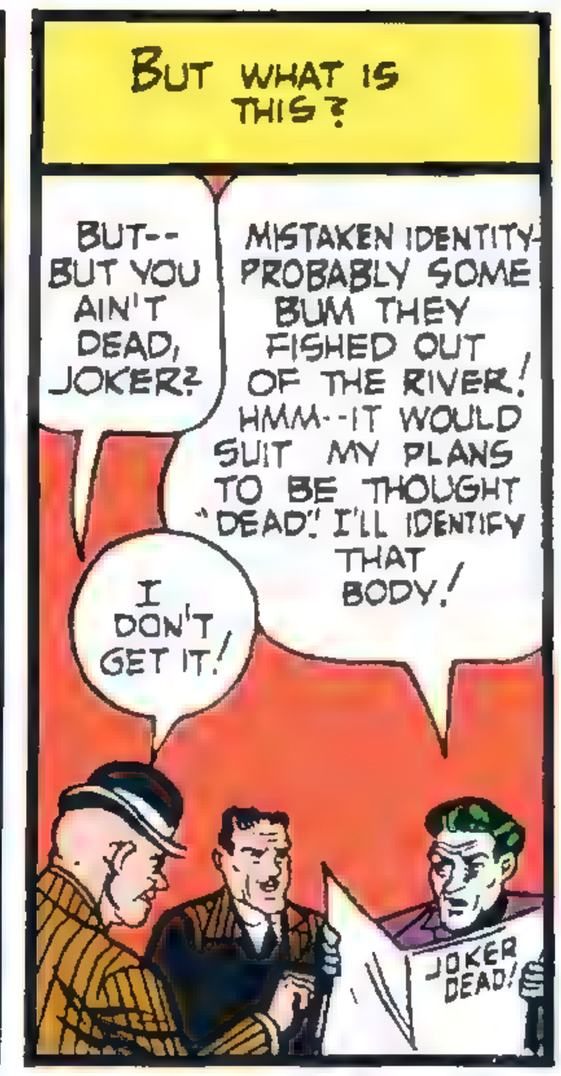
YOU JUST GET OUT OF JAIL AND ARE ABLE TO AFFORD A PLACE LIKE THIS? HOW COME?
GET THIS, COPPERS.. I WON $5,000 PLAYING WIN-O, SO JUST, RELAX!
ROB A BANK, JOE?

ONE MAN OFFERS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR THE LUCKY LAW-BREAKERS..
YES--POLICE ALWAYS CHECK UP ON NEWLY RELEASED PRISONERS WHO SUSPICIOUSLY ACQUIRE SUDDEN WEALTH. WHAT'S THAT TO DO WITH THE JOKER?
LISTEN..THE JOKER HAS A NEW RACKET, HE MAKES AN ACCOMPLICE OF A RECENTLY RELEASED CRIMINAL..THEY PULL A ROBBERY...

--THEN THEY FIX IT SO THE ACCOMPLICE CAN "WIN" THEIR OWN LOOT BACK AT WIN-O, O'BILLS, RAFFLES, ETC. THIS IS DONE BY THREATENING THEATRE OWNERS, RADIO PROGRAM DIRECTORS, AND SO ON---
THAT'S WHY THE JOKER KILLED THAT THEATRE OWNER. HE WAS AFRAID HE'D TALK!


THE POLICE ACT--BUT ONE DAY LATER--
IT'S NO USE! I'VE QUESTIONED THEATRE OWNERS AND THE REST CONCERNED, BUT THEY WON'T TALK--PROBABLY AFRAID THE JOKER WILL HARM THEIR FAMILIES!
THEN WE'VE GOT TO OUTSMART THE JOKER! MAKE HIM COME TO US!

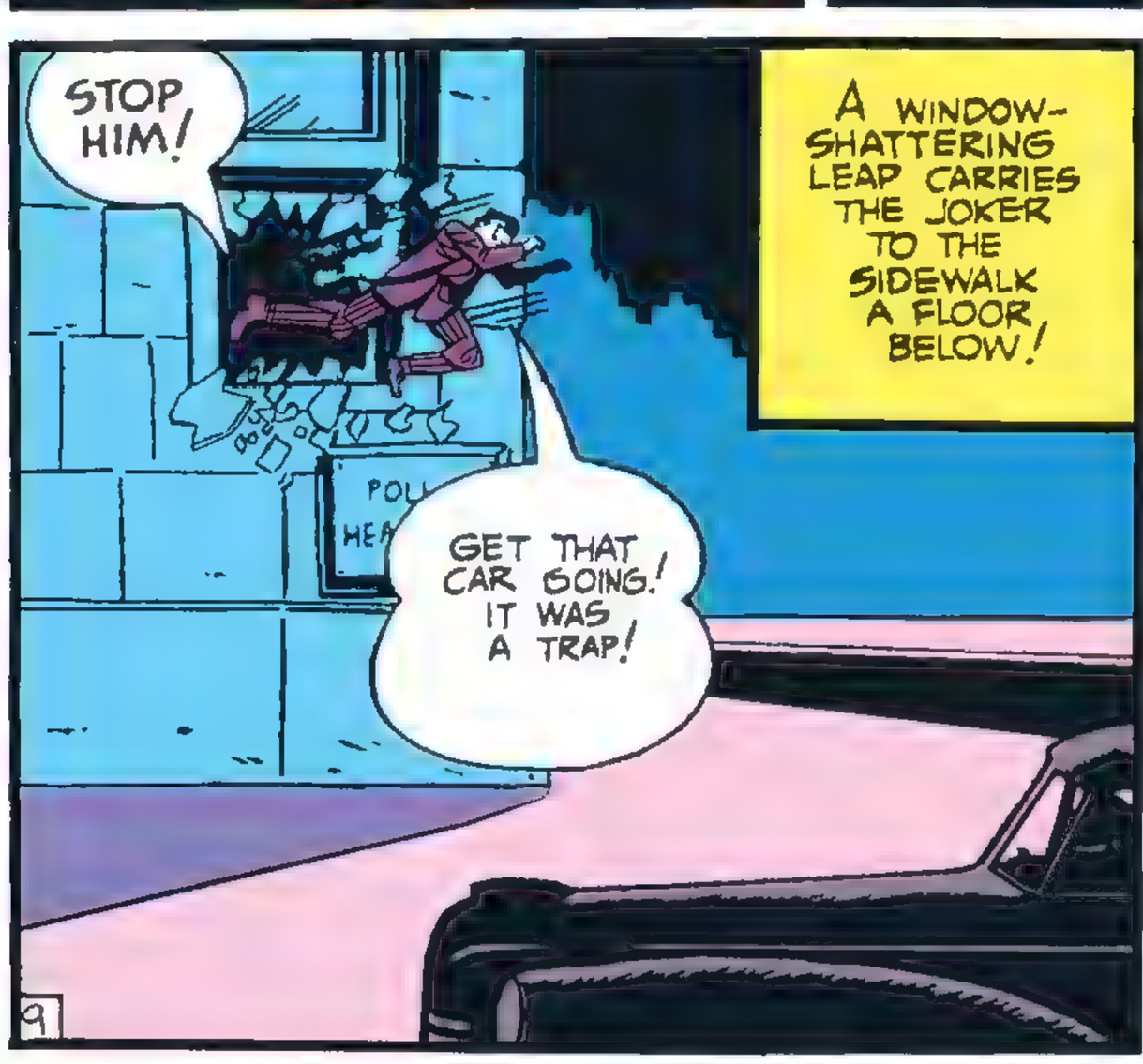

STARTLING NEWS HEADLINES THE MORNING PAPER--
WOODSIDE N.Y
JOKER DEAD
BODY FISHED OUT OF RIVER WITNESS TO IDENTIFY BOD NEEDED

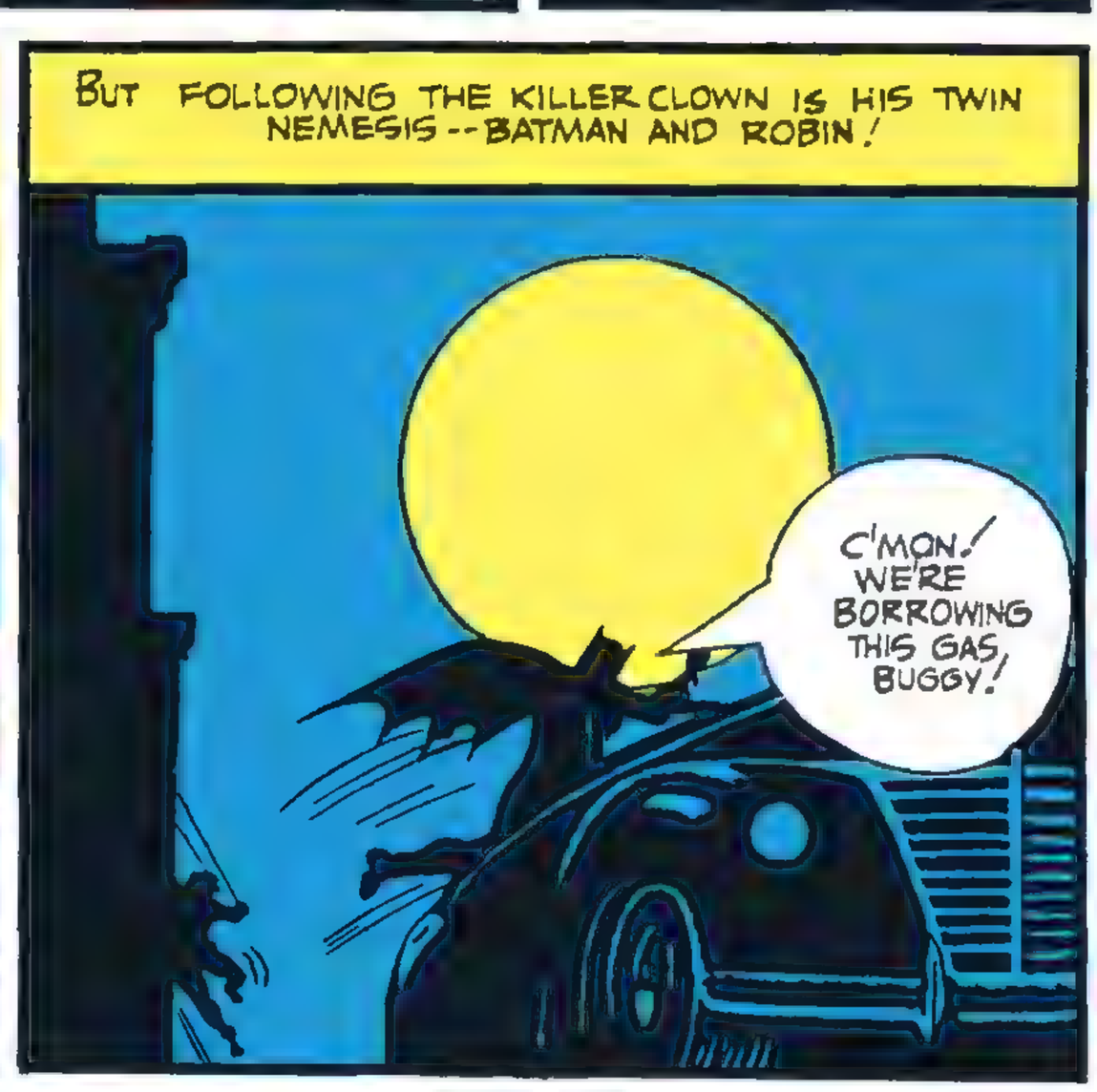

BUT WHAT IS THIS?
BUT--BUT YOU AIN'T DEAD, JOKER?
MISTAKEN IDENTITY--PROBABLY SOME BUM THEY FISHED OUT OF THE RIVER! HMM--IT WOULD SUIT MY PLANS TO BE THOUGHT "DEAD". I'LL IDENTIFY THAT BODY!
I DON'T GET IT!
JOKER DEAD!

THE NEXT DAY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS---
THE JOKER ONCE RUINED MY BUSINESS! I KNEW HIM WELL ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY HIS BODY--IF IT IS HIS BODY!
FINE! HE'S ONE MAN WE WANT TO MAKE SURE IS DEAD! COME RIGHT IN!
MORGUE

YES--DO, COME IN! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU--JOKER!
A TRAP!
YES, A TRAP! WE FIGURED THOSE PHONY HEADLINES WOULD LURE YOU. CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT, REMEMBER?

I HAVE AN ADAGE TO MATCH THAT ONE! DON'T COUN'T YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED!
UH!


STOP HIM!
A WINDOW-SHATTERING LEAP CARRIES THE JOKER TO THE SIDEWALK A FLOOR BELOW!
GET THAT CAR GOING! IT WAS A TRAP!
9


BUT FOLLOWING THE KILLER CLOWN IS HIS TWIN NEMESIS--BATMAN AND ROBIN!
C'MON! WE'RE BORROWING THIS GAS, BUGGY!

AGAIN, A WILD, FRENZIED CHASE, TAKING THE CARS OUT INTO OPEN COUNTRY!

CATCHING UP. ARE THEY? WELL, THEY'VE GOT A SURPRISE COMING!

THIS BABY CAN TRAVEL!

WITHOUT A WARNING--FROM THE EXHAUST PIPE--

GAS! CAN'T SEE-- EVERYTHING'S GOING BLACK!

THAT CUNNING MURDERER-- I'M GOING UNDER!

A SLEEPING GAS OVERCOMES THE CRIME-BUSTERS!

LATER-- BATMAN AND ROBIN AWAKE AS CAPTIVES OF THE MOCKING JOKER!

OF COURSE YOU KNOW THAT THE POLICE ARE ON YOUR TRAIL!

MY CLEVERNESS HAS ALREADY BEWILDERED THE POLICE-- JUST AS I WILL BEWILDER THEM BY RAIDING AN ARMORED TRUCK AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING-- HA! HA!

AS FOR YOU, DEAR BATMAN AND ROBIN, YOU WOULD HAVE ARRANGED A BURIAL FOR ME--SO I AM DOING THE SAME FOR YOU! HA! HA! GET OUT OF THIS ONE IF YOU CAN---

FUNNY, ISN'T HE?

YEAH-- HE KILLS ME!

UNDER THE JOKER'S DIRECTIONS, A CRANE LOWERS A TON-HEAVY SLAB OF ROCK OVER THE MAKESHIFT CRYPT!

EVEN YOUR SUPERIOR STRENGTH WON'T HELP AGAINST THIS MINIATURE MOUNTAIN, BATMAN. HA! HA! YOU'RE GOING TO BE BURIED ALIVE! OUR BATTLE OF WITS IS OVER--AND I'VE WON!

DOWN COMES THE STONE, AND THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SEALED FAST-- ENTOMBED!

ROPES ARE COMING OFF, BUT WE'RE STILL IN A SPOT!

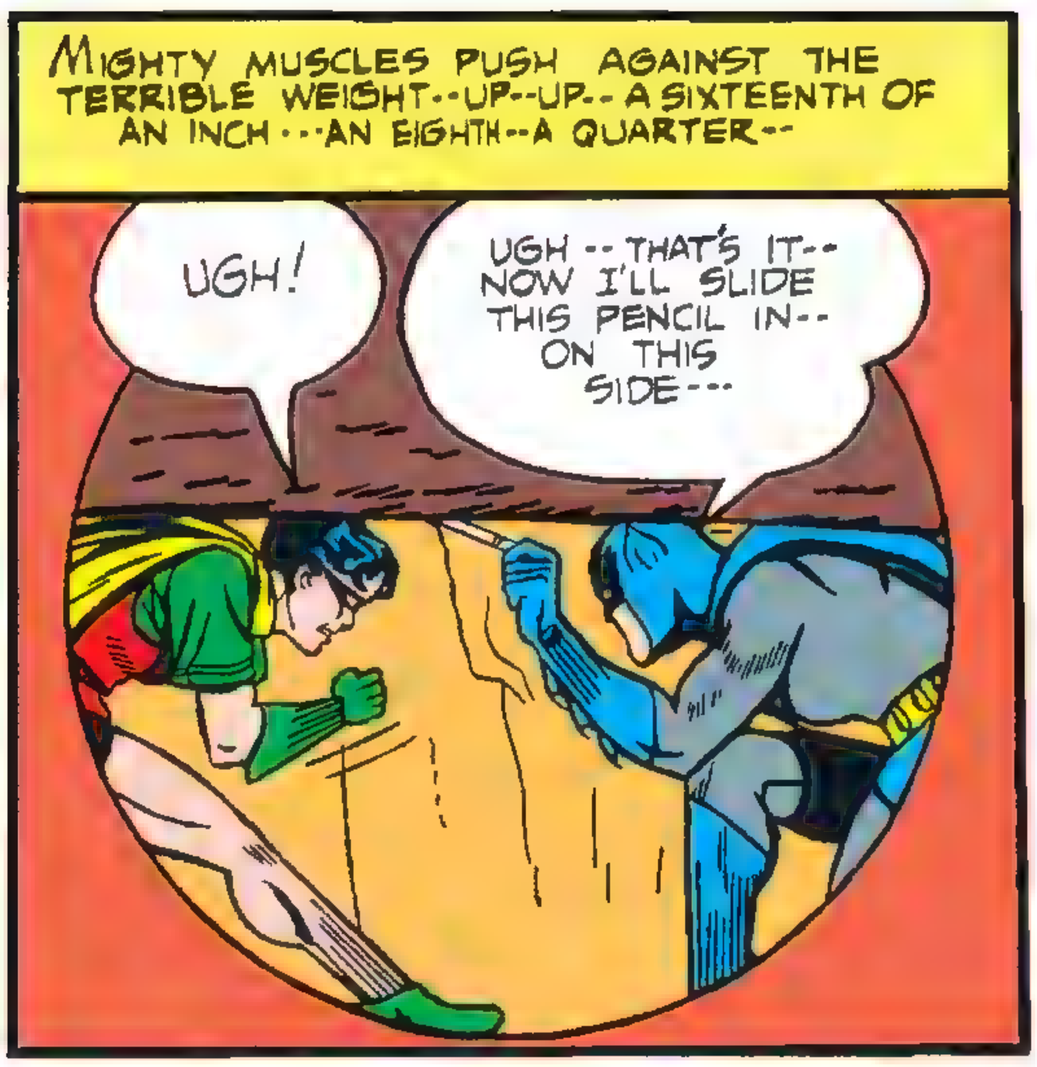
THIS AIR WON'T LAST LONG--AND NEITHER WILL WE, UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING FAST!

CAN'T EVEN BUDGE IT! IT LOOKS LIKE THE END FOR US!

NOT YET! THIS SILVER PENCIL FROM MY UTILITY BELT-- IT MAY SAVE OUR LIVES---DO AS I SAY--

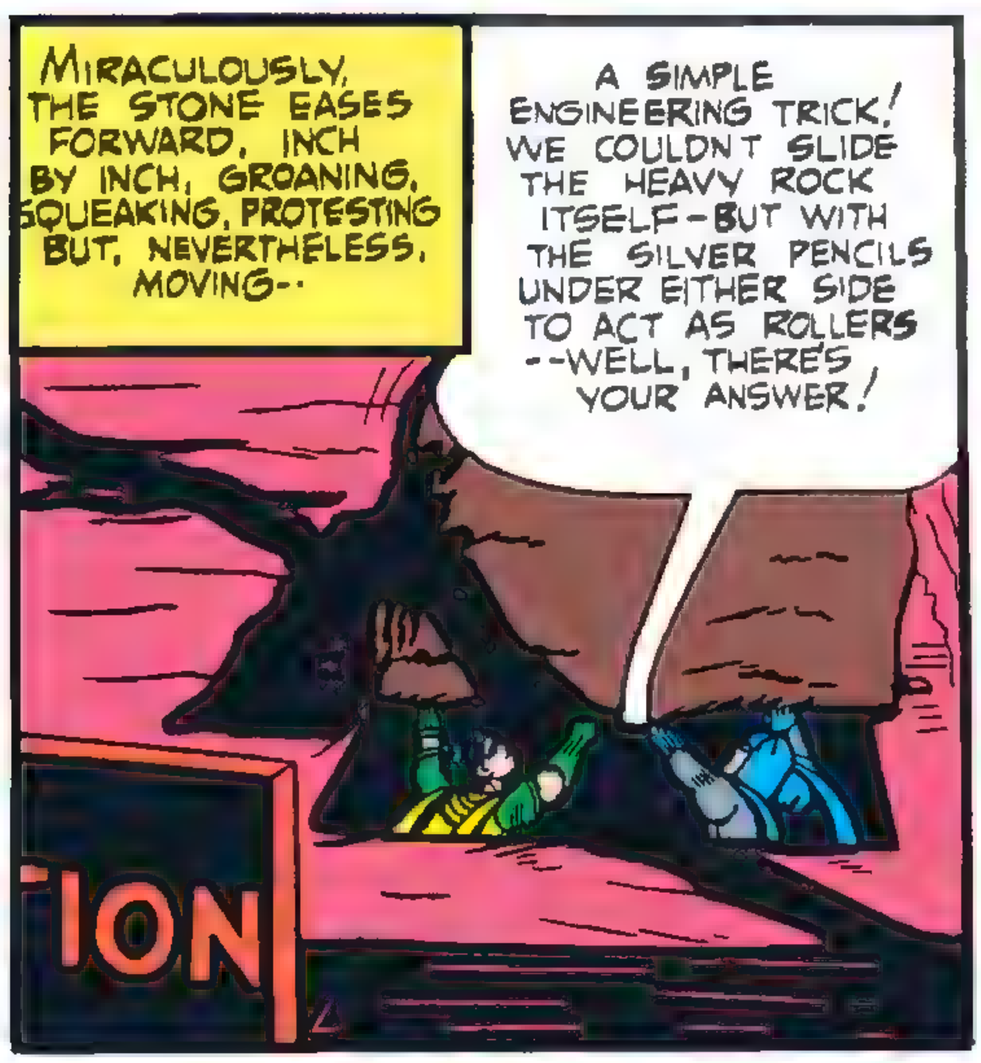
WHAT'S THE IDEA?

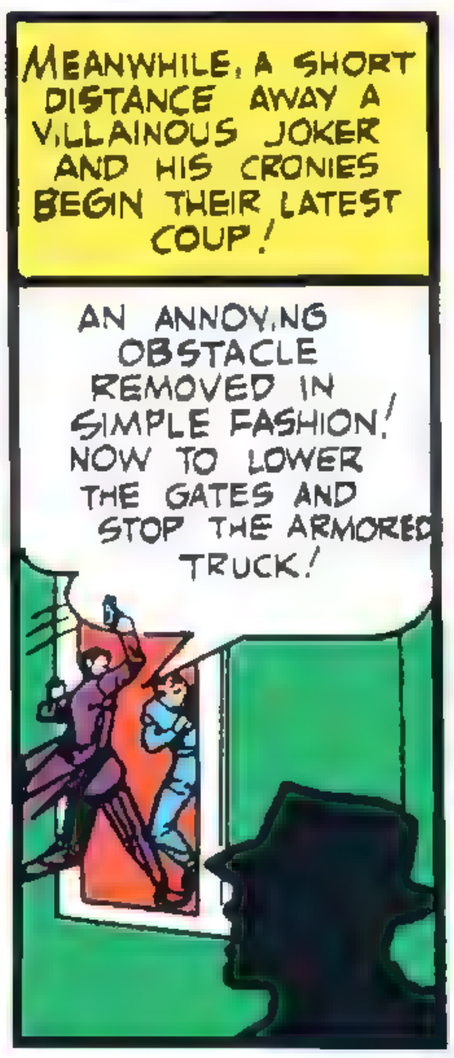
YOU'LL SEE--STOP TALKING AND PUSH--ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS RAISE THIS SLAB A FRACTION OF AN INCH-- UGH---


MIGHTY MUSCLES PUSH AGAINST THE TERRIBLE WEIGHT--UP--UP--A SIXTEENTH OF AN INCH---AN EIGHTH--A QUARTER--
UGH!
UGH--THAT'S IT--NOW I'LL SLIDE THIS PENCIL IN--ON THIS SIDE---

HOLD JUST A SECOND MORE--WHILE I SLIDE YOUR SILVER PENCIL UNDER THE OTHER SIDE!

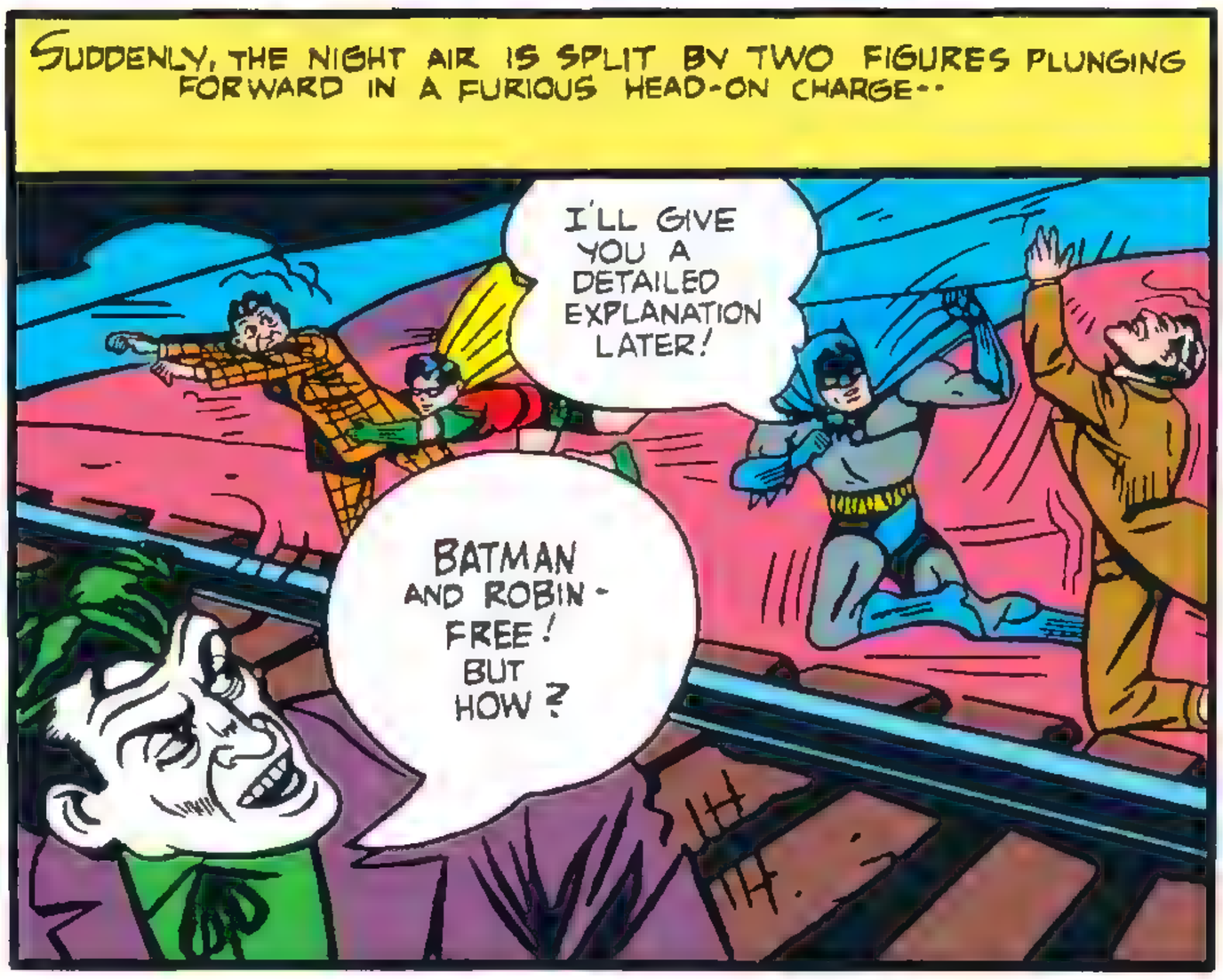
--I'M ALL IN--AND I DON'T GET THIS ANYHOW--
YOU WILL--NOW PRESS AGAINST THE ROCK--TRY TO MAKE IT SLIDE FORWARD--NOW--UGH!

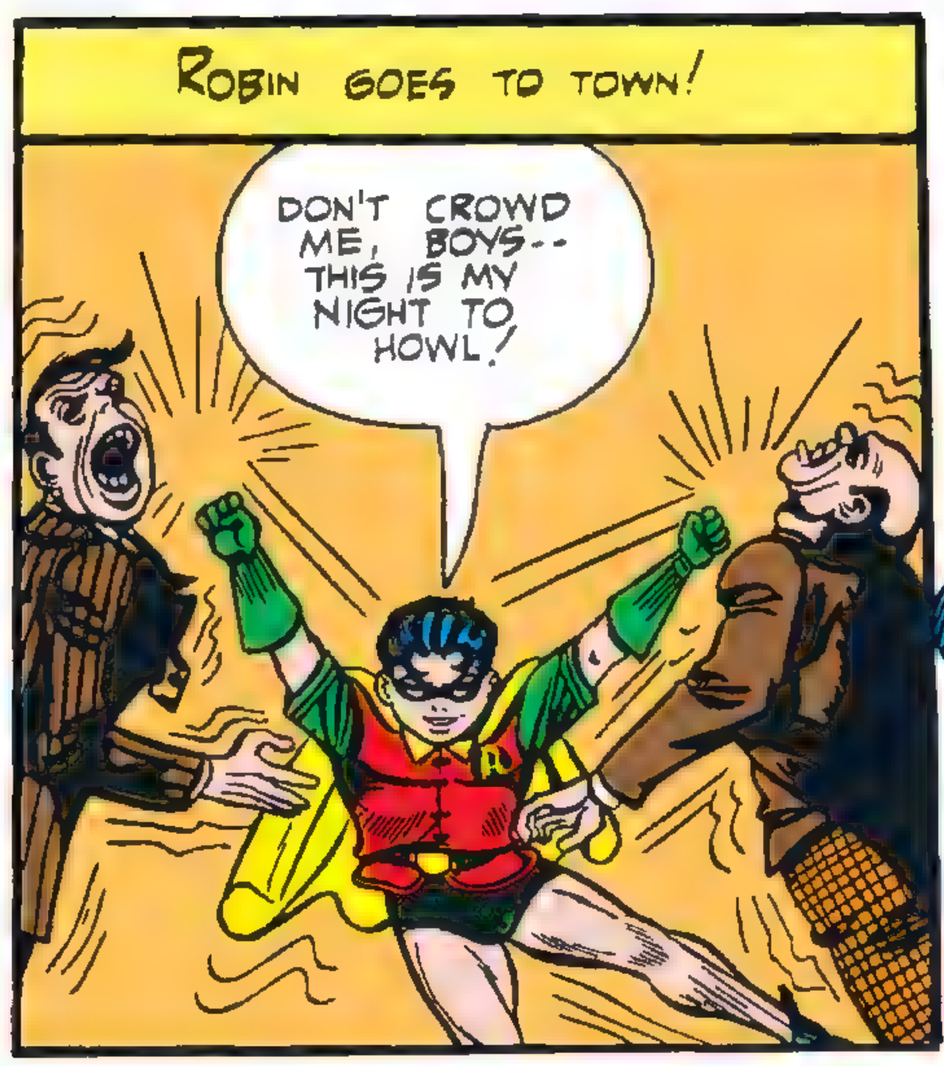

MIRACULOUSLY, THE STONE EASES FORWARD, INCH BY INCH, GROANING, SQUEAKING, PROTESTING BUT, NEVERTHELESS, MOVING--
A SIMPLE ENGINEERING TRICK! WE COULDN'T SLIDE THE HEAVY ROCK ITSELF--BUT WITH THE SILVER PENCILS UNDER EITHER SIDE TO ACT AS ROLLERS--WELL, THERE'S YOUR ANSWER!
ION


MEANWHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY A VILLAINOUS JOKER AND HIS CRONIES BEGIN THEIR LATEST COUP!
AN ANNOYING OBSTACLE REMOVED IN SIMPLE FASHION! NOW TO LOWER THE GATES AND STOP THE ARMORED TRUCK!

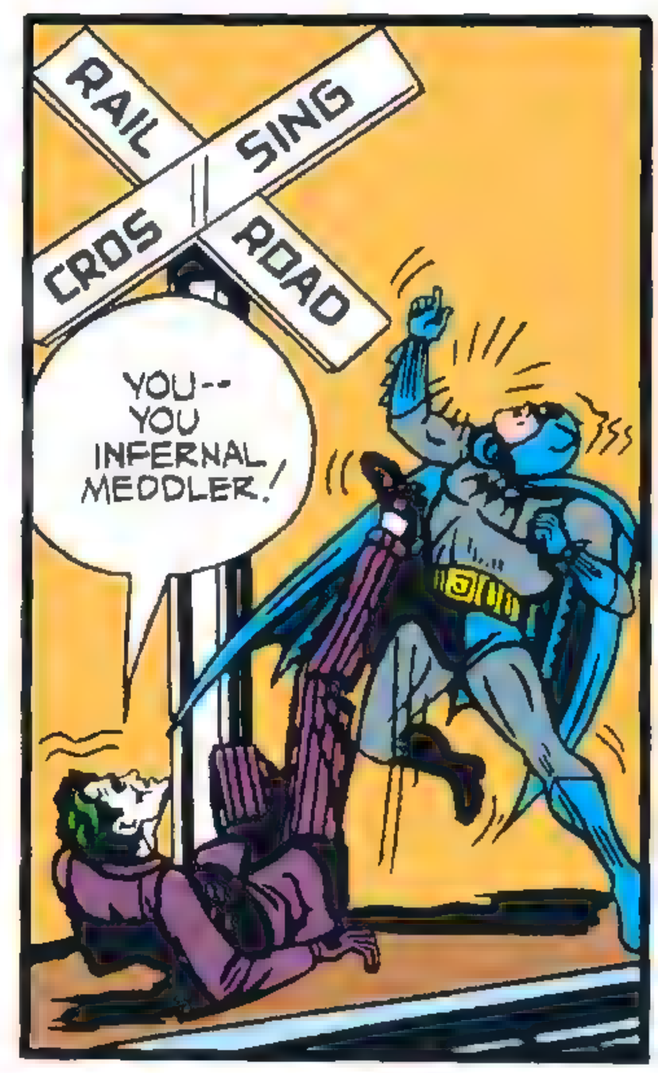
SOME MOMENTS LATER--AN ARMORED BANK TRUCK HALTS BEFORE THE RAILROAD CROSSING--
GATE GOING DOWN!
YEAH--TRAIN MUST BE COMING--WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT!

THEN WITHOUT WARNING--
ALL RIGHT, MEN! FIX THE HAND GRENADES AND BLAST THAT TRUCK, OPEN!


SUDDENLY, THE NIGHT AIR IS SPLIT BY TWO FIGURES PLUNGING FORWARD IN A FURIOUS HEAD-ON CHARGE--
I'LL GIVE YOU A DETAILED EXPLANATION LATER!
BATMAN AND ROBIN--FREE! BUT HOW?

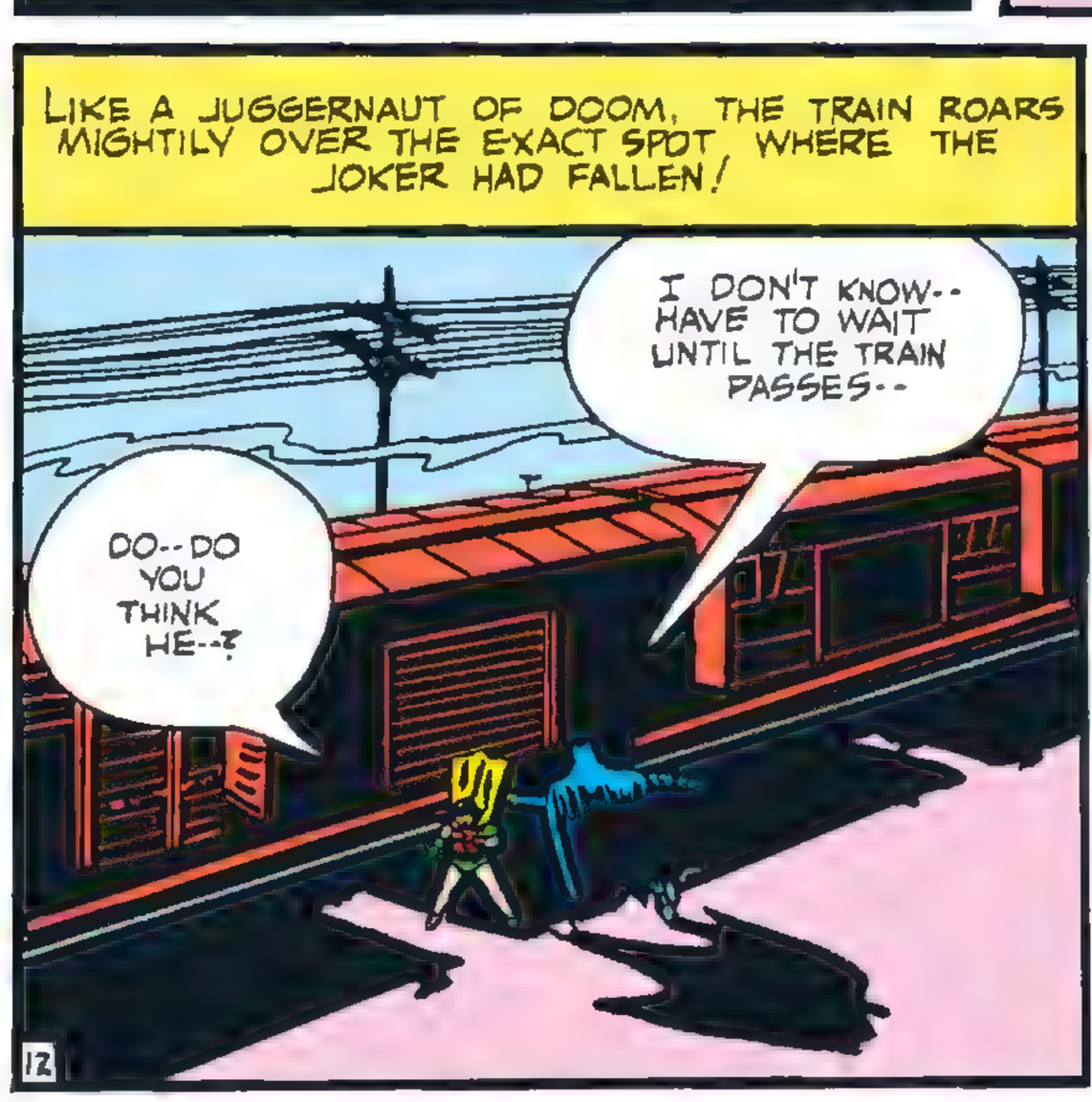

ROBIN GOES TO TOWN!
DON'T CROWD ME, BOYS-- THIS IS MY NIGHT TO HOWL!

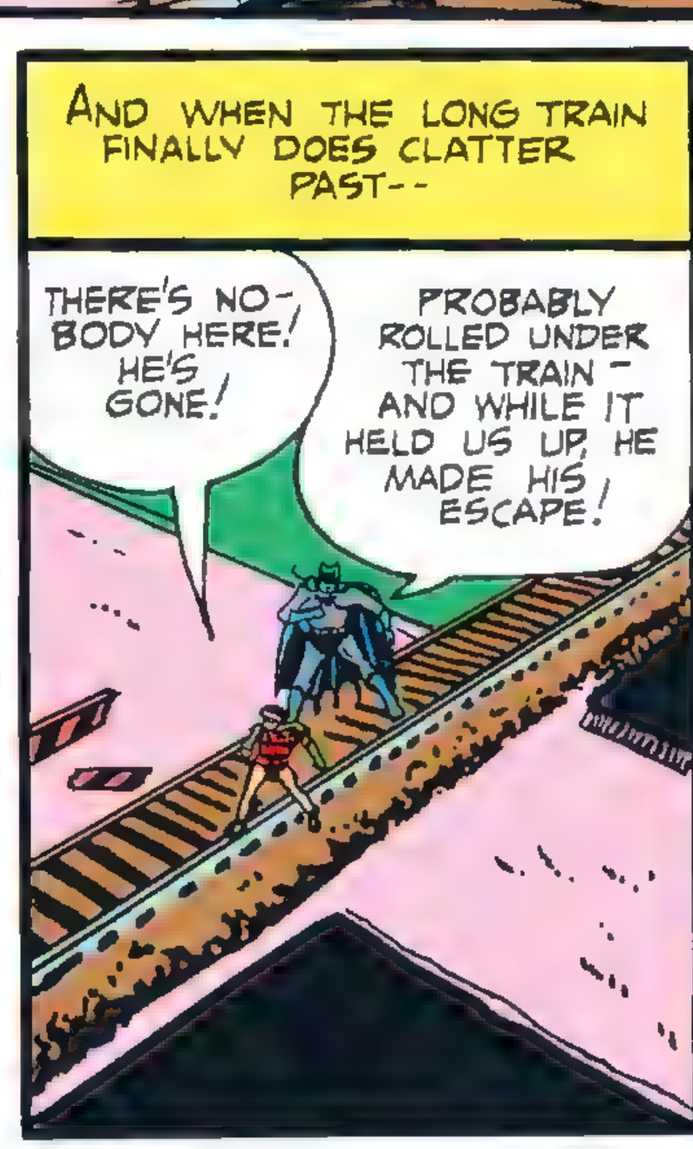
WHILE THE BATMAN AND THE JOKER ONCE AGAIN MEET IN A PERSONAL BATTLE!
HASN'T MY FIST MET YOUR CHIN SOME TIME BEFORE?


RAIL
SING
CROS
ROAD
YOU-- YOU INFERNAL MEDDLER!

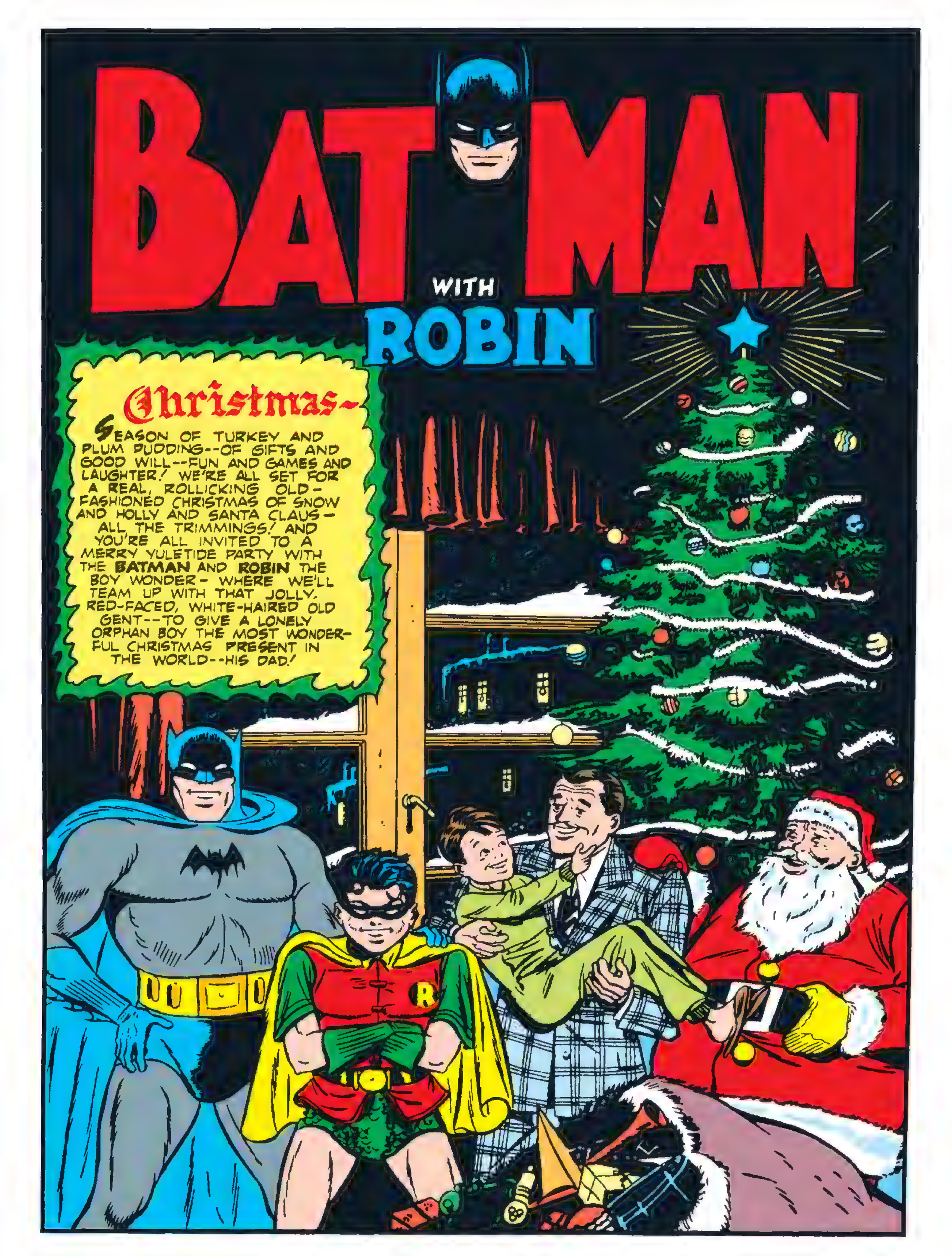
AS THE TWO GREAT ENEMIES CLASH IN TERRIFIC COMBAT--THERE IS THE SUDDEN NEARBY RUMBLE AND THUNDER OF AN APPROACHING EXPRESS TRAIN---

GOOD HEAVENS! THE TRAIN!
R


LIKE A JUGGERNAUT OF DOOM, THE TRAIN ROARS MIGHTILY OVER THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE JOKER HAD FALLEN!
I DON'T KNOW-- HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE TRAIN PASSES--
DO--DO YOU THINK HE--?
12

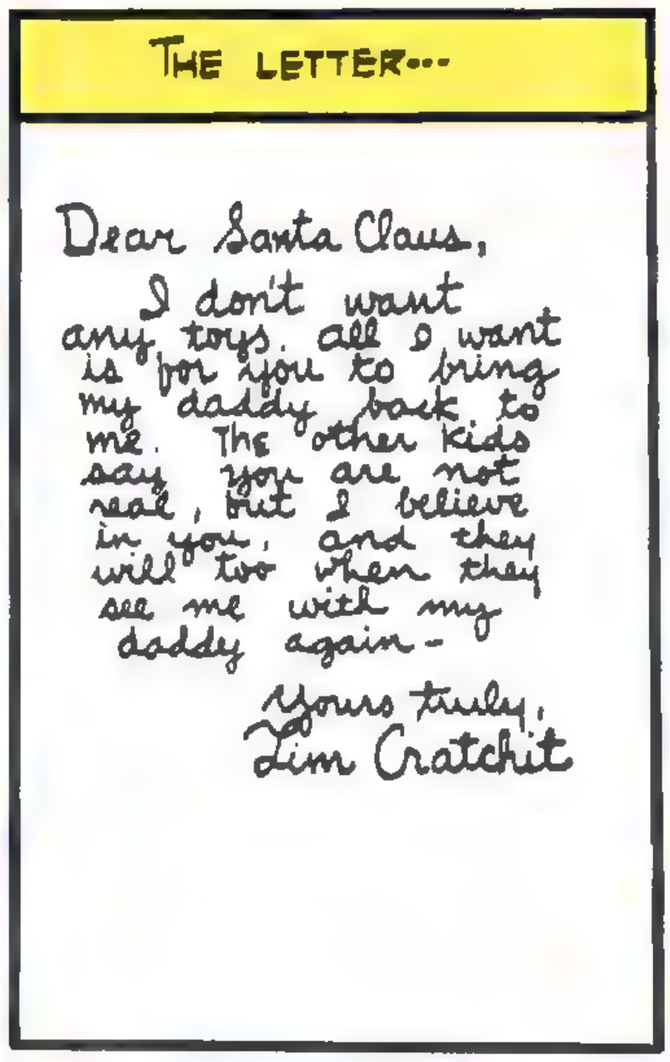

AND WHEN THE LONG TRAIN FINALLY DOES CLATTER PAST--
THERE'S NO-BODY HERE! HE'S GONE!
PROBABLY ROLLED UNDER THE TRAIN - AND WHILE IT HELD US UP, HE MADE HIS ESCAPE!

THE JOKER-- GONE AGAIN!
YES--BUT HE'LL BE BACK--HE ALWAYS COMES BACK-- AND WHEN HE DOES, HE'LL FIND US READY AND WAITING!
BOB KANE

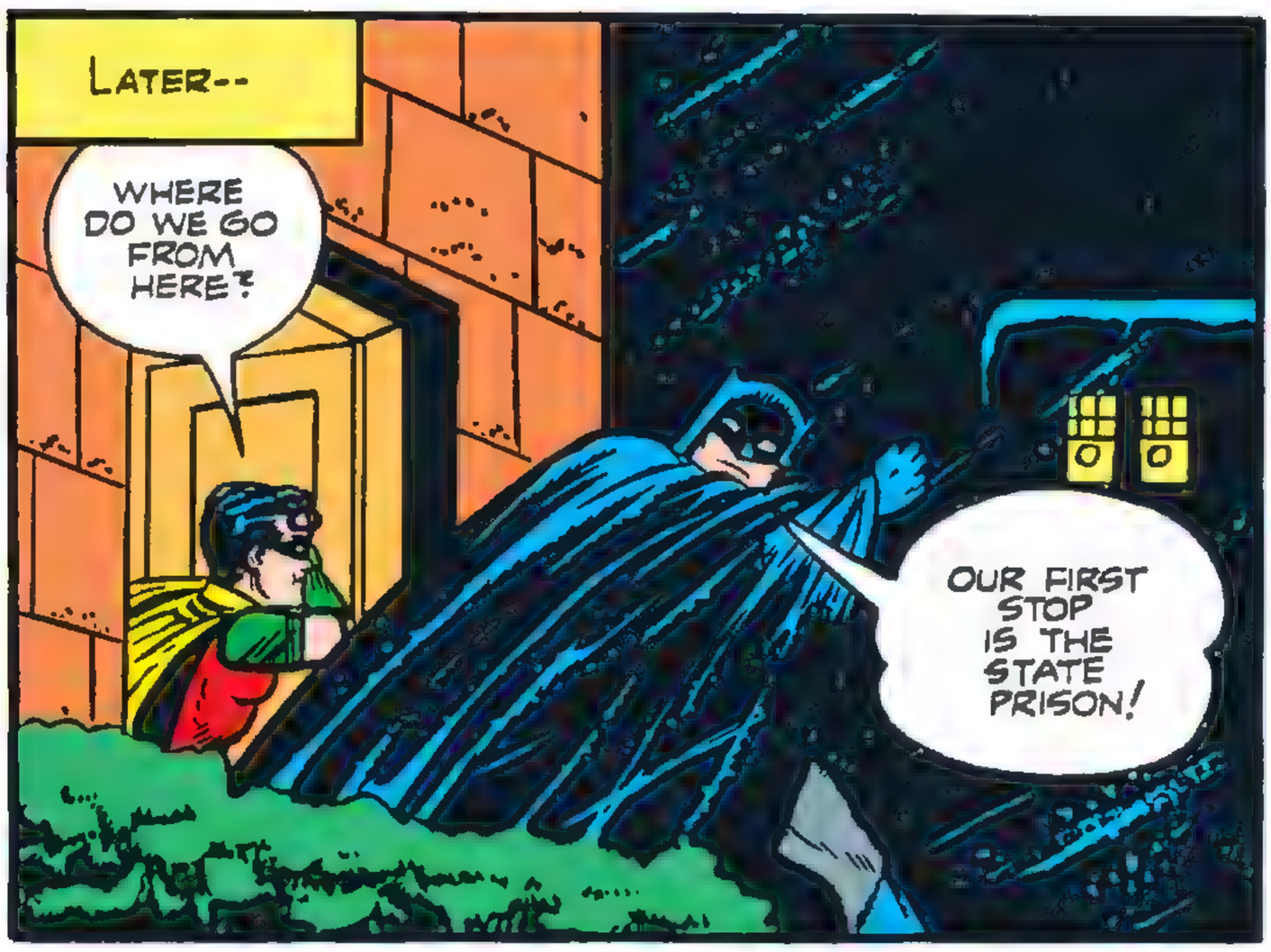

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
Christmas-
SEASON OF TURKEY AND PLUM PUDDING--OF GIFTS AND GOOD WILL--FUN AND GAMES AND LAUGHTER! WE'RE ALL SET FOR A REAL, ROLLICKING OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS OF SNOW AND HOLLY AND SANTA CLAUS-ALL THE TRIMMINGS! AND YOU'RE ALL INVITED TO A MERRY YULETIDE PARTY WITH THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER- WHERE WE'LL TEAM UP WITH THAT JOLLY, RED-FACED, WHITE-HAIRED OLD GENT--TO GIVE A LONELY ORPHAN BOY THE MOST WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT IN THE WORLD--HIS DAD!

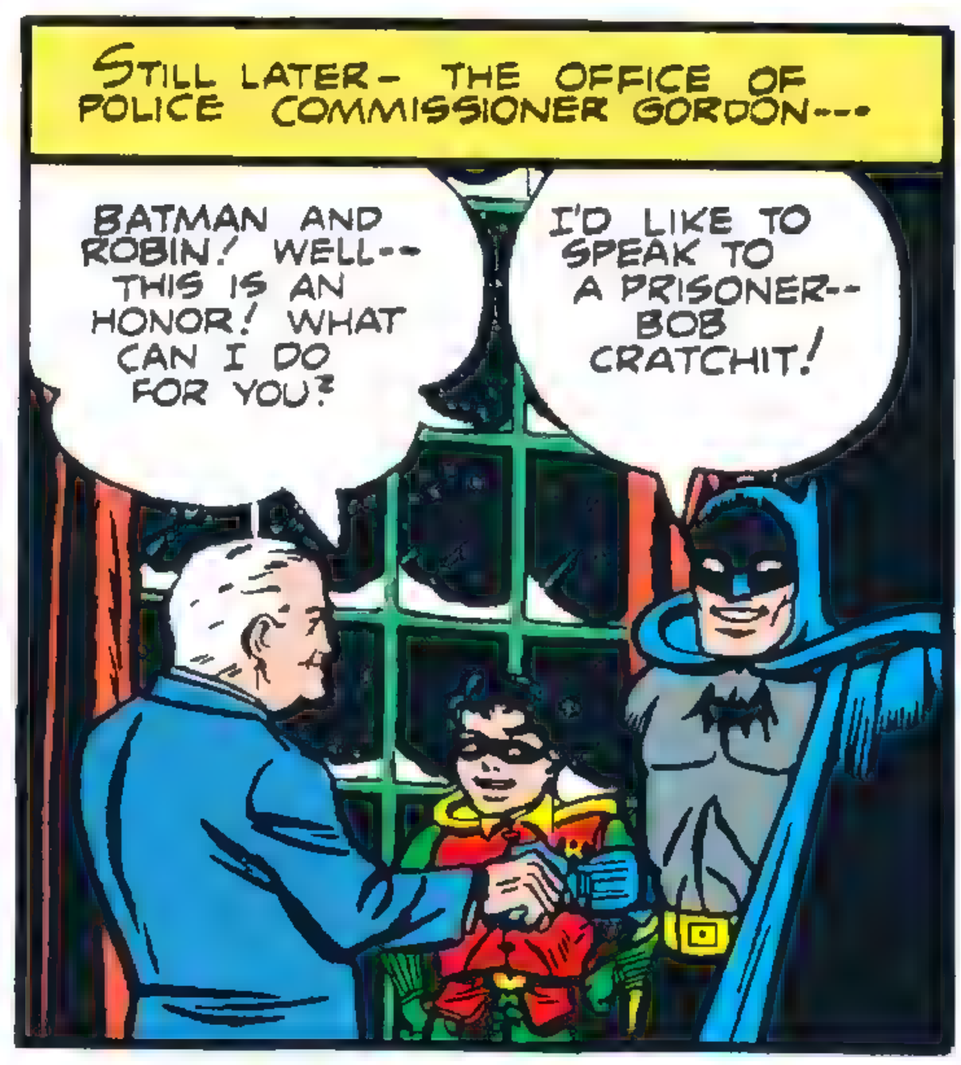
THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, AND A SMOOTH, WHITE SHEET OF SNOW BLANKETS THE ROOFTOPS AND STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY.
HAPPY CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS PUSH THEIR WAY INTO CROWDED DEPARTMENT STORES. AMONG THEM ARE BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON-
OOPS! HEY--WHERE ARE YOU, DICK?
HERE I AM!
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU, BROTHER!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
YES- EVERYONE SEEMS TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO BRING JOY TO OTHERS!
WHERE DO WE GO NOW?
TO THE ORPHANAGE. I WANT TO SEE IF THOSE TOYS I ORDERED GET THERE IN TIME!
THANK YOU, SIR!
AT THE ORPHANAGE---
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THOSE GIFTS!
IT'S LITTLE ENOUGH I CAN DO TO MAKE THIS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS FOR THE POOR, PARENTLESS TOTS! I--EH--WHAT'S THIS?
THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS!
YOU HEARD ME- THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS!
BUT THERE IS, TOO! YOU WRITE HIM A LETTER AND HE BRINGS YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK FOR! MY DADDY TOLD ME SO!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY DADDY! YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF US HERE!
BUT I HAVE GOT A DADDY-- ONLY HE'S AWAY ON SOME LONG TRIP-- GEE--I WISH I KNEW WHEN HE WAS COMING BACK!
HE'S NOT EVER COMING BACK-- BUT IF YOU BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM TO SEND YOUR DADDY TO YOU? HAH!
ALL RIGHT--I WILL! AND WHEN MY DADDY COMES HERE YOU'LL BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS THEN! YOU'LL SEE!
SURE, TIMMY-- BUT, YOUR DADDY AIN'T NEVER COMING BACK 'CAUSE THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS!
THAT'S ONLY KID STUFF!
THAT BOY TIMMY-- IS HIS FATHER DEAD?
NO--HE'S IN JAIL- SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER! SAD CASE, TOO! THE MAN INSISTS HE WAS FRAMED!
2

LATER-- JUST AS BRUCE AND DICK ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE----
MISTER, WILL YOU PLEASE MAIL THIS LETTER FOR ME? PLEASE-- IT'S TO SANTA CLAUS!
WHY, OF COURSE-- AND I'LL SEE THAT HE GETS IT--


THE LETTER---
Dear Santa Claus,
I don't want any toys. all I want is for you to bring my daddy back to me. The other kids say you are not real, but I believe in you, and they will too when they see me with my daddy again-
Yours truly,
Tim Cratchit

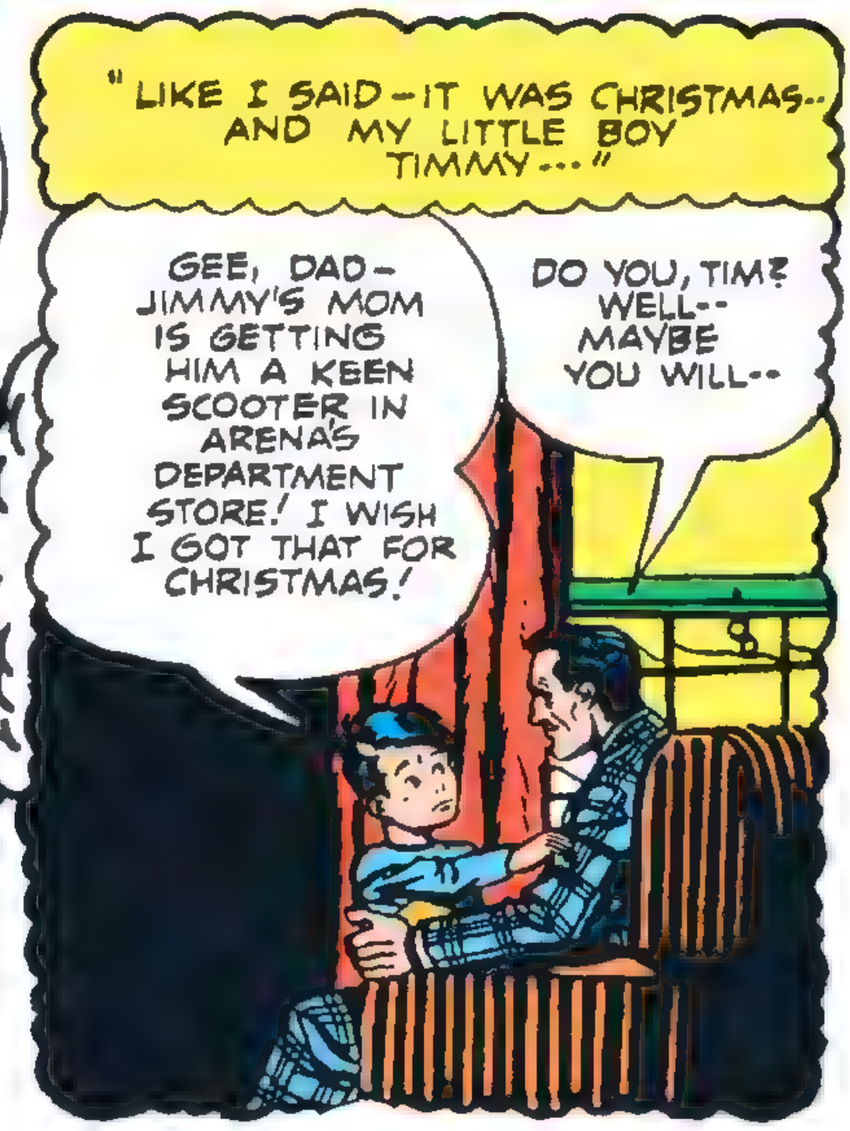
POOR KID! HE'LL BE PRETTY SAD TO FIND THAT SANTA ISN'T BRINGING BACK HIS FATHER!
WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN! C'MON, DICK. THE BATMAN IS GOING TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS!

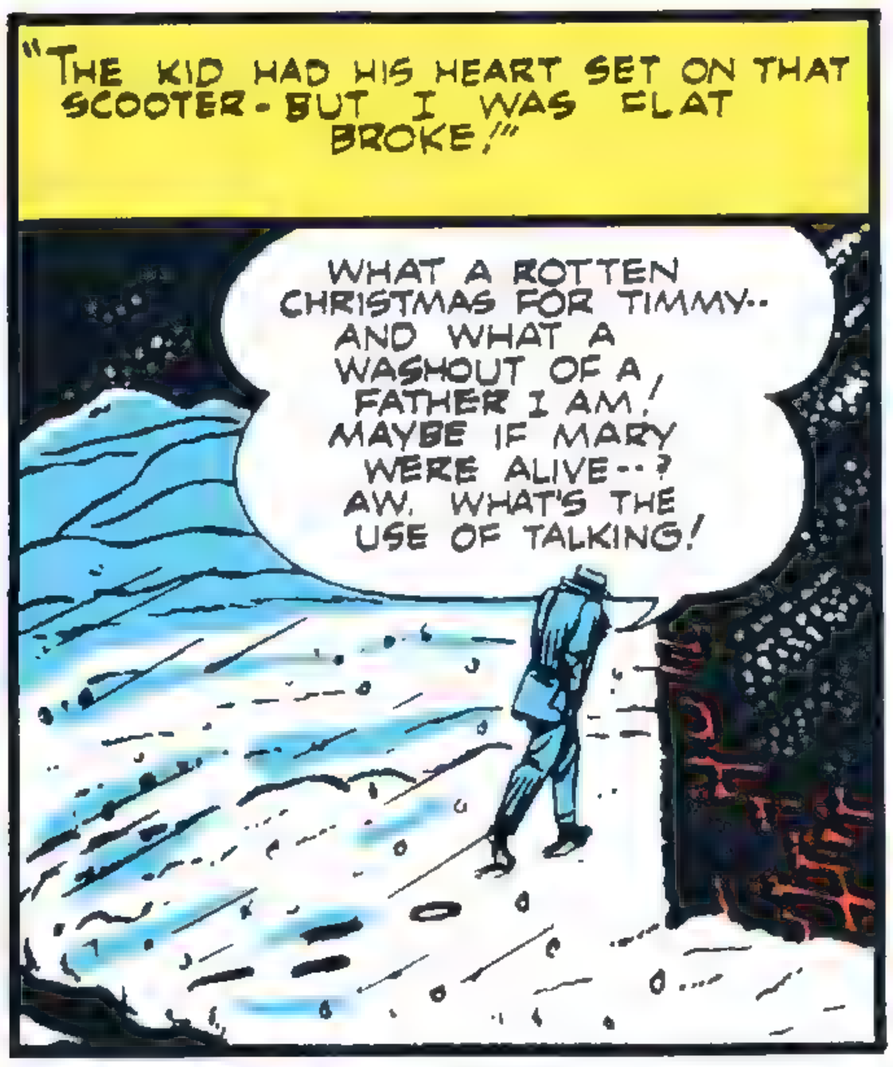

LATER--
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
OUR FIRST STOP IS THE STATE PRISON!


STILL LATER- THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON---
BATMAN AND ROBIN! WELL-- THIS IS AN HONOR! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO A PRISONER-- BOB CRATCHIT!

IN A FEW MOMENTS, THE BATMAN FINDS HIMSELF STANDING IN A CELL----
CRATCHIT---THE COMMISSIONER TELLS ME YOU CLAIM YOU WERE FRAMED! I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR STORY- I'M THE BATMAN!
THE BATMAN? SO WHAT- NOT EVEN YOU CAN HELP ME. BUT IF YOU WANT TO HEAR MY STORY, I GUESS I CAN TELL IT TO YOU--
3

IT STARTS A YEAR AGO- THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS. FUNNY THING--THAT'S TODAY! TIMMY- I WONDER HOW HE IS?---BUT MY STORY-- WELL--

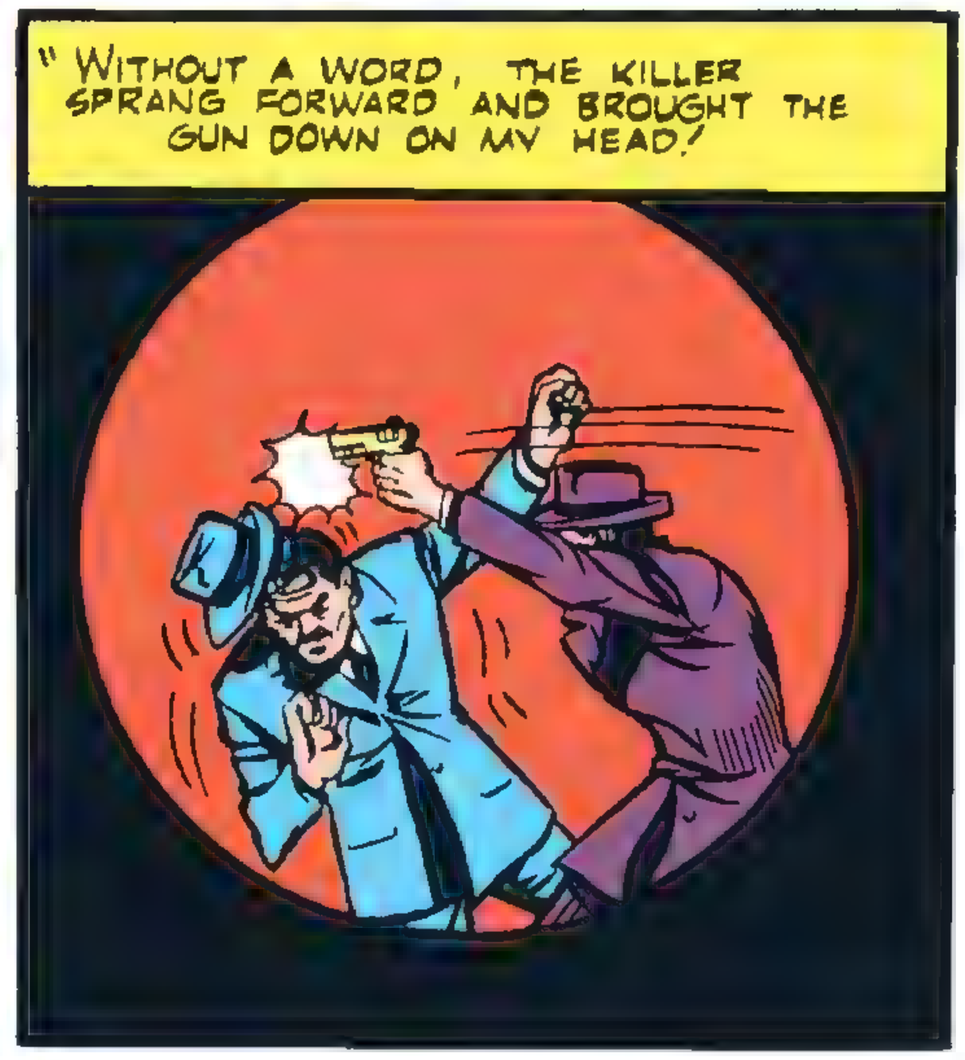

"LIKE I SAID-IT WAS CHRISTMAS-- AND MY LITTLE BOY TIMMY---"
GEE, DAD- JIMMY'S MOM IS GETTING HIM A KEEN SCOOTER IN ARENA'S DEPARTMENT STORE! I WISH I GOT THAT FOR CHRISTMAS!
DO YOU, TIM? WELL-- MAYBE YOU WILL--


"THE KID HAD HIS HEART SET ON THAT SCOOTER - BUT I WAS FLAT BROKE!"
WHAT A ROTTEN CHRISTMAS FOR TIMMY.. AND WHAT A WASHOUT OF A FATHER I AM! MAYBE IF MARY WERE ALIVE..? AW, WHAT'S THE USE OF TALKING!

"THERE IT WAS...THAT SCOOTER.. ALL SHINY AND NEW! I GUESS I LOST MY HEAD FOR A MINUTE. I HAD TO HAVE IT FOR TIMMY!"
I KNOW WHAT I'LL DO. I'LL STEAL ONE..BUT I'LL PAY FOR IT WHEN I GET A JOB...SURE.. IT ISN'T REALLY STEALING!

"SURE.. I KNEW IT WAS WRONG... BUT ALL I COULD SEE WAS TIMMY'S FACE TRUSTING IN ME...HIS DAD! SO..I SNEAKED TO THE BACK..."
DOOR'S OPEN..FUNNY! WHAT'S THAT? A SHOT!

"I RAN INSIDE!"
YOU.. YOU KILLED HIM!


"WITHOUT A WORD, THE KILLER SPRANG FORWARD AND BROUGHT THE GUN DOWN ON MY HEAD!

"WHEN I AWOKE, IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE!"
THE WATCHMAN SAW YOU WORKING ON THE SAFE. YOU KILLED HIM.. BUT HE MANAGED TO SLUG YOU BEFORE HE DIED! ISN'T THAT IT?
NO..I DIDN'T DO IT!

"I TOLD THEM MY STORY AND THEY TRACED THE GUN TO A PETTY THIEF NAMED HAL FINK!
HE WAS ROOMIN' WITH ME..HE WAS BROKE. I FELT SORRY FOR HIM..BUT WHAT DOES THE MUGG DO BUT STEAL MY GUN AND MURDER A GUY..THAT'S GRATITUDE FOR YOU!
YOU KILLED THE WATCHMAN- NOT I!

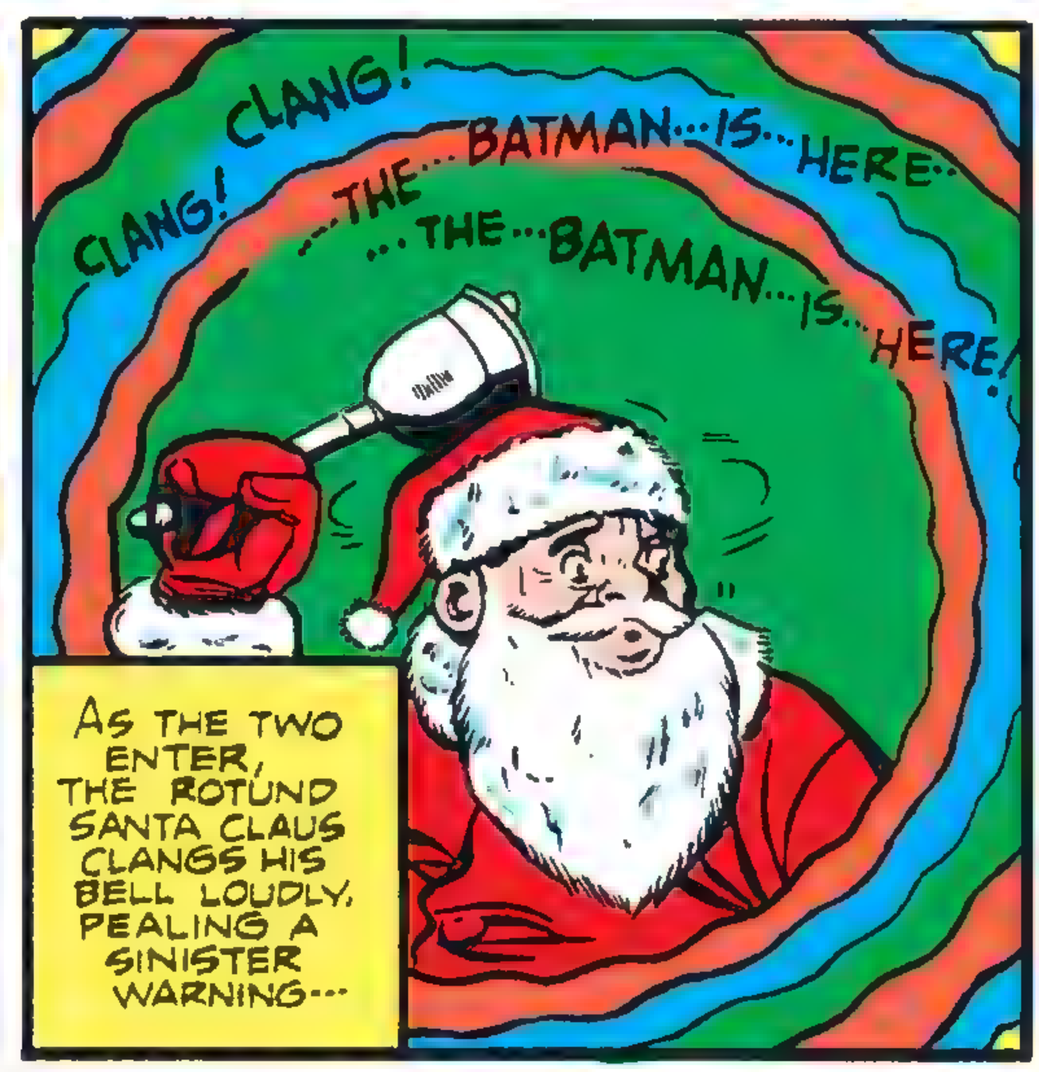
YOU CAN GUESS THE REST. THE JURY GAVE ME A LIFE SENTENCE! BUT I DIDN'T DO IT! I SWEAR IT!
I BELIEVE YOU! HAL FINK CERTAINLY THOUGHT FAST, DIDN'T HE? COVERED HIMSELF UP VERY NEATLY!

CRATCHIT, I THINK I MAY BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING! WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS YOU MAY DISCOVER THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!
BATMAN, IF YOU GET ME OUT OF HERE, I'LL BE INDEBTED TO YOU ALL MY LIFE!

MINUTES LATER...
SAY...ISN'T HAL FINK A SORT OF A BIG SHOT NOW?
YES, HAL HAS GONE FAR FROM THAT LITTLE THIEVING RAT OF A YEAR AGO- NOW HE'S A BIG RAT!

BACK AT THE PRISON A GUARD IN THE PAY OF CROOKDOM MAKES A PHONE CALL-
YEAH, HAL-- THE BATMAN WAS PUMPING BOB CRATCHIT-- ABOUT THAT WATCHMAN MURDER-
WELL-- THAT MEANS HE'LL BE OVER TO SEE ME NEXT. I'LL BE READY FOR HIM- READY AND WAITING-

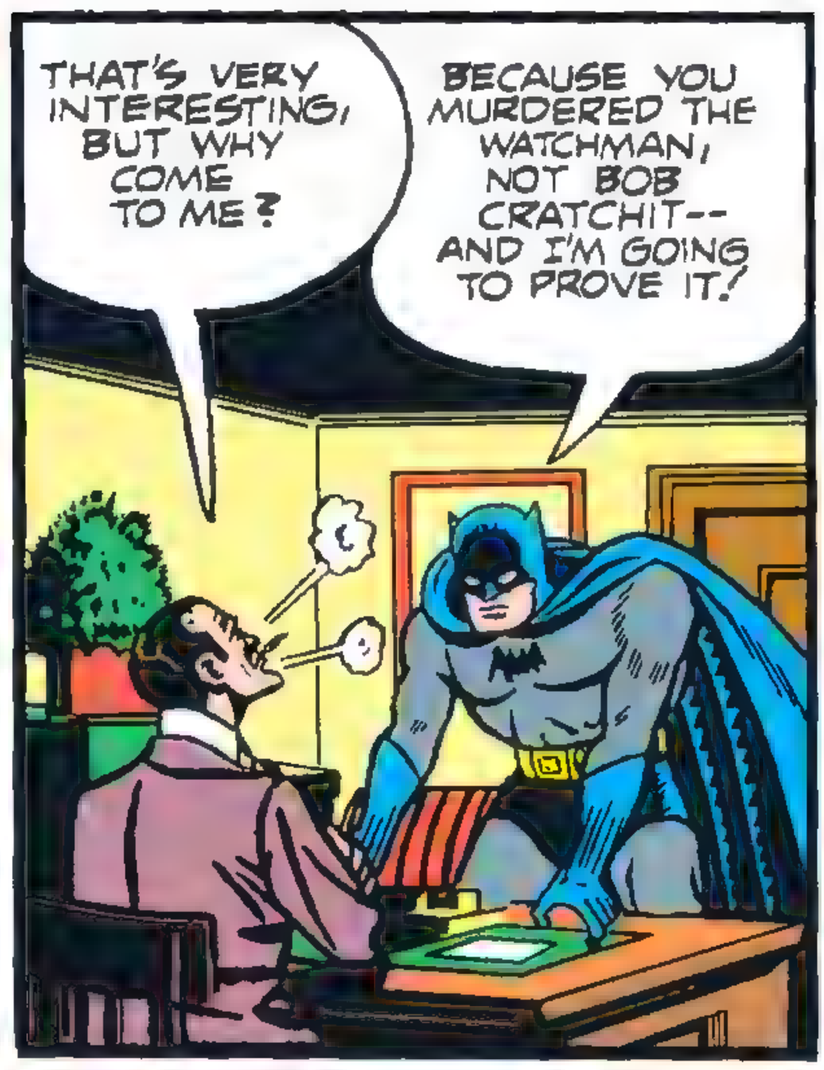
WHAT A DUMP! IF FINK IS SUCH A BIG SHOT, WHY DOESN'T HE LIVE IN A BETTER HOUSE?
FINK OWNS THIS PLACE, BUT HE HAS THE INSIDE FIXED UP LIKE A PALACE--GUESS HE LIKES THE ATMOSPHERE HERE!


CLANG! CLANG!
...THE...BATMAN...IS...HERE...
...THE...BATMAN...IS...HERE!
AS THE TWO ENTER, THE ROTUND SANTA CLAUS CLANGS HIS BELL LOUDLY, PEALING A SINISTER WARNING...

SHH! WE'LL TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE!

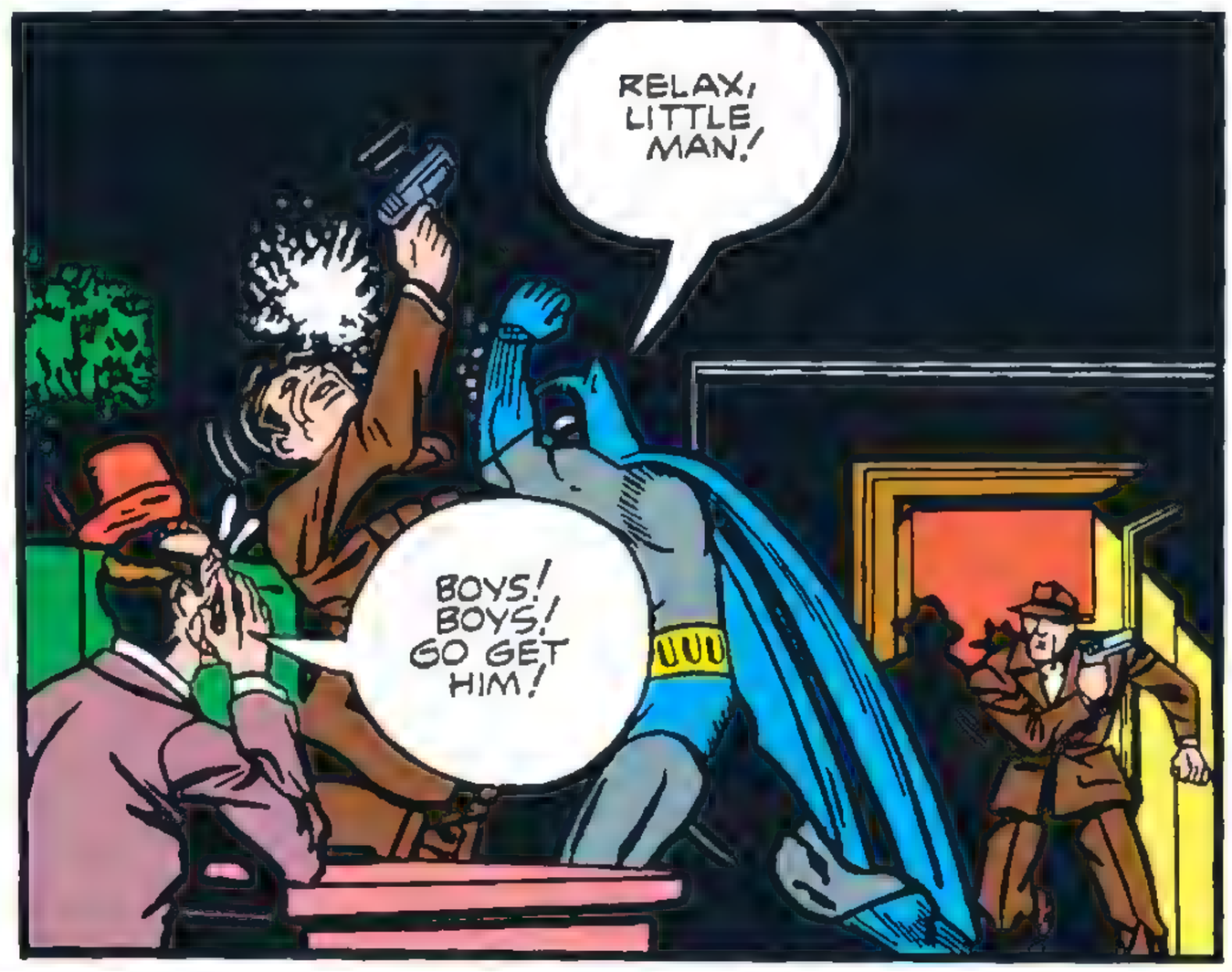
HELLO, HAL-- BET YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SANTA CLAUS!
BATMAN!

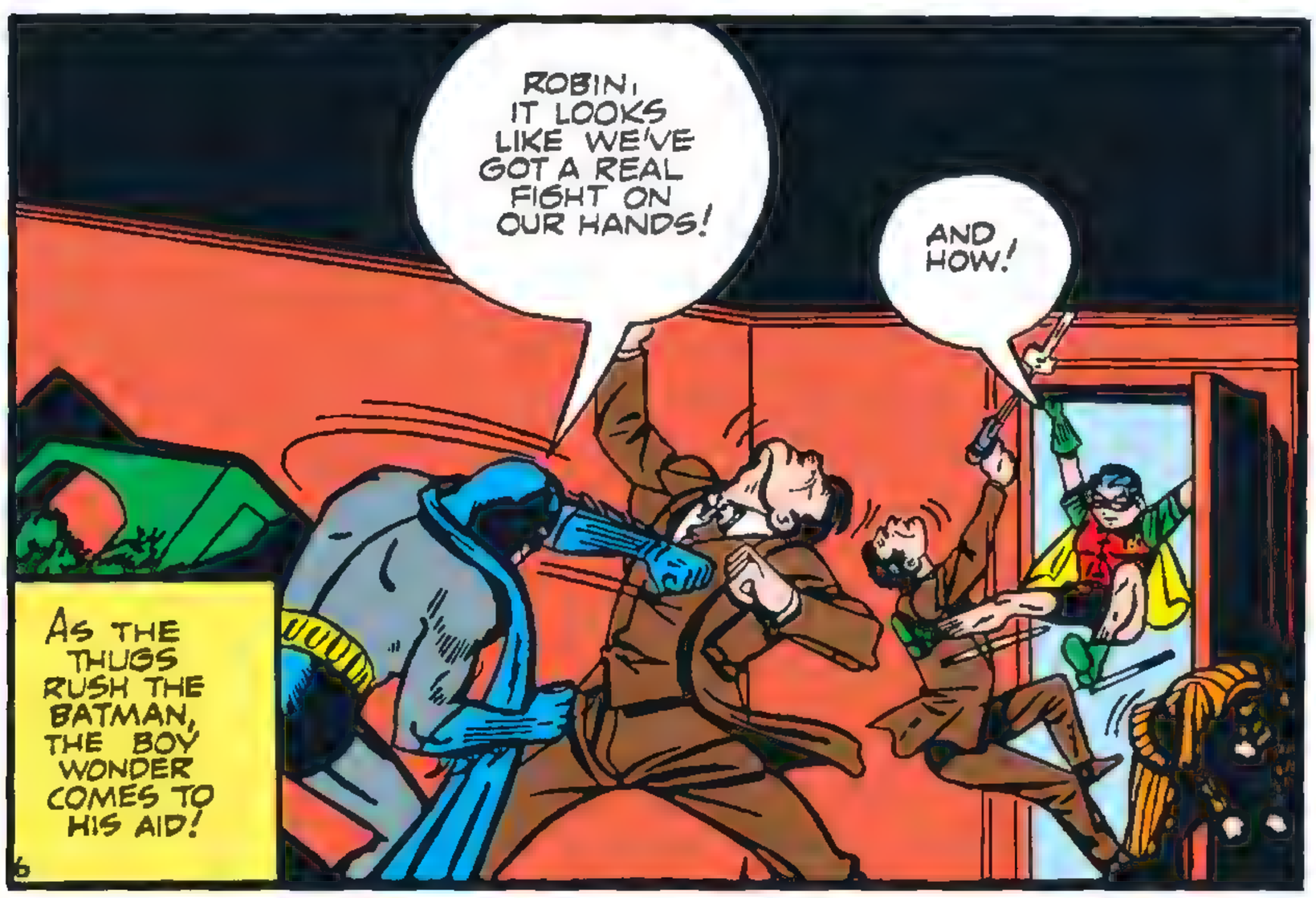
WHY THE SOCIAL CALL?
MURDER! A MURDER A YEAR OLD TODAY! THE MURDER OF A NIGHT WATCHMAN IN ARENA'S DEPARTMENT STORE!


THAT'S VERY INTERESTING, BUT WHY COME TO ME?
BECAUSE YOU MURDERED THE WATCHMAN, NOT BOB CRATCHIT-- AND I'M GOING TO PROVE IT!

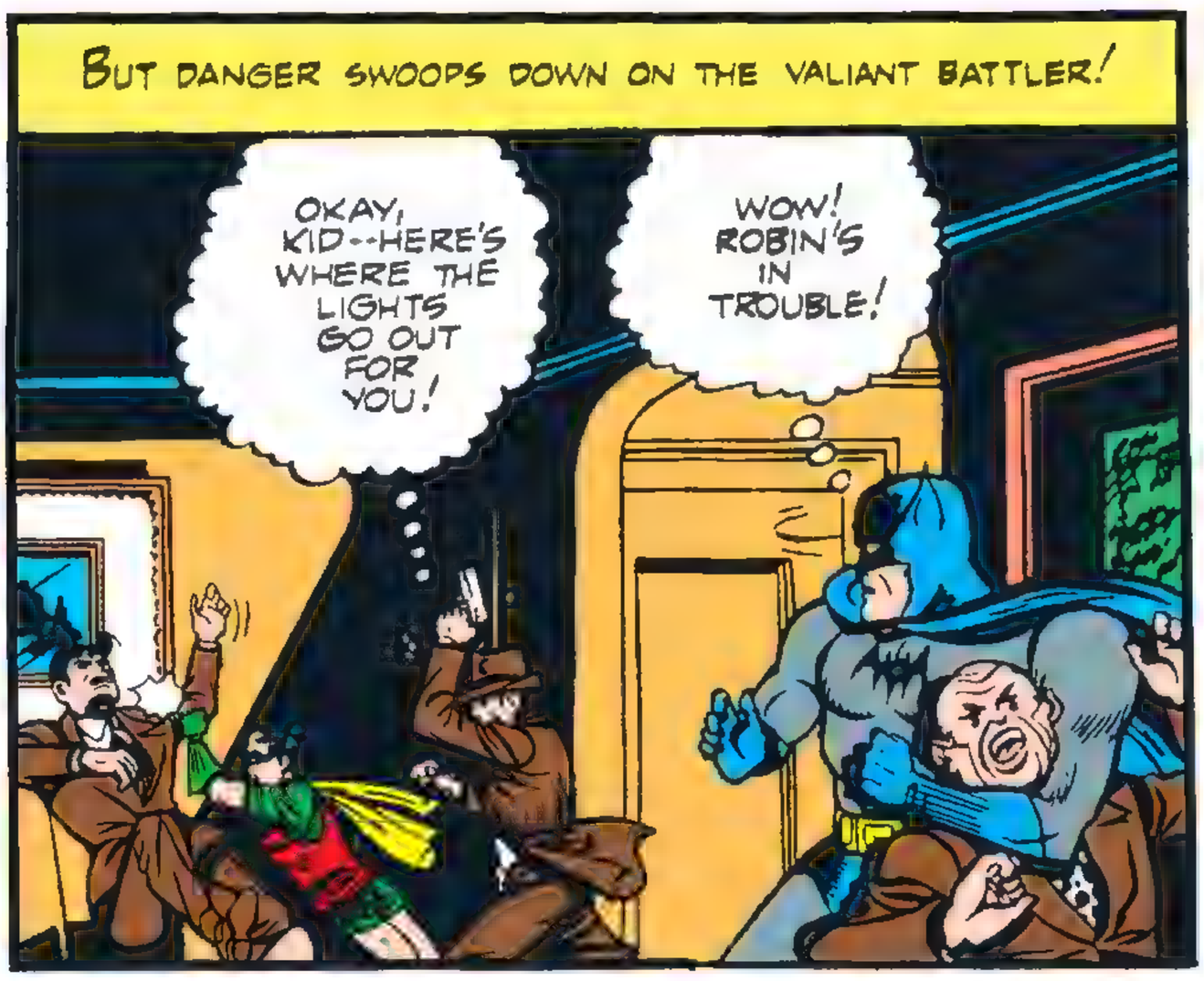
NO YOU'RE NOT--- 'CAUSE THIS SAYS SO!

AH--BUT THERE'S THIS TO CONSIDER, TOO!
YOW!

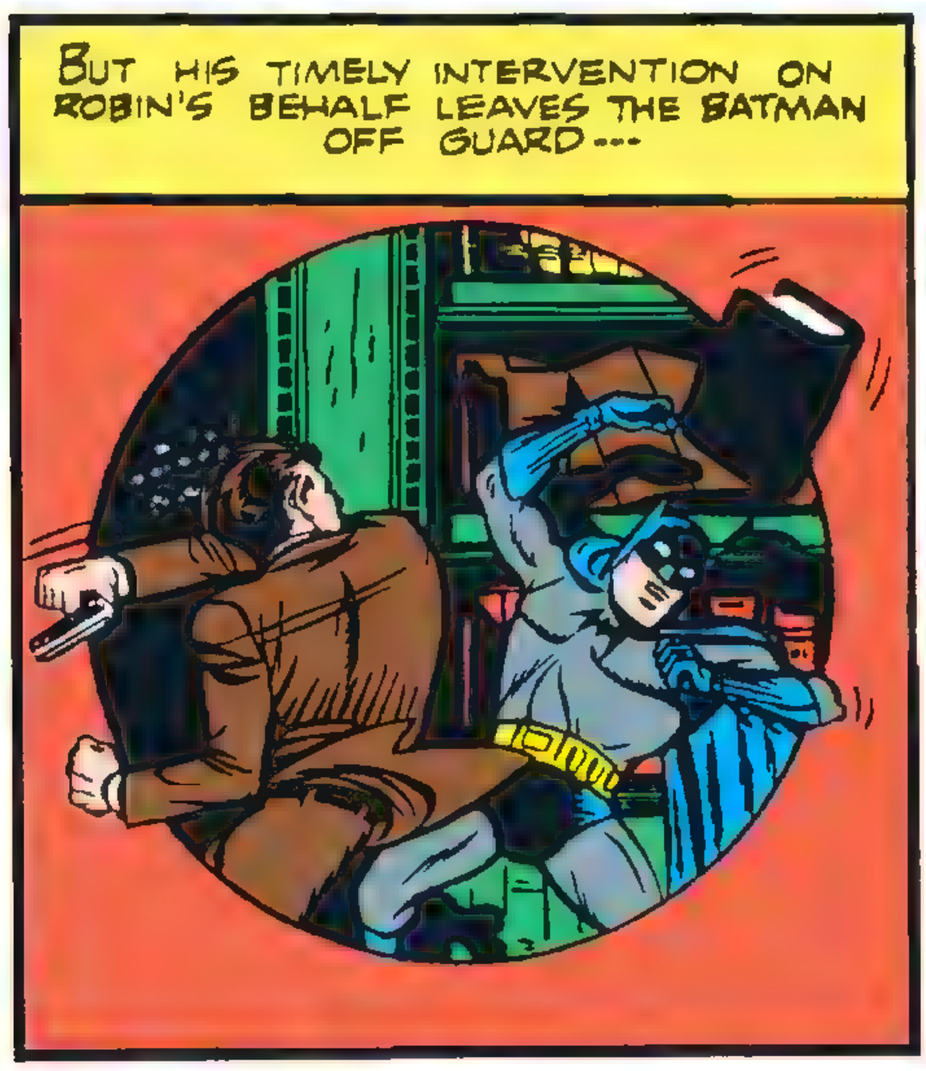

RELAX, LITTLE MAN!
BOYS! BOYS! GO GET HIM!

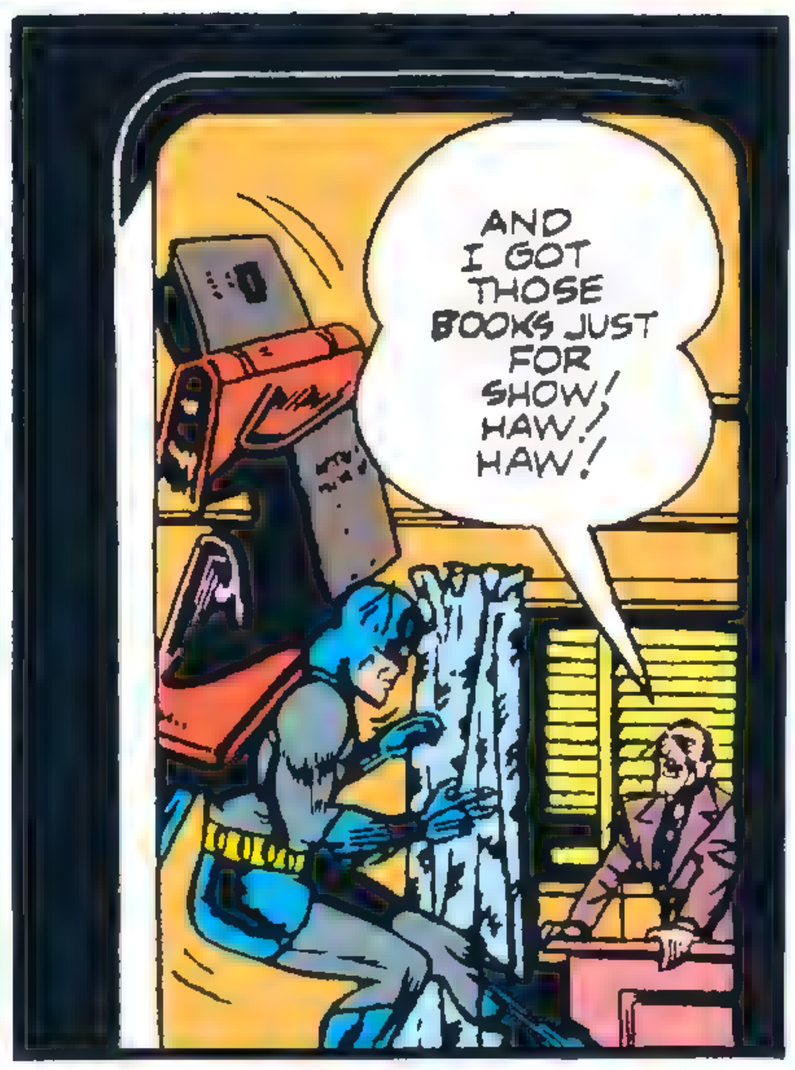

ROBIN, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A REAL FIGHT ON OUR HANDS!
AND HOW!
AS THE THUGS RUSH THE BATMAN, THE BOY WONDER COMES TO HIS AID!

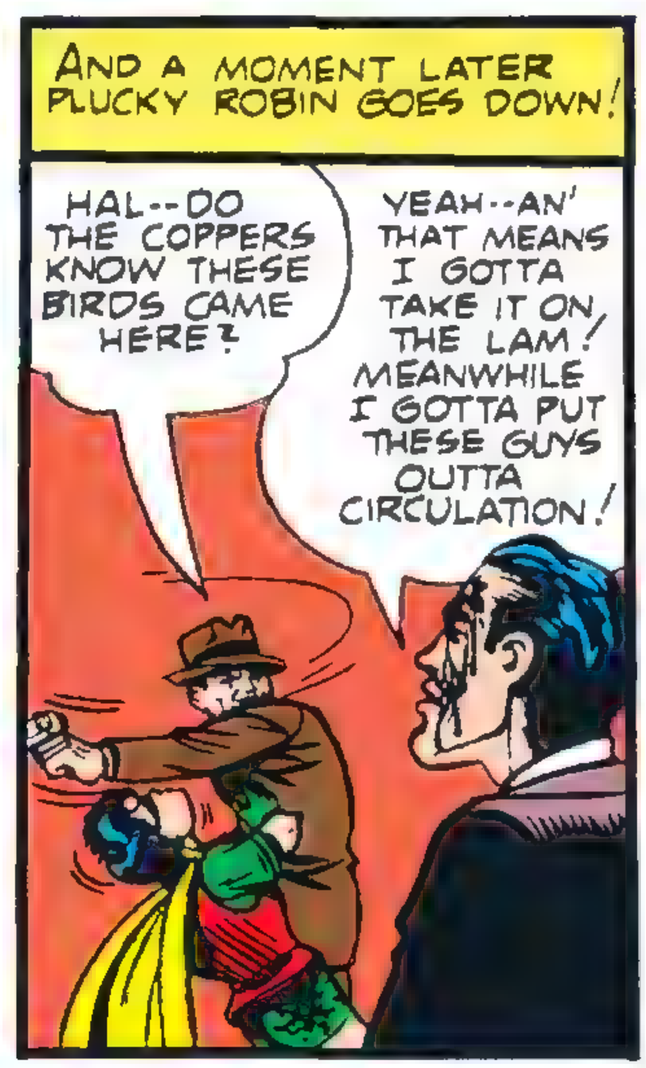
NIMBLE-BRAINED ROBIN MAKES GOOD USE OF A COAT-HANGER!
MIND IF I HANG ONE ON YOUR CHINS?

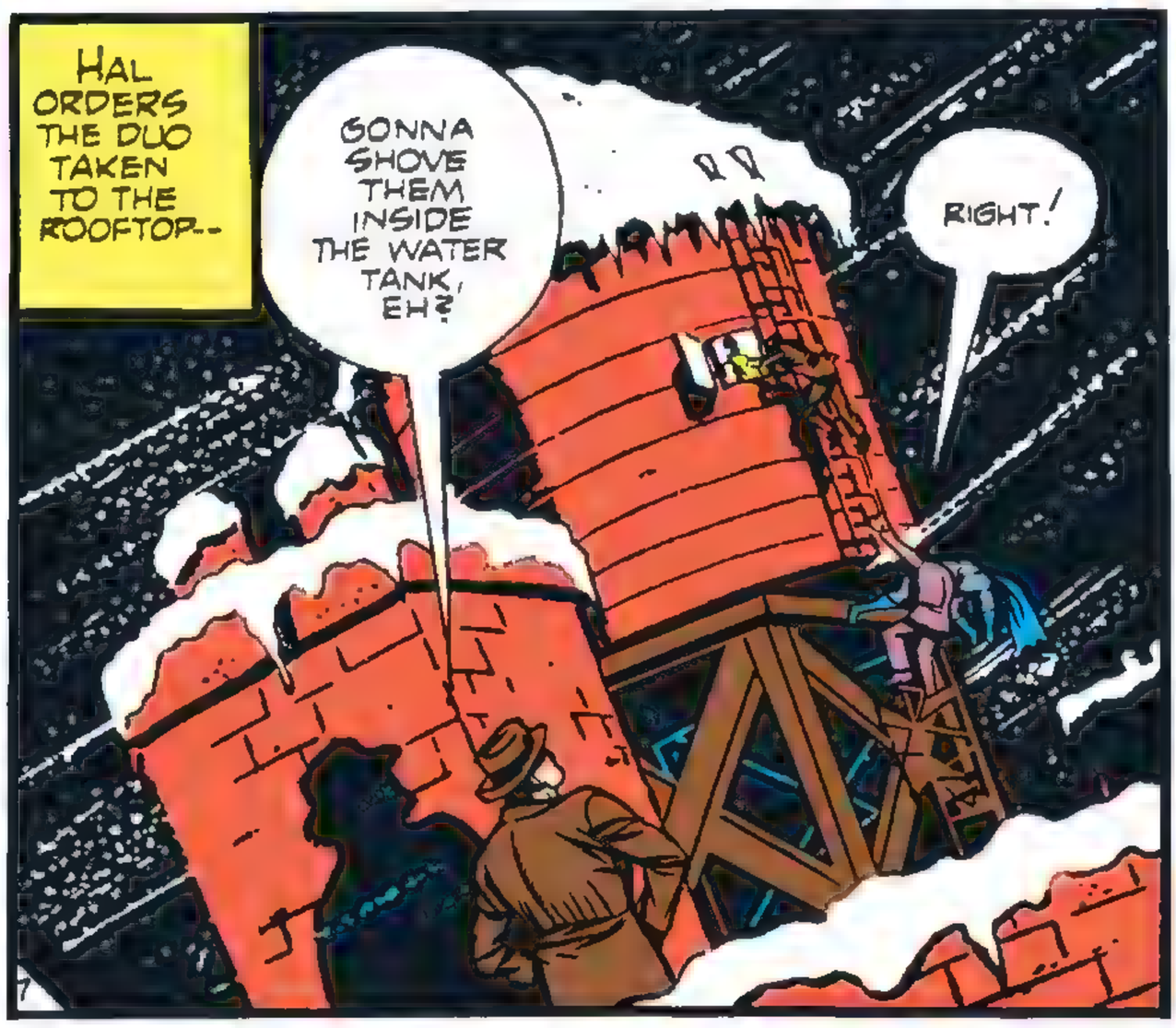

BUT DANGER SWOOPS DOWN ON THE VALIANT BATTLER!
OKAY, KID--HERE'S WHERE THE LIGHTS GO OUT FOR YOU!
WOW! ROBIN'S IN TROUBLE!

A SWIFT, ACCURATE THROW, AND THE GUN SINKS HARMLESSLY INTO A SOFT PILLOW!
HUH?
?


BUT HIS TIMELY INTERVENTION ON ROBIN'S BEHALF LEAVES THE BATMAN OFF GUARD---

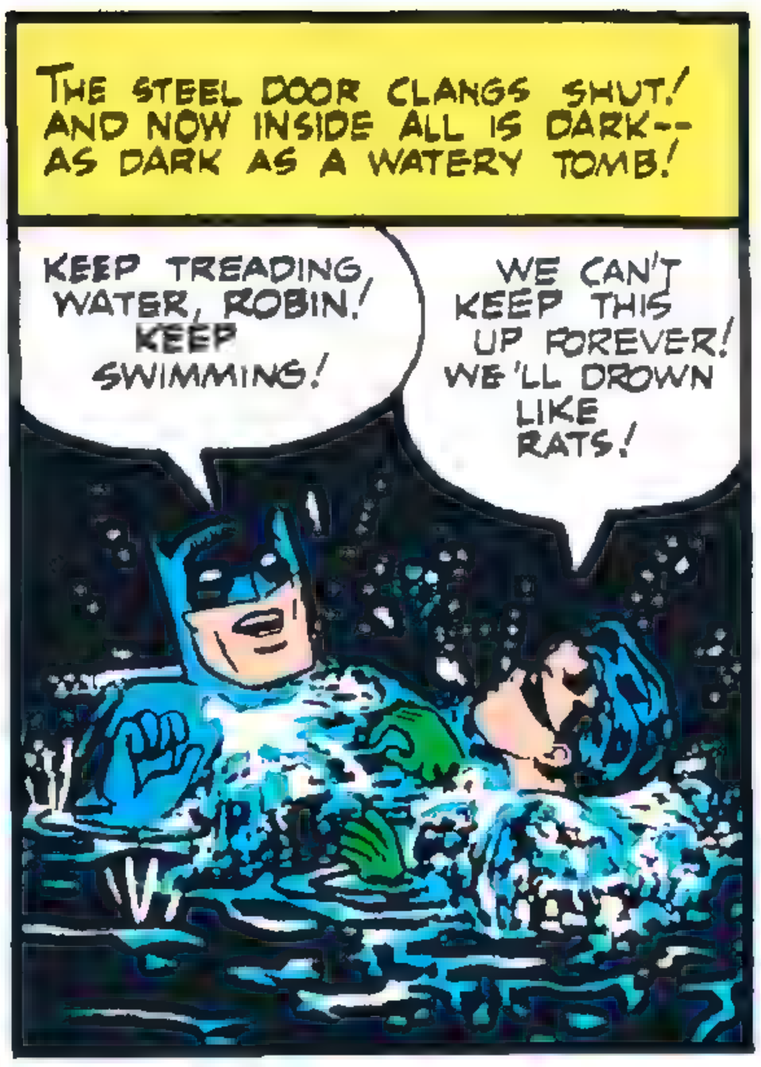

AND I GOT THOSE BOOKS JUST FOR SHOW! HAW! HAW!

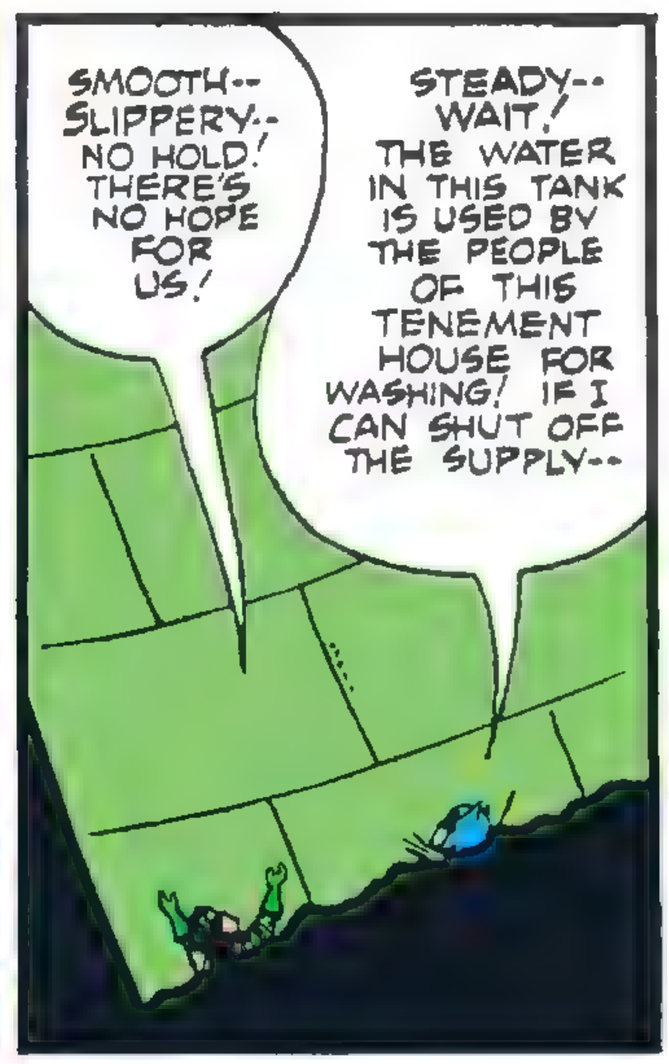

AND A MOMENT LATER PLUCKY ROBIN GOES DOWN!
HAL--DO THE COPPERS KNOW THESE BIRDS CAME HERE?
YEAH--AN' THAT MEANS I GOTTA TAKE IT ON THE LAM! MEANWHILE I GOTTA PUT THESE GUYS OUTTA CIRCULATION!

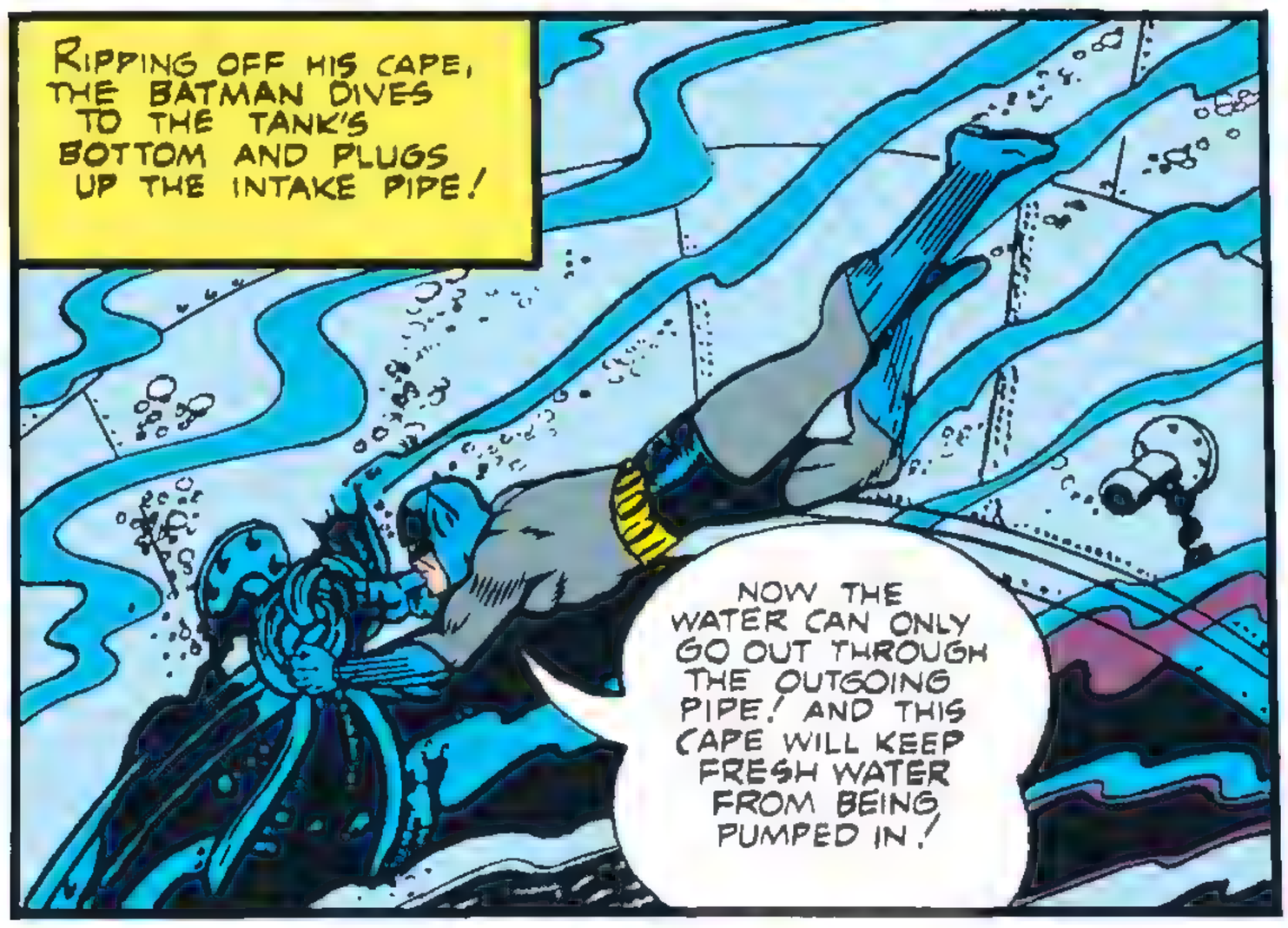

HAL ORDERS THE DUO TAKEN TO THE ROOFTOP--
GONNA SHOVE THEM INSIDE THE WATER TANK, EH?
RIGHT!

A STEEL DOOR IS OPENED AND---
---ICY WATER SHOCKS BATMAN AND ROBIN INTO A HORRIBLE AWAKENING--

TRY TO GET OUT OF THIS, BATMAN! THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU TO GET A GRIP, AND PRETTY SOON YOU'RE GONNA GET TIRED OF SWIMMING. HA! HA!


THE STEEL DOOR CLANGS SHUT! AND NOW INSIDE ALL IS DARK-- AS DARK AS A WATERY TOMB!
KEEP TREADING WATER, ROBIN! KEEP SWIMMING!
WE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOREVER! WE'LL DROWN LIKE RATS!

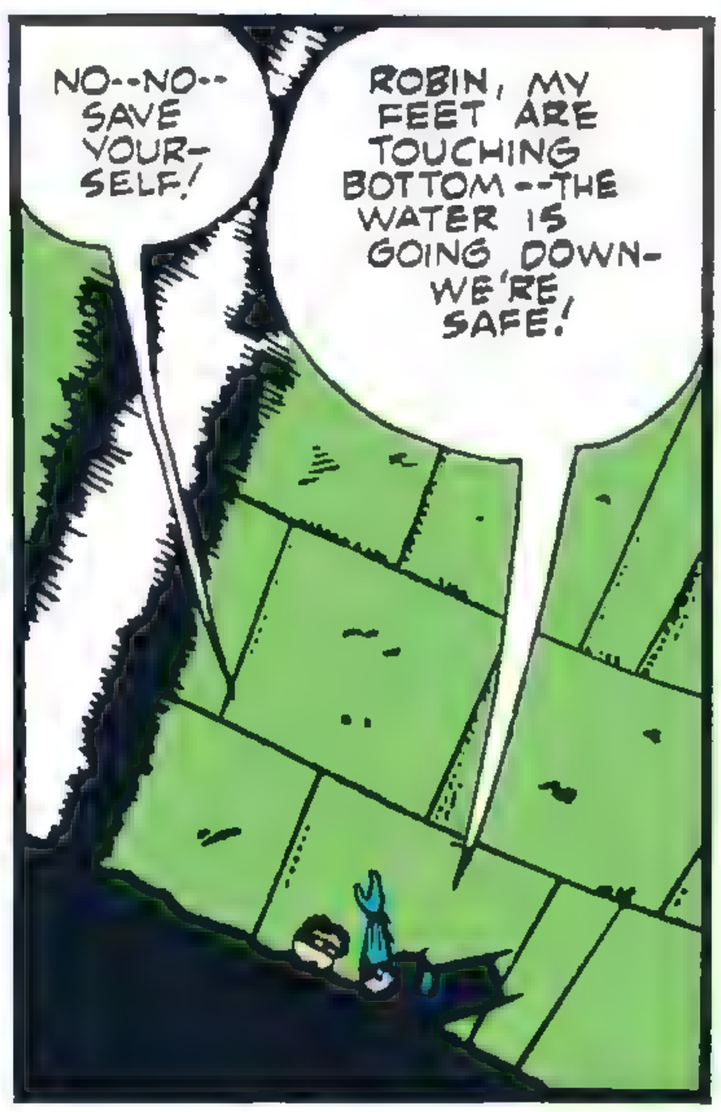

SMOOTH-- SLIPPERY-- NO HOLD! THERE'S NO HOPE FOR US!
STEADY-- WAIT! THE WATER IN THIS TANK IS USED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS TENEMENT HOUSE FOR WASHING! IF I CAN SHUT OFF THE SUPPLY--


RIPPING OFF HIS CAPE, THE BATMAN DIVES TO THE TANK'S BOTTOM AND PLUGS UP THE INTAKE PIPE!
NOW THE WATER CAN ONLY GO OUT THROUGH THE OUTGOING PIPE! AND THIS CAPE WILL KEEP FRESH WATER FROM BEING PUMPED IN!

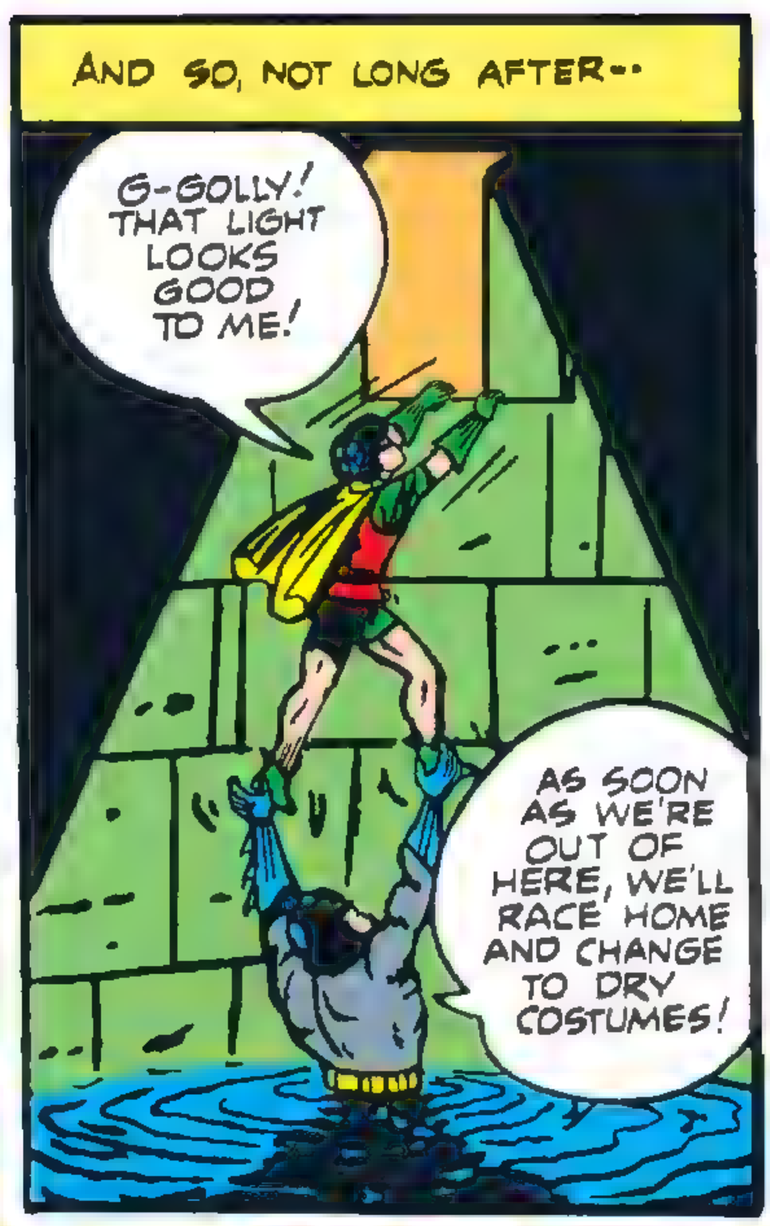
NOW LET'S HOPE SOMEBODY TAKES A BATH OR USES ENOUGH WATER TO LOWER THE LEVEL IN HERE SO WE CAN STAND ON THE BOTTOM!
GOLLY--TO THINK OUR LIVES DEPEND UPON SOMEBODY TAKING A BATH!

AND WHILE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TRY TO KEEP ABOVE WATER--DOWN BELOW--
WHAT NOW, HAL?
AS SOON AS I GET THIS BLASTED INK OFF ME, WE'LL PULL ONE LAST JOB IN THIS BURG AND SCRAM TILL THE HEAT'S OFF!

MEANWHILE...
G-GOLLY! M-MY ARMS AND LEGS FEEL LIKE L-LEAD! N-NO STRENGTH LEFT!
COURAGE, ROBIN-- I'LL KEEP YOU UP!
8


NO--NO-- SAVE YOUR-SELF!
ROBIN, MY FEET ARE TOUCHING BOTTOM--THE WATER IS GOING DOWN-- WE'RE SAFE!

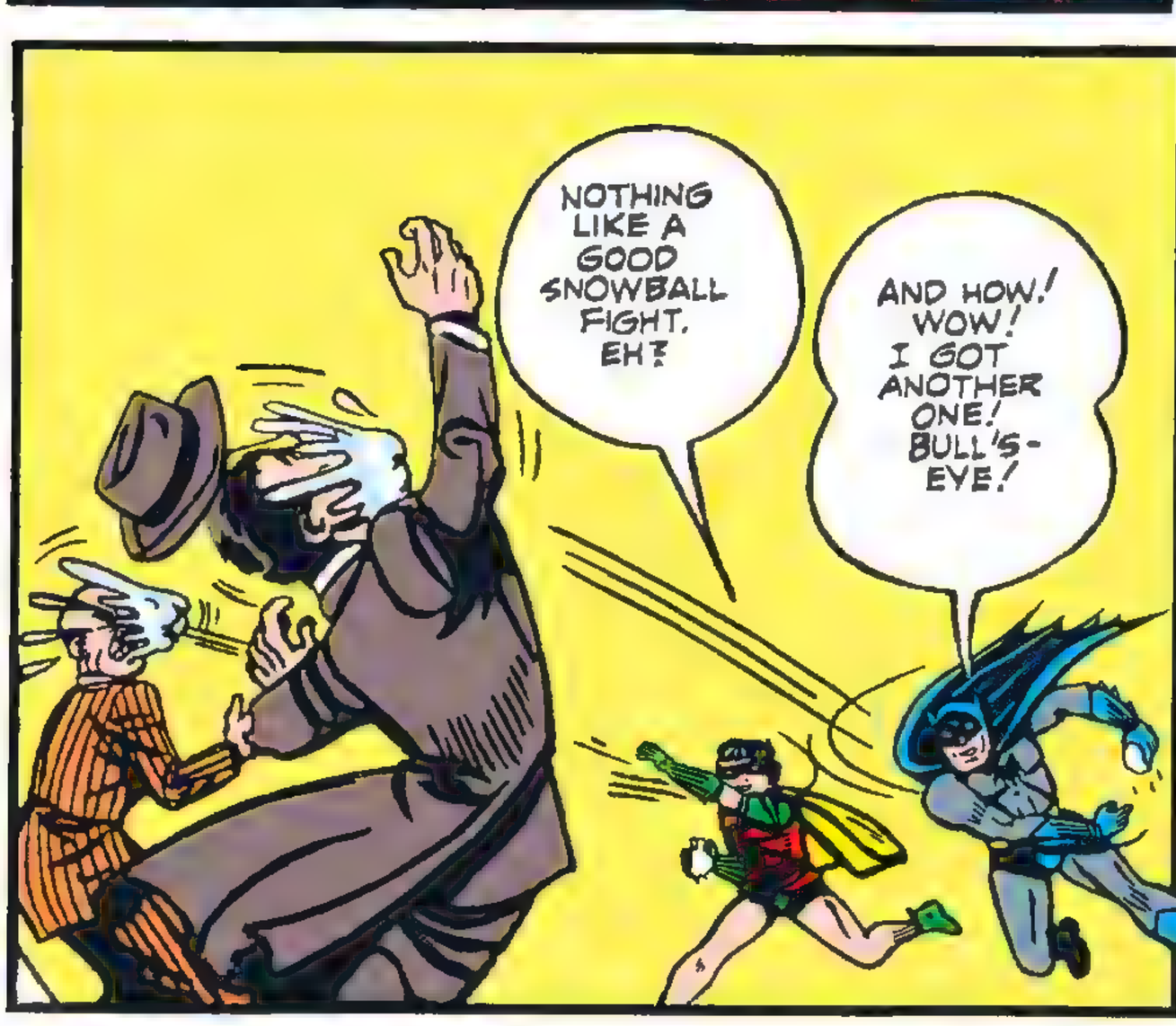
UNWITTINGLY, IN HIS HASTE HAL FINK HAS LEFT THE WATER RUNNING, PROVIDING AN ESCAPE FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN--


AND SO, NOT LONG AFTER--
G-GOLLY! THAT LIGHT LOOKS GOOD TO ME!
AS SOON AS WE'RE OUT OF HERE, WE'LL RACE HOME AND CHANGE TO DRY COSTUMES!

SOMETIME LATER---AS BATMAN AND ROBIN DART PAST A WHARF ON THEIR WAY TO COMMISSIONER GORDON--
SAY, ISN'T THAT THE SAME SANTA WE SAW IN FRONT OF HAL'S PLACE?
HMM-- THAT'S ODD! LOOK! HE SEES US!

LOOK AT HIM-- HE'S JINGLING THAT BELL LIKE A MANIAC!
NOW I GET IT! THAT'S A SIGNAL! HE'S A LOOKOUT! C'MON!
---THE BATMAN--- THE BATMAN'S HERE!

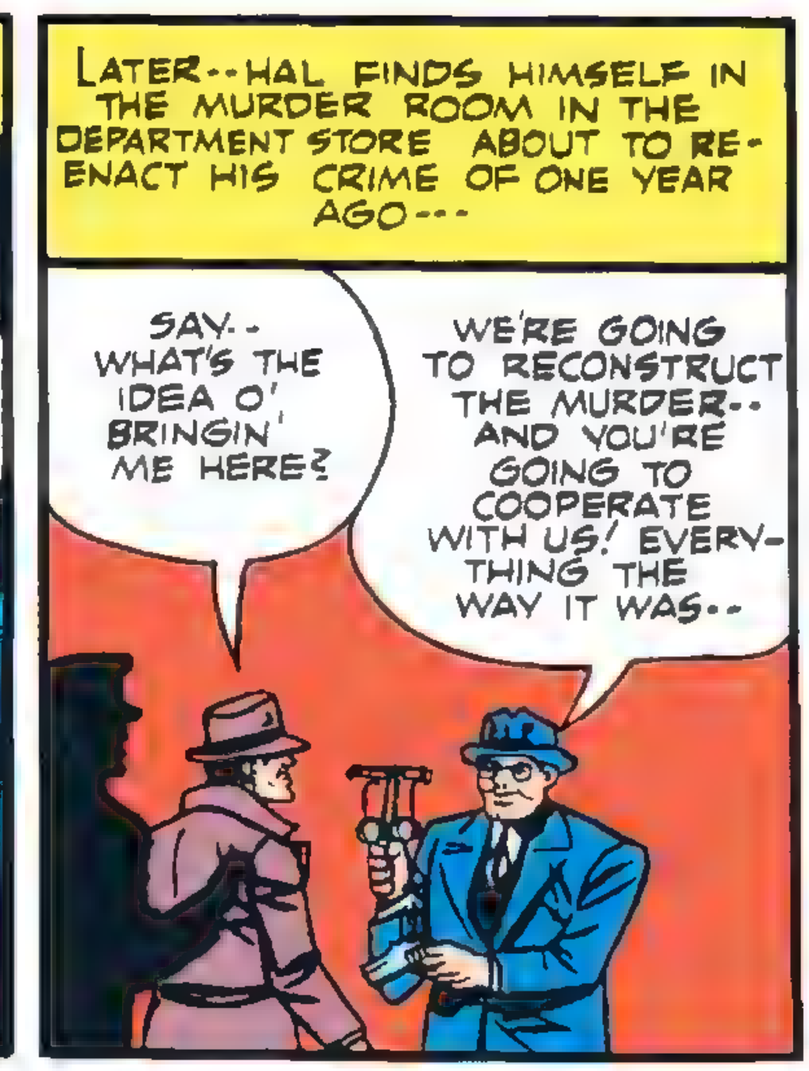
AT THE SIGNAL, HAL AND HIS BANDITS PILE OUT OF THE WARE-HOUSE---TO BE MET BY--
LET'S GET-- UGH!


NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SNOWBALL FIGHT, EH?
AND HOW! WOW! I GOT ANOTHER ONE! BULL'S-EYE!

NOW'S THE TIME, ROBIN!
YIPPEE, LEMME AT 'EM!

THE FRACAS IS OVER IN SECONDS---
OKAY, PAL-- AND NOW YOU'RE IN FOR SOME QUESTIONING DOWN AT HEADQUARTERS!

HEADQUARTERS--AFTER ONE HOUR-
WE KNOW YOU MURDERED THAT WATCHMAN- EH?---
LISTEN- BZZ-- BZZZ--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT. YOU CAN'T PIN ANYTHING ON ME!


LATER--HAL FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MURDER ROOM IN THE DEPARTMENT STORE ABOUT TO RE-ENACT HIS CRIME OF ONE YEAR AGO---
SAY-- WHAT'S THE IDEA O' BRINGIN' ME HERE?
WE'RE GOING TO RECONSTRUCT THE MURDER-- AND YOU'RE GOING TO COOPERATE WITH US! EVERY-THING THE WAY IT WAS--

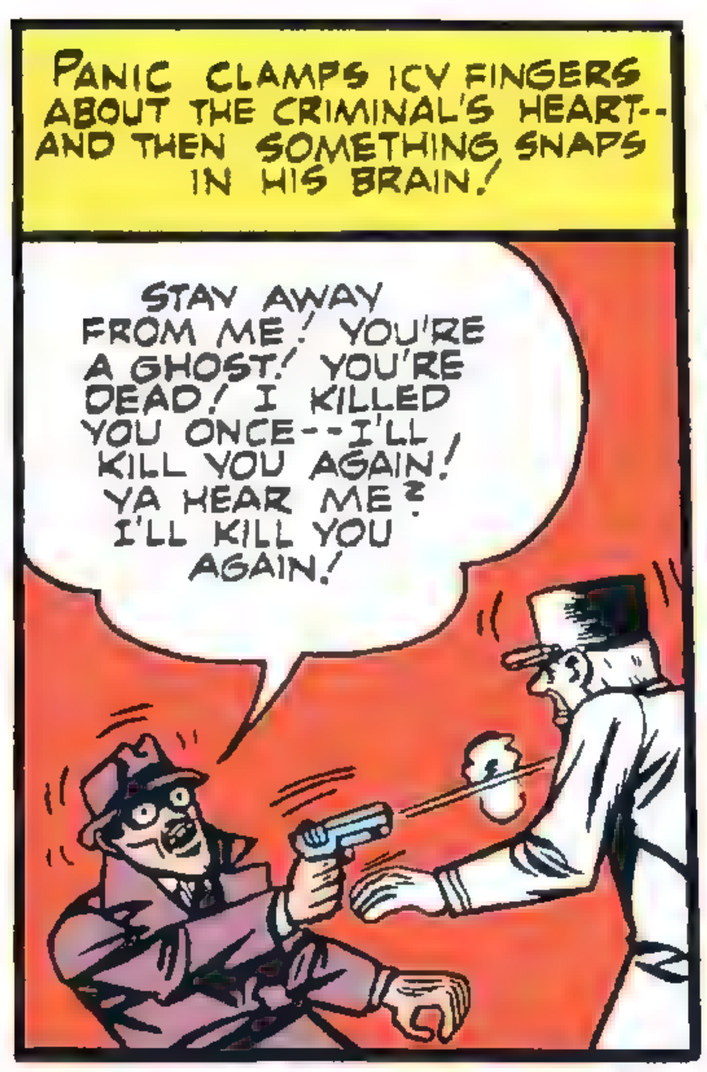
GOGGLES---ACETYLENE TORCH-AND THE MURDER GUN EVEN HAS BULLETS IN IT- NOW, ACCORDING TO CRATCHIT'S STORY, YOU WERE STANDING HERE WHEN--

SUDDENLY, THE CLOCK'S HOLLOW NOTES INTONE THE HOUR. TWELVE O'CLOCK, MIDNIGHT! AND THEN--- IN MARCHES A SPECTRAL FIGURE WITH WHITE FACE AND DEATH-COLD EYES!
I AM THE GHOST OF THE MAN YOU MURDERED, CHRISTMAS PAST!
UGH!

WHAT SORTA STUNT ARE YOU GUYS TRYIN' TO PULL? THAT GUY OVER THERE--
WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO ONE OVER THERE! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!

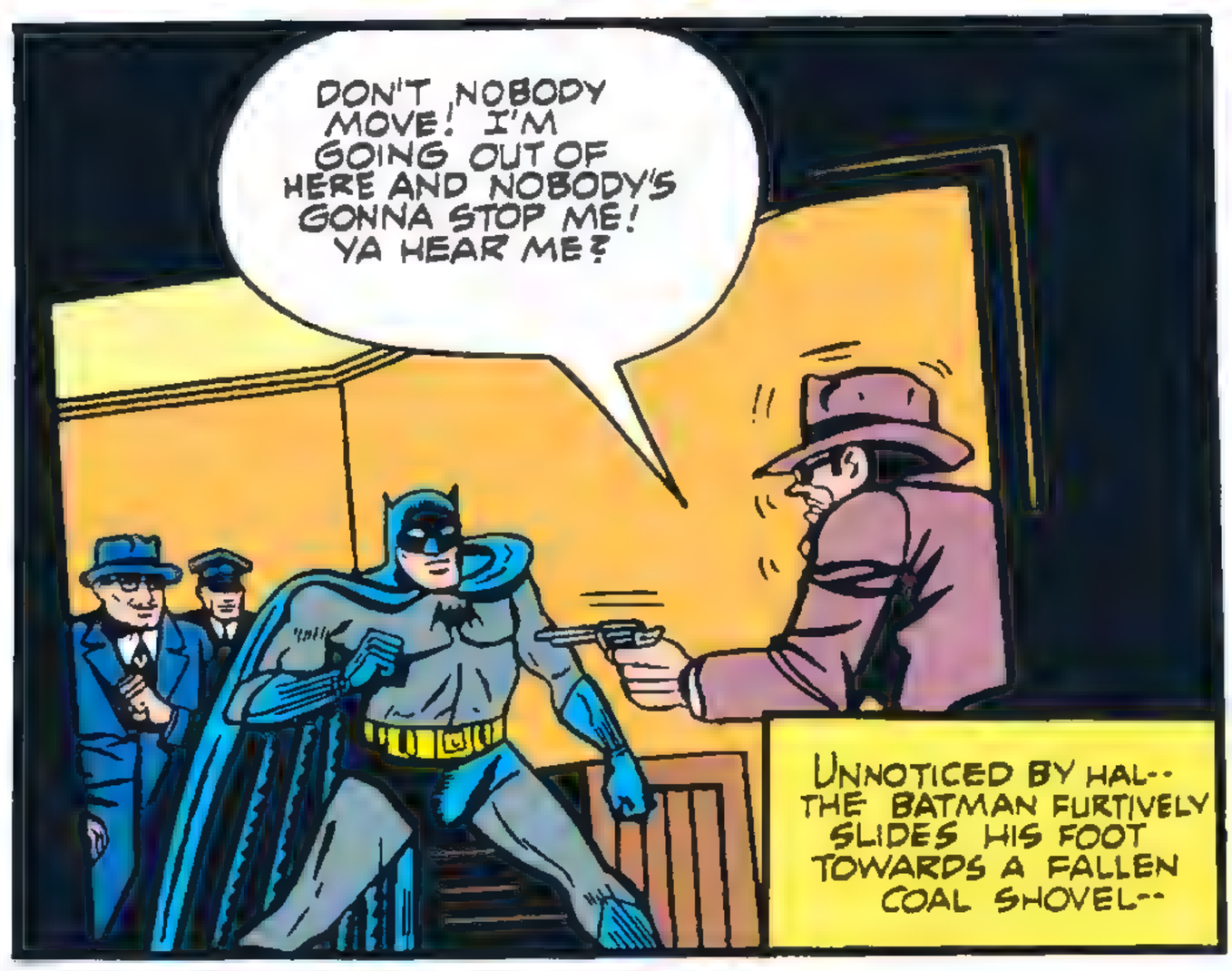
THEY CANNOT SEE OR HEAR ME, FOR THEIR CONSCIENCES ARE CLEAR BUT NOT YOURS, HAL FINK!
I DON'T HEAR ANYONE! THERE'S NOBODY HERE BUT US!
YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME- THERE ---HEAR HIM TALKIN'?

ONCE MORE THE HOLLOW VOICE MOANS, CHILLING HAL'S BLOOD--
IT IS TIME, HAL FINK. COME. THE HOUR GROWS SHORT AND WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO!
NO--NO-- DON'T TOUCH ME, STAY AWAY-- FROM ME--


PANIC CLAMPS ICY FINGERS ABOUT THE CRIMINAL'S HEART-- AND THEN SOMETHING SNAPS IN HIS BRAIN!
STAY AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE A GHOST! YOU'RE DEAD! I KILLED YOU ONCE--I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN! YA HEAR ME? I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN!

OKAY, HAL-- THAT'S ALL WE WANTED TO KNOW!
HUH? WHAT?

SURPRISED, EH? DON'T BE-- JUST BLANKS AND MAKEUP! AS SIMPLE AS ALL THAT. YOUR CONSCIENCE DID THE REST!
OH, YEAH? GIMME THAT!


DON'T NOBODY MOVE! I'M GOING OUT OF HERE AND NOBODY'S GONNA STOP ME! YA HEAR ME?
UNNOTICED BY HAL-- THE BATMAN FURTIVELY SLIDES HIS FOOT TOWARDS A FALLEN COAL SHOVEL--

...AND.

MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU, HAL!

THE NEXT MORNING-- CHRISTMAS DAY!
BIG DAY TODAY, EH?
YOU SAID IT!
OH, HELLO--IS THAT YOU, GORDON? WELL, LISTEN- BZZ--BZZZ---

LATER--SANTA TAKES A RIDE IN THE PATROL CAR!
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF DRAGGIN' ALONG THIS PHONEY SANTA FROM HAL'S GANG?
SEARCH ME- IT'S COMMISSIONER GORDON'S ORDER TO TAKE HIM TO THE ORPHANAGE.

---AND AT THE ORPHANAGE---
NOW, LISTEN--YOU'RE GOING INSIDE AND PLAY SANTA CLAUS FOR THOSE POOR KIDS. I WANT YOU TO LAUGH, BE HAPPY, JOVIAL, EXUDE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT- OR ELSE! GET ME?
S-SURE-- I WILL BE. A VERY FINE SANTA CLAUS INDEED!

INSIDE, TIM'S SHINING EYES HOPE FOR THE MIRACLE---
WELL--DID SANTA CLAUS BRING YOU BACK YOUR POP? THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS!
B-BUT THERE IS, TOO! THERE'S GOTTA BE A SANTA CLAUS!
SANTA CLAUS! HA! HA! KID STUFF!

SUDDENLY--
TIMMY! MY BOY!
DADDY! GOLLY- YOU'VE COME BACK--

HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS! HO! HO!
SANTA CLAUS!
ER-- I-I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!

LEST WE BECOME TOO ENVIOUS, LET US DRAW A CURTAIN OVER THE GAY PARTY, BUT OPEN IT LATER FOR ONE LAST PEEK--
A MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY!
AND GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!
CANDY

LATER--IT IS A DIFFERENT SANTA CLAUS WHO LEAVES THE PARTY--
CHEE--THEM KIDS HAS GOT RIGHT INTO MY HEART! ALL OF THEM LOOKING RIGHT UP AT ME AND THINKING I'M A SWELL GUY! CHEE! WHEN I GET OUT, I'M GONNA GO STRAIGHT!
I HOPE YOU MEAN IT. I SPOKE TO COMMISSIONER GORDON, AND PERSUADED HIM TO LET YOU GO FREE ON PAROLE!
12

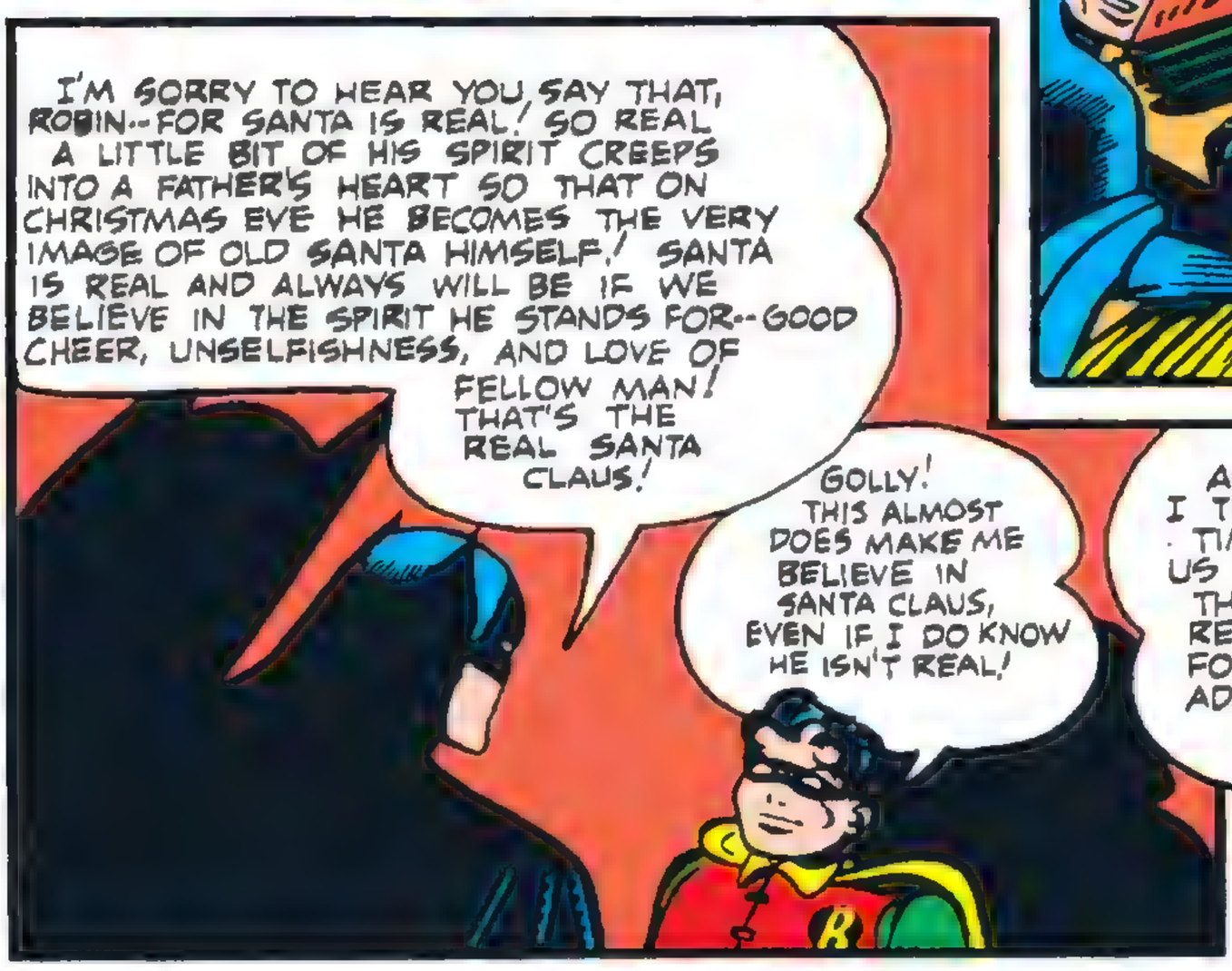
CHEE-- IM BEGINNING TO THINK THERE MAYBE IS A SANTA CLAUS AFTER ALL!

YOU LOOK DOWN IN THE DUMPS! WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, I GUESS--EXCEPT THAT I WISH I WAS LIKE THOSE OTHER KIDS--AND HAD A REAL CHRISTMAS PARTY. AW--- YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN--

SORRY, ROBIN! BUT WE CRIME-FIGHTERS DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT SORT OF THING! THAT'S OUR PENALTY, I GUESS!
YEAH! I SUPPOSE SO-- BUT STILL, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SORTA NICE!

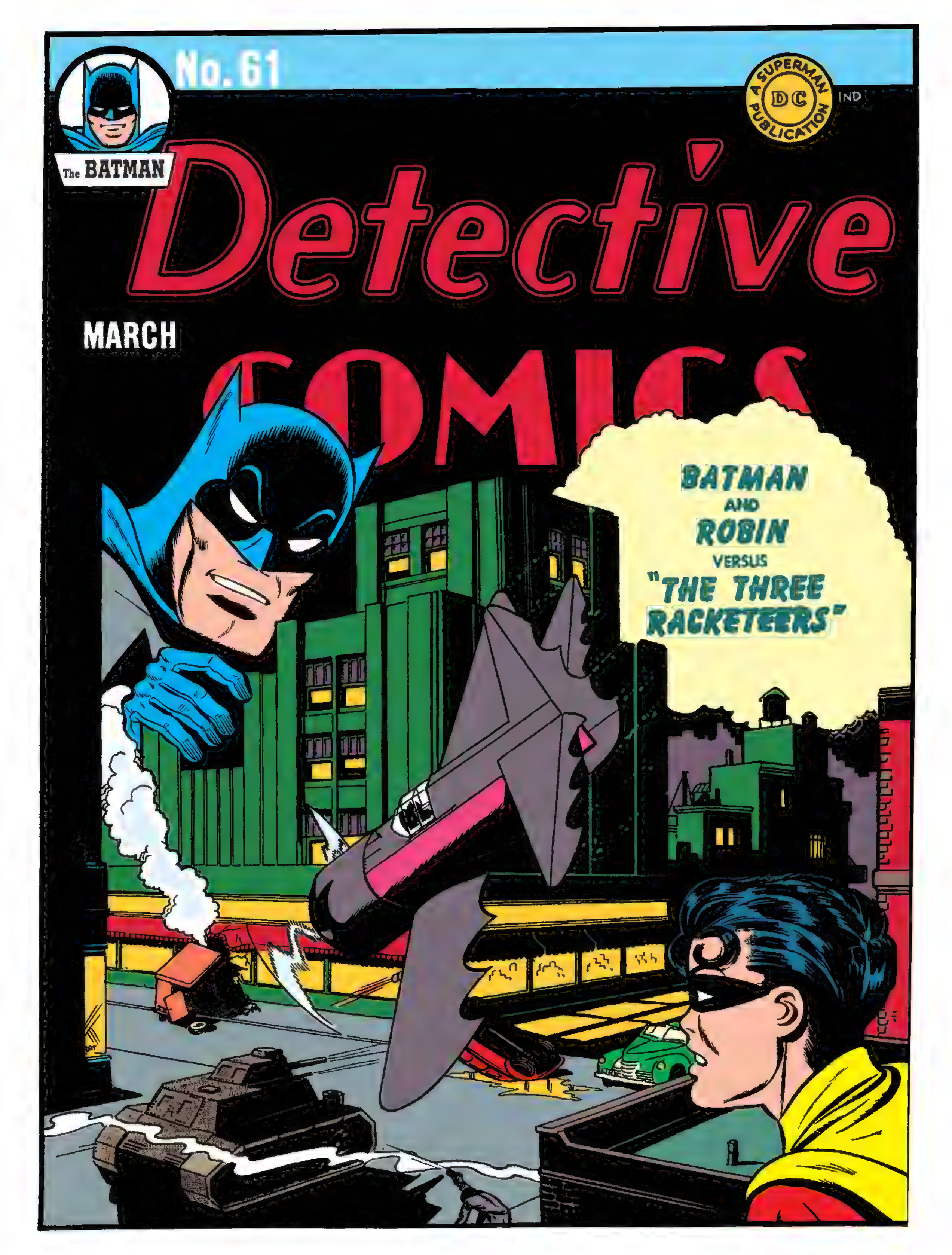
SAY--THIS IS COMMISSIONER GORDON'S HOUSE! WHY ARE WE HERE?
YOU'LL FIND OUT! OPEN THE DOOR! GO AHEAD, OPEN IT!

THE DOOR SWINGS INWARD-- A BLAZE OF RUDDY LIGHT!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, ROBIN!
COMMISSIONER GORDON! LINDA PAGE, GOLLY!


I'M SORRY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, ROBIN--FOR SANTA IS REAL! SO REAL A LITTLE BIT OF HIS SPIRIT CREEPS INTO A FATHER'S HEART SO THAT ON CHRISTMAS EVE HE BECOMES THE VERY IMAGE OF OLD SANTA HIMSELF! SANTA IS REAL AND ALWAYS WILL BE IF WE BELIEVE IN THE SPIRIT HE STANDS FOR--GOOD CHEER, UNSELFISHNESS, AND LOVE OF FELLOW MAN! THAT'S THE REAL SANTA CLAUS!
GOLLY! THIS ALMOST DOES MAKE ME BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS, EVEN IF I DO KNOW HE ISN'T REAL!

AND NOW I THINK IT'S TIME FOR US TO THANK THE LOYAL READERS WHO FOLLOW OUR ADVENTURES!

AND SO, AS TIM OBSERVED, GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE! AND----
Merry Christmas
Everybody!
BOB KANE
MERRY XMAS
13

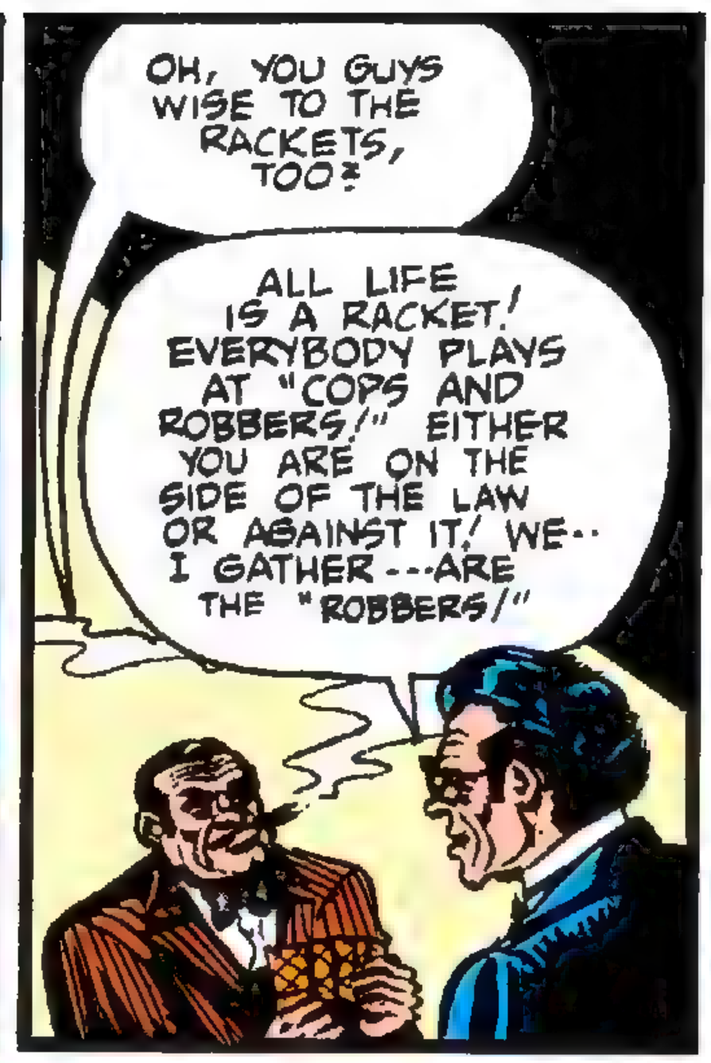

No. 61
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
The BATMAN
Detective
MARCH
COMICS
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN
VERSUS
"THE THREE
RACKETEERS"

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

THIS IS A STORY OF THREE OF A KIND--OF A TRIO OF ROGUES WHO FORMED A TRIPLE-THREAT AGAINST LAW AND ORDER--SO THAT CRIME WOULD PAY!
THE **BATMAN AND ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER FIND PERILOUS THREE-STAR ADVENTURE WHEN THEY CLASH WITH THIS TRIUMVIRATE OF TROUBLE AND SMASH A TRI-TERROR COMBINE IN THE SAGA OF--
"THE THREE RACKETEERS!"

BOB KANE

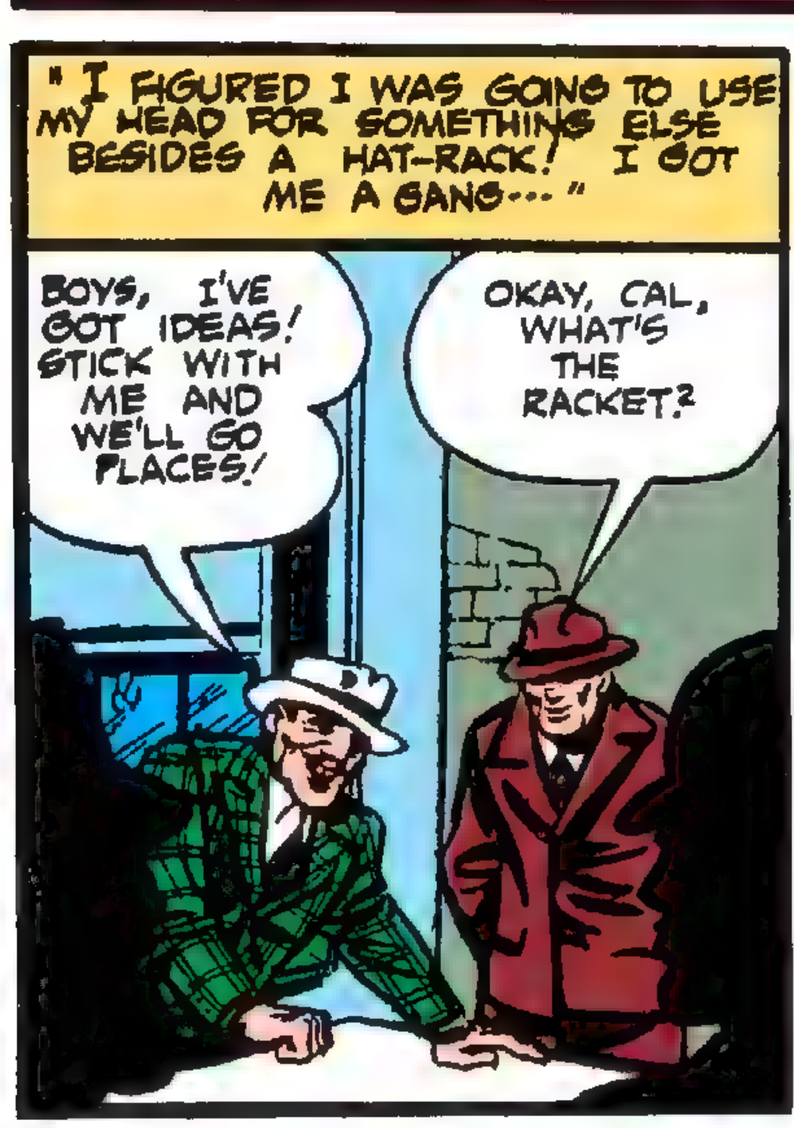
MY DEAR FELLOW, YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO IS USED TO DOING "BIG THINGS" AS YOU PUT IT!
SURE...SURE- I HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN PLAYING MARBLES ALL MY LIFE, EITHER!


OH, YOU GUYS WISE TO THE RACKETS, TOO?
ALL LIFE IS A RACKET! EVERYBODY PLAYS AT "COPS AND ROBBERS!" EITHER YOU ARE ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW OR AGAINST IT! WE-- I GATHER---ARE THE "ROBBERS!"

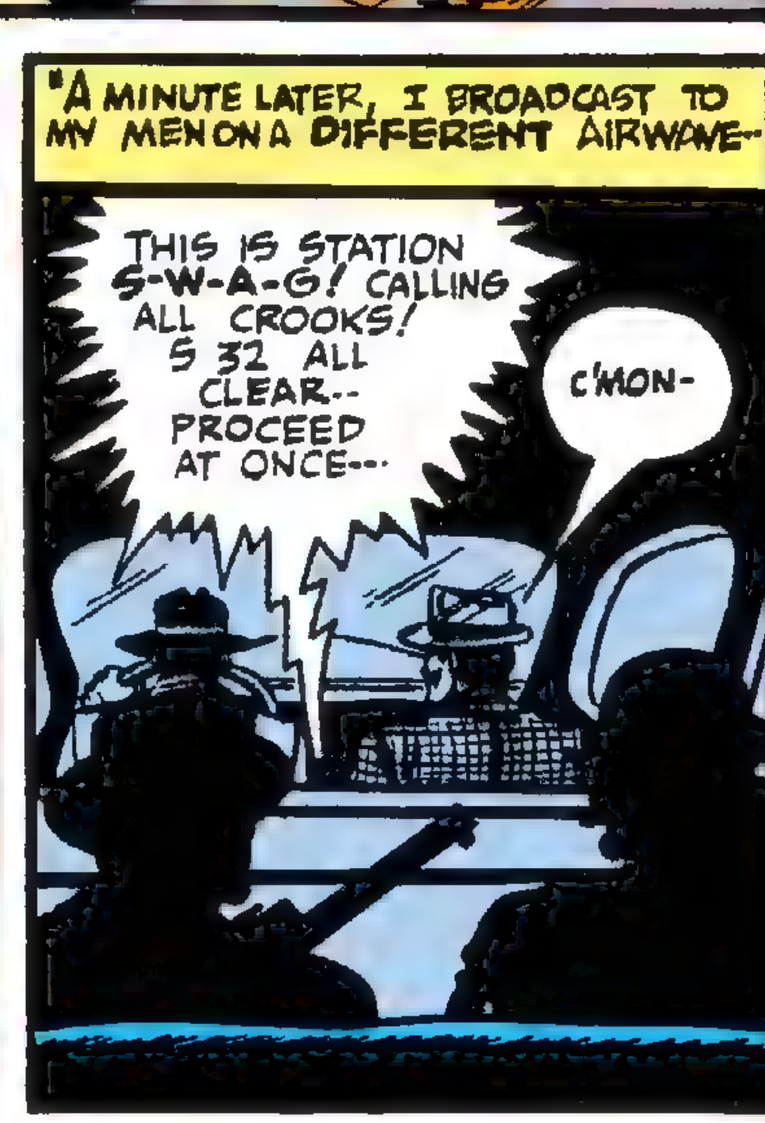
YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL, BROTHER! I HAD THE SWEETEST LITTLE RACKET GOING---STILL WOULD BE---IF IT WASN'T FOR THE BATMAN!
WHY---HE'S THE GUY THAT PUT THE SKIDS UNDER MY RACKET!

THE BATMAN! IT WOULD SEEM THE BATMAN IS NUMBER ONE OUR OUR "HATE" PARADE!
THAT NAME AIN'T EXACTLY MUSIC TO MY EARS! HOW DID HE HAPPEN TO BUST UP YOUR LITTLE PARTY?

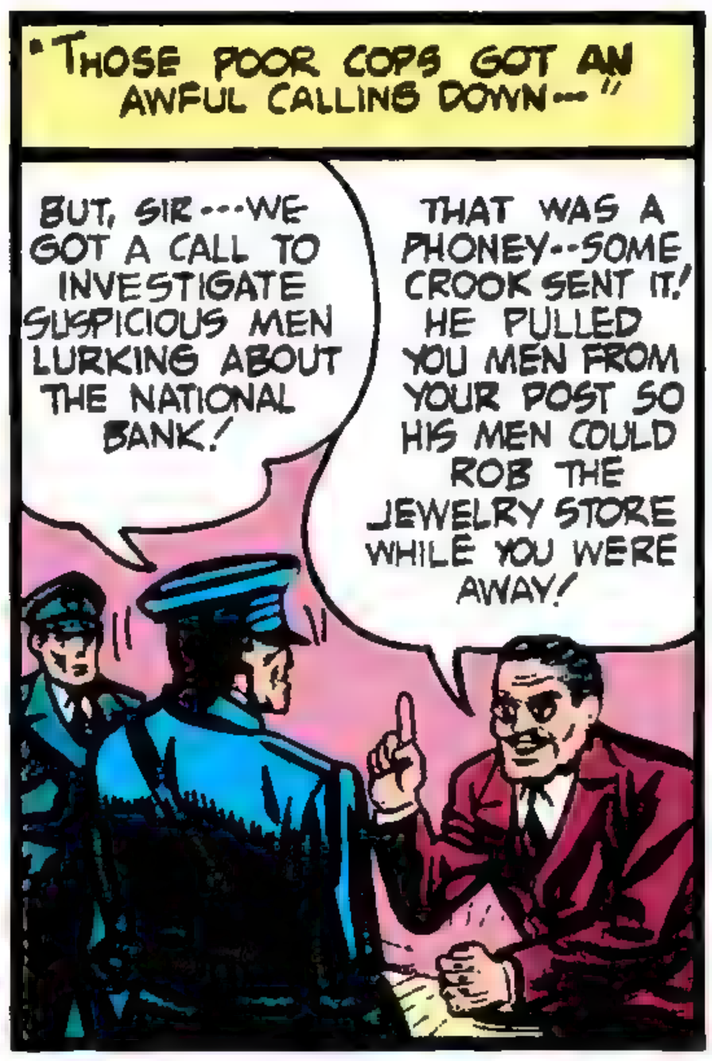
YES--DO TELL US! I IMAGINE YOUR LITTLE TALE OF WOE SHOULD PROVE MOST ILLUMINATING!
ILLUMINATING?... BROTHER, IT'S A REGULAR AURORA BOREALIS! WELL--MY NAME IS "CRAFTY" CAL CLATE---AND I WASN'T CALLED "CRAFTY" FOR NOTHING---


"I FIGURED I WAS GOING TO USE MY HEAD FOR SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES A HAT-RACK! I GOT ME A GANG---"
BOYS, I'VE GOT IDEAS! STICK WITH ME AND WE'LL GO PLACES!
OKAY, CAL, WHAT'S THE RACKET?

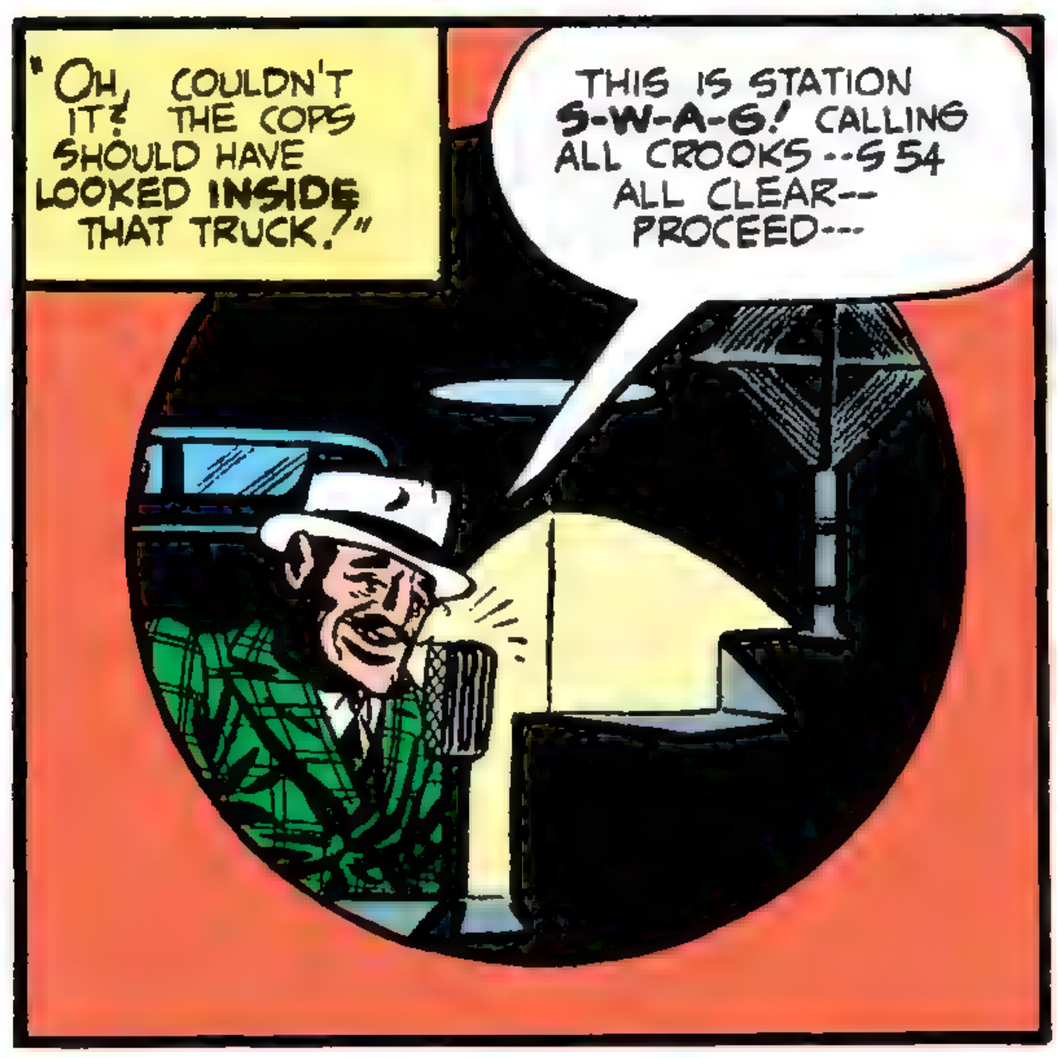
"ONE MONTH LATER---IT STARTED---LIKE THIS!"
CALLING CAR 27--SUSPICIOUS MAN LURKING ABOUT NATIONAL BANK--INVESTIGATE--THAT IS ALL--
LET'S GO!
POLICE
P.D.


"A MINUTE LATER, I BROADCAST TO MY MEN ON A DIFFERENT AIRWAVE--
THIS IS STATION S-W-A-G! CALLING ALL CROOKS! S 32 ALL CLEAR--PROCEED AT ONCE---
C'MON-

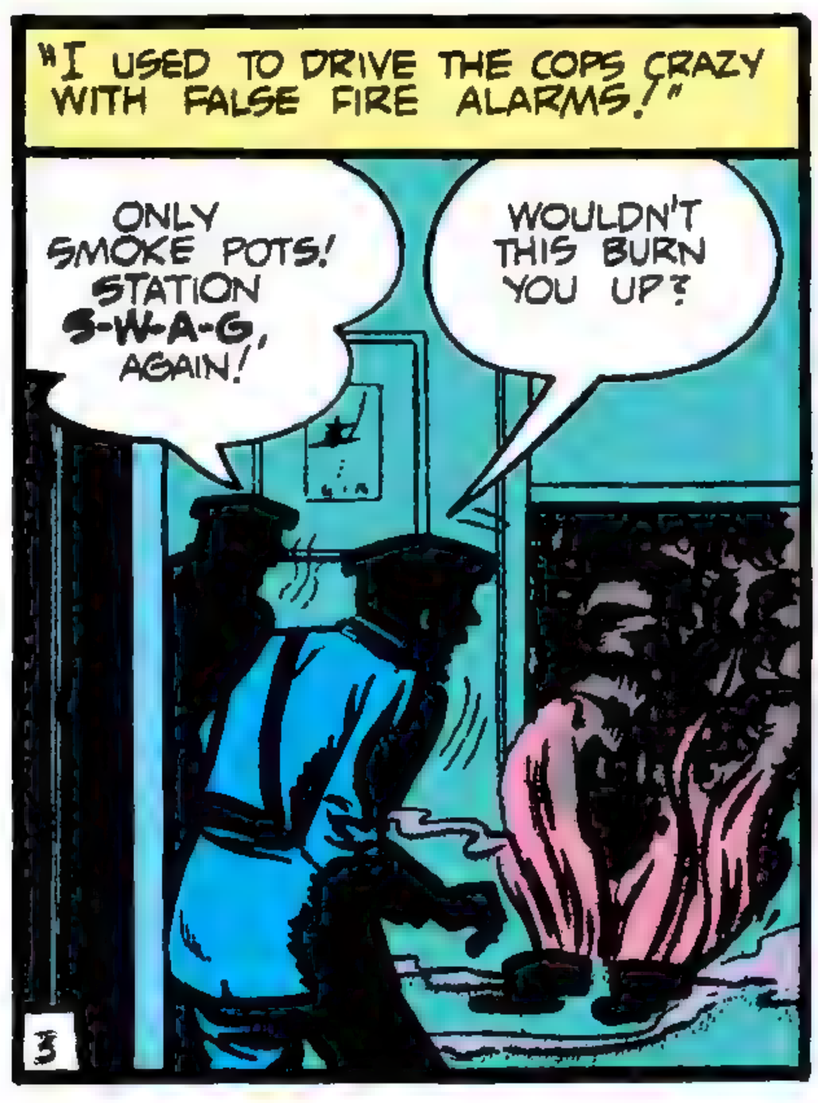
"AND WHEN THE COPS GOT TO THE BANK--"
BANK
NOBODY AROUND! J---LISTEN-
CALLING CAR 27-- KRAUS JEWELRY STORE ROBBED- INVESTIGATE


"THOSE POOR COPS GOT AN AWFUL CALLING DOWN--"
BUT, SIR---WE GOT A CALL TO INVESTIGATE SUSPICIOUS MEN LURKING ABOUT THE NATIONAL BANK!
THAT WAS A PHONEY--SOME CROOK SENT IT! HE PULLED YOU MEN FROM YOUR POST SO HIS MEN COULD ROB THE JEWELRY STORE WHILE YOU WERE AWAY!

"WELL, THE COPS TRIED TRACKING DOWN OUR PHONEY BROADCASTS, BUT--"
SHOULD COME FROM AROUND HERE!
NOTHING ABOUT! JUST THAT LAUNDRY TRUCK GOING BY! CAN'T BE THAT!


"OH, COULDN'T IT? THE COPS SHOULD HAVE LOOKED INSIDE THAT TRUCK!"
THIS IS STATION S-W-A-G! CALLING ALL CROOKS--S 54 ALL CLEAR-- PROCEED---

"GET IT NOW? THAT TRUCK WAS A REGULAR BROADCASTING STATION! CLEVER, EH?"
WHAT A RACKET! YOU IMITATE A COP CALL -- GET THE COPS OUT OF THE WAY--SWITCH TO ANOTHER WAVE-LENGTH---
-- AND GIVE THE ALL CLEAR SIGNAL TO OUR BOYS! A BOOTLEG BROADCAST BY SHORT-WAVE! PRETTY NEAT!


"I USED TO DRIVE THE COPS CRAZY WITH FALSE FIRE ALARMS!"
ONLY SMOKE POTS! STATION S-W-A-G, AGAIN!
WOULDN'T THIS BURN YOU UP?
3

"BURGLAR ALARMS WOULD SUDDENLY CLANG ALL OVER THE TOWN!--"
RING
INVESTIGATE ROBBERY AT 89 ST AND MAIN!
LET'S HOPE THIS ONE IS THE REAL THING! I'VE GOT BELLS RINGING IN MY BRAIN!
"YESSIR, I HAD THOSE COPS RUNNING AROUND IN MORE CIRCLES THAN A FERRIS WHEEL!"

BOY, THAT RACKET SHOULDA SET YOU UP FER LIFE!
YES, BUT INTO EACH LIFE A LITTLE RAIN MUST FALL --- SUCH AS THE BATMAN, EH, CRAFTY?
RAIN? THAT GUY WAS A STORM! HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED!

"ONE NIGHT, AFTER SENDING THE COPS OUT ON A WILD-GOOSE CHASE, THE BOYS ARE JUST STARTING A JOB---"

SEE? THIS WAY WE DON'T SET OFF ANY BURGLAR ALARM!

"SUDDENLY SOMETHING WHIZZES AROUND THE CORNER LIKE A SKYROCKET!"

LOOK!

THE BATMOBILE!

JEWELRY

JEWELRY

"I FOUND OUT LATER THAT THE **BATMAN** WENT STREAKING AROUND THE TOWN IN THAT **BATMOBILE** OF HIS! THAT SUPER-CHARGED CAR WAS SO FAST HE WAS ABLE TO ANSWER **EVERY CALL THAT WENT OUT!** THAT'S HOW HE CAUGHT UP TO US!"

"WELL, OUT OF THAT CAR COME THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, SLAMMING INTO MY BOYS!"

STAND ON YOUR FEET AND FIGHT LIKE MEN!

DID YOU SAY YOU WANTED YOUR FACE LIFTED?

I'M GOING TO PASTE YOU ON THE WALL LIKE A PICTURE!

"ME AND MY MEN PILED OUT OF THE LAUNDRY TRUCK-- BUT WE HAD A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS!"

NO SHOOTIN', BOYS! DON'T BRING THE COPS INTO THIS, TOO!

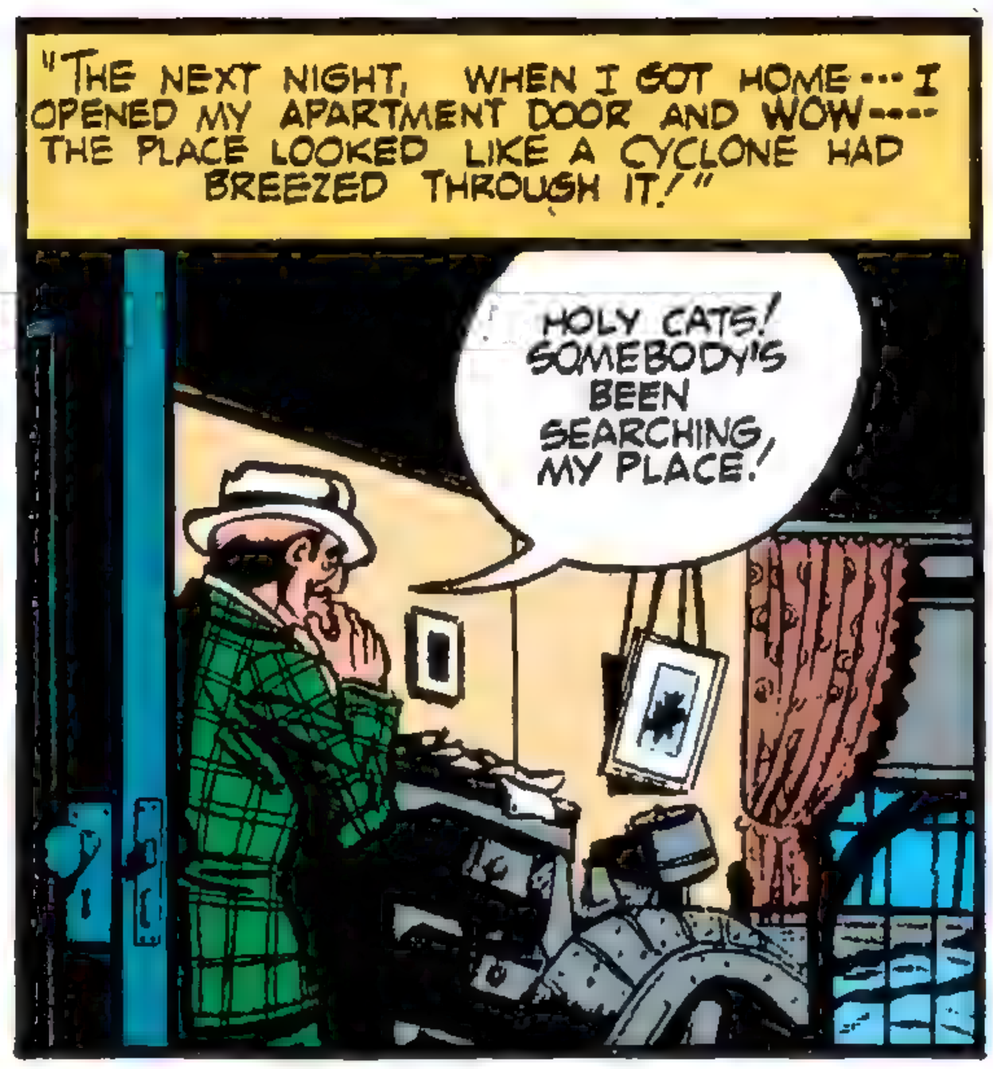
JEW

"SOME OF THE BOYS MANAGED TO GET A COUPLE OF LUCKY POKES IN-- AND THEY WENT DOWN, STILL FIGHTING---

DON'T NOTHIN' STOP YOU, MISTER?

THAT DOES IT! NOW LET'S SCRAM OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE COPS SHOW UP!

"WE MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY--- BUT HOW WAS I TO GUESS THAT THE BATMAN RECOGNIZED ME?"
WE DIDN'T DO SO WELL, DID WE?
WE DID, ALL RIGHT! I RECOGNIZED ONE OF THEM-HE'S CRAFTY CAL CLATE! HIS ADDRESS SHOULD BE IN THE PHONE BOOK!

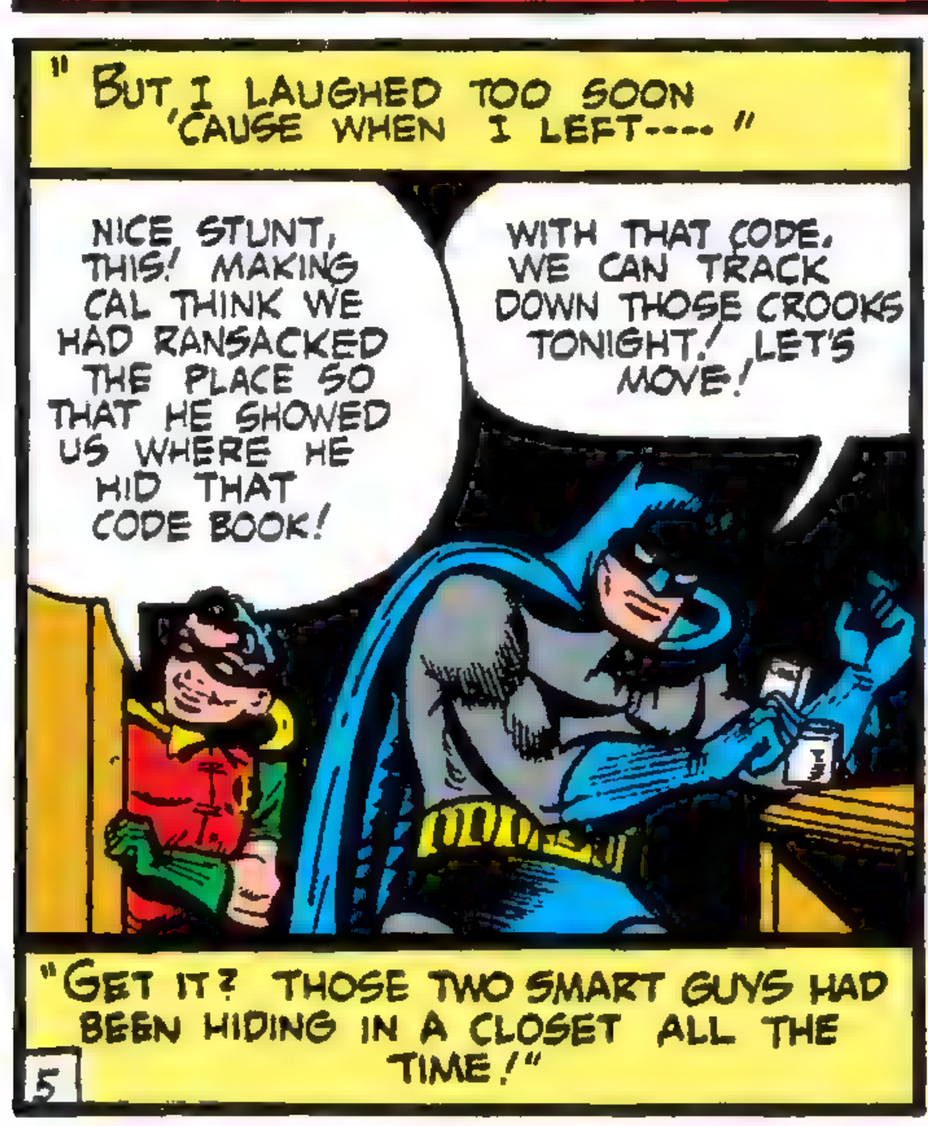

"THE NEXT NIGHT, WHEN I GOT HOME ... I OPENED MY APARTMENT DOOR AND WOW---- THE PLACE LOOKED LIKE A CYCLONE HAD BREEZED THROUGH IT!"
HOLY CATS! SOMEBODY'S BEEN SEARCHING MY PLACE!

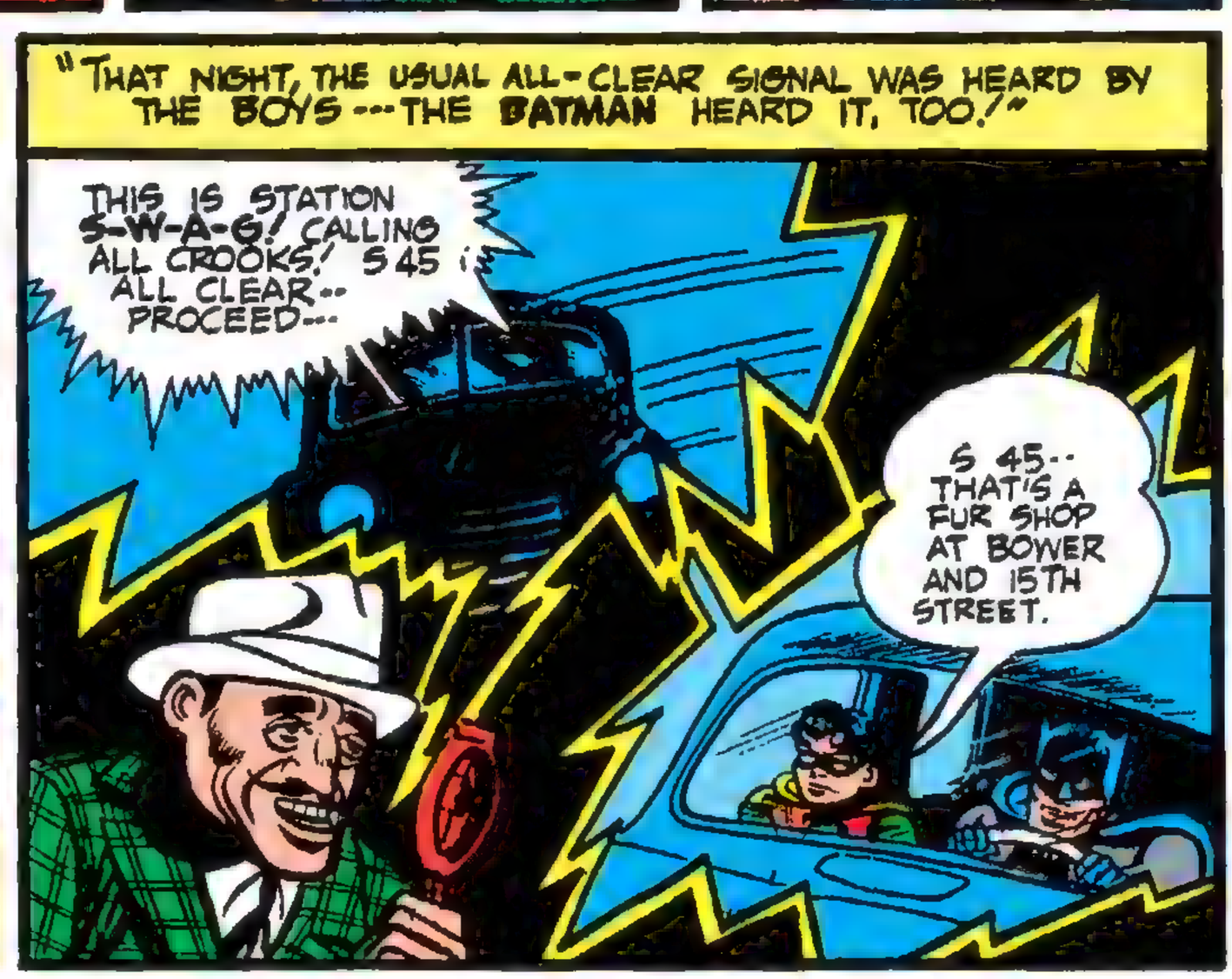
A BOX--- LEFT FOR ME? WONDER WHAT'S IN IT?

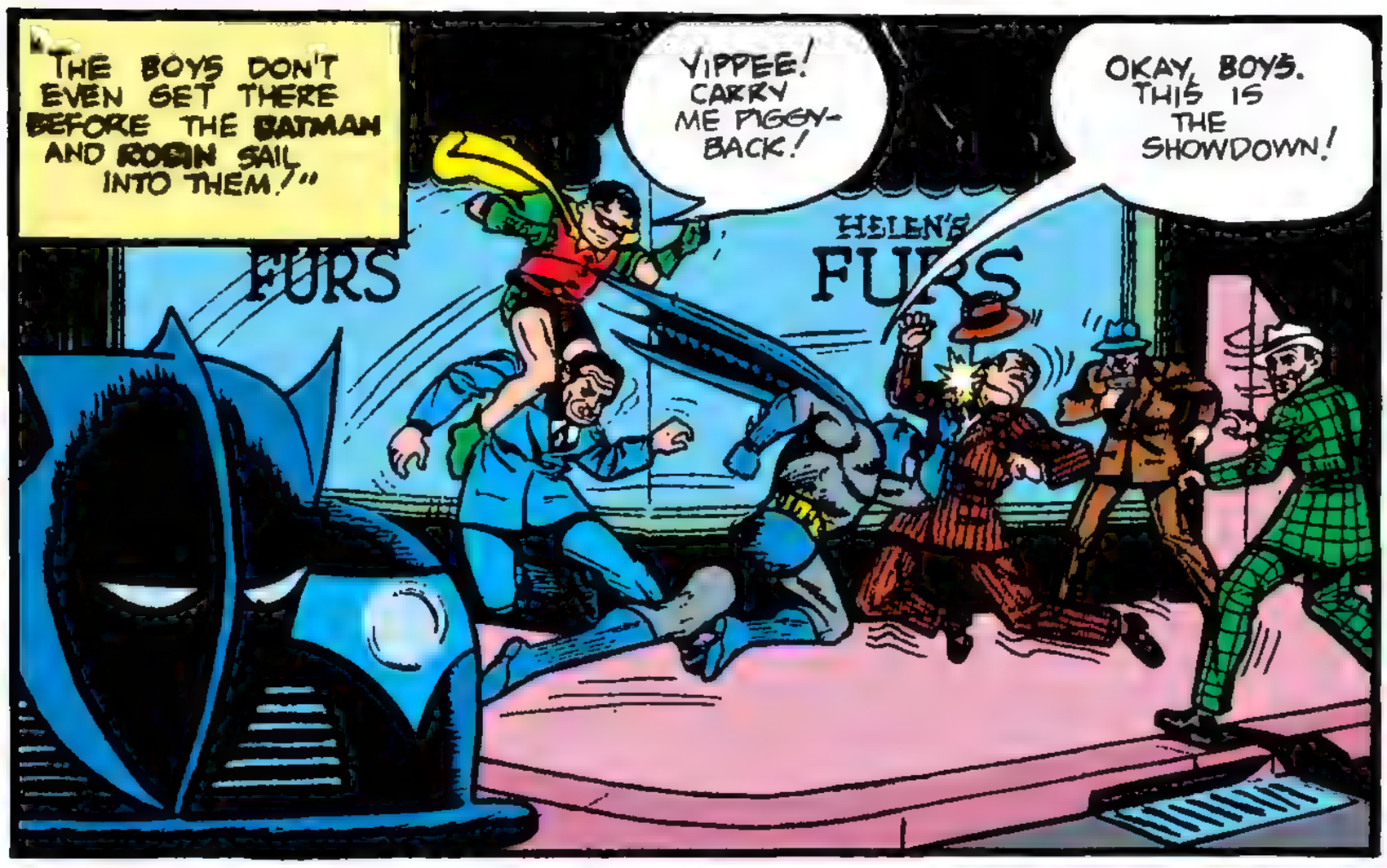
A...A BAT! THE BATMAN.. HE'S BEEN HERE!

HE PROBABLY CAME LOOKING FOR THE DUPLICATE CODE BOOK. MAYBE HE FOUND IT--I'D BETTER MAKE SURE.. HE'S A CLEVER GUY...

WHEW...WHAT A RELIEF--- STILL HERE.. MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE IT HERE... I FOOLED THE BATMAN ...HAW! HAW!
CODE


" BUT, I LAUGHED TOO SOON 'CAUSE WHEN I LEFT---- "
NICE STUNT, THIS! MAKING CAL THINK WE HAD RANSACKED THE PLACE SO THAT HE SHOWED US WHERE HE HID THAT CODE BOOK!
WITH THAT CODE, WE CAN TRACK DOWN THOSE CROOKS TONIGHT! LET'S MOVE!
"GET IT? THOSE TWO SMART GUYS HAD BEEN HIDING IN A CLOSET ALL THE TIME!"
5


"THAT NIGHT, THE USUAL ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL WAS HEARD BY THE BOYS ...THE BATMAN HEARD IT, TOO!"
THIS IS STATION S-W-A-G! CALLING ALL CROOKS! S 45 ALL CLEAR.. PROCEED...
S 45.. THAT'S A FUR SHOP AT BOWER AND 15TH STREET.


"THE BOYS DON'T EVEN GET THERE BEFORE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SAIL INTO THEM!"
YIPPEE! CARRY ME PIGGY-BACK!
OKAY, BOYS. THIS IS THE SHOWDOWN!
HELEN'S FURS
FURS

AH, A DOUBLE PLAY!

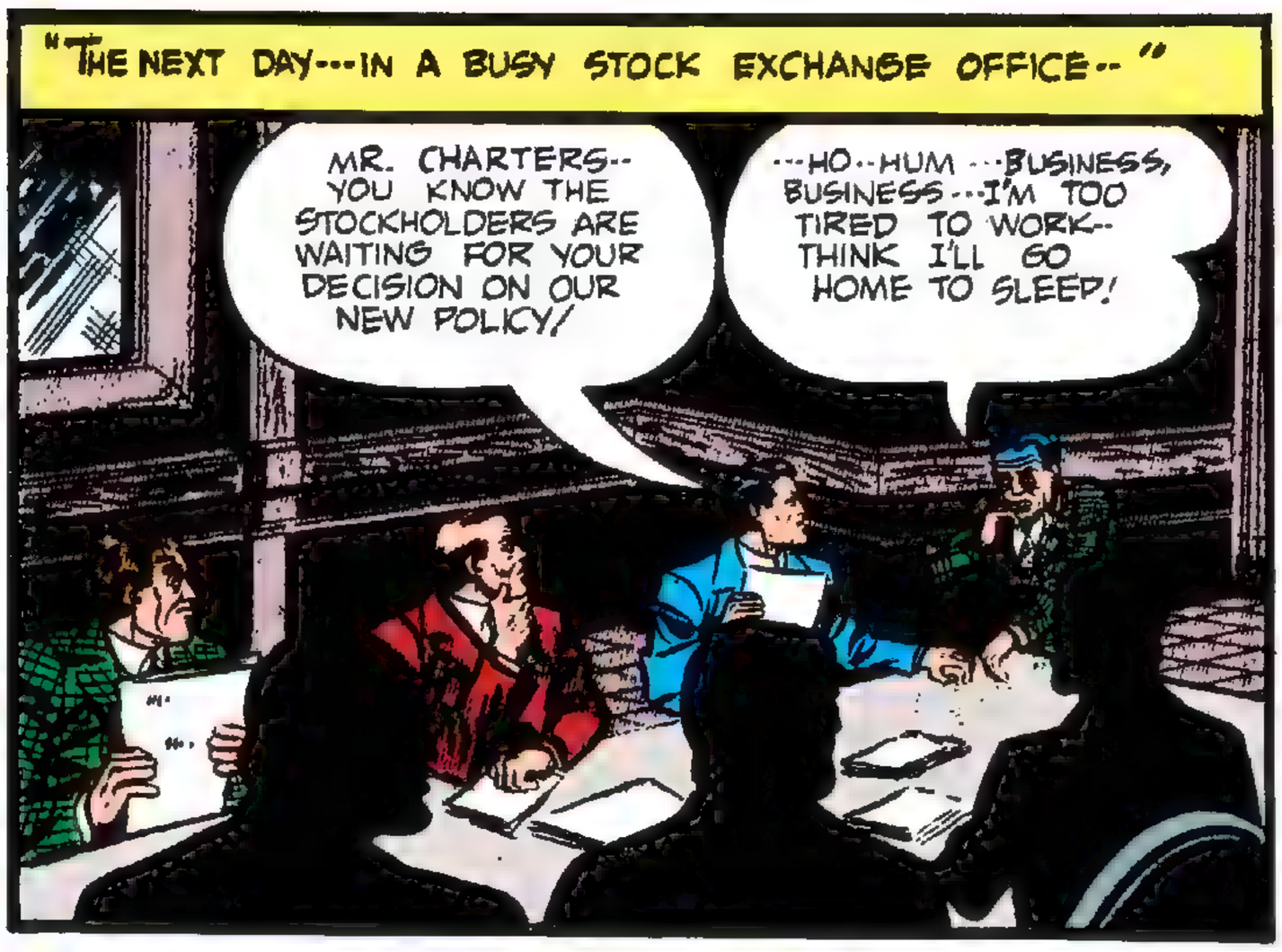
"WE, IN THE LOOKOUT CAR, PILED OUT TO GIVE HELP, BUT THERE WAS NO STOPPING THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THAT DAY!"
A LITTLE TRICK I LEARNED AT THE CIRCUS!

WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN, WILLIE!
SWISH

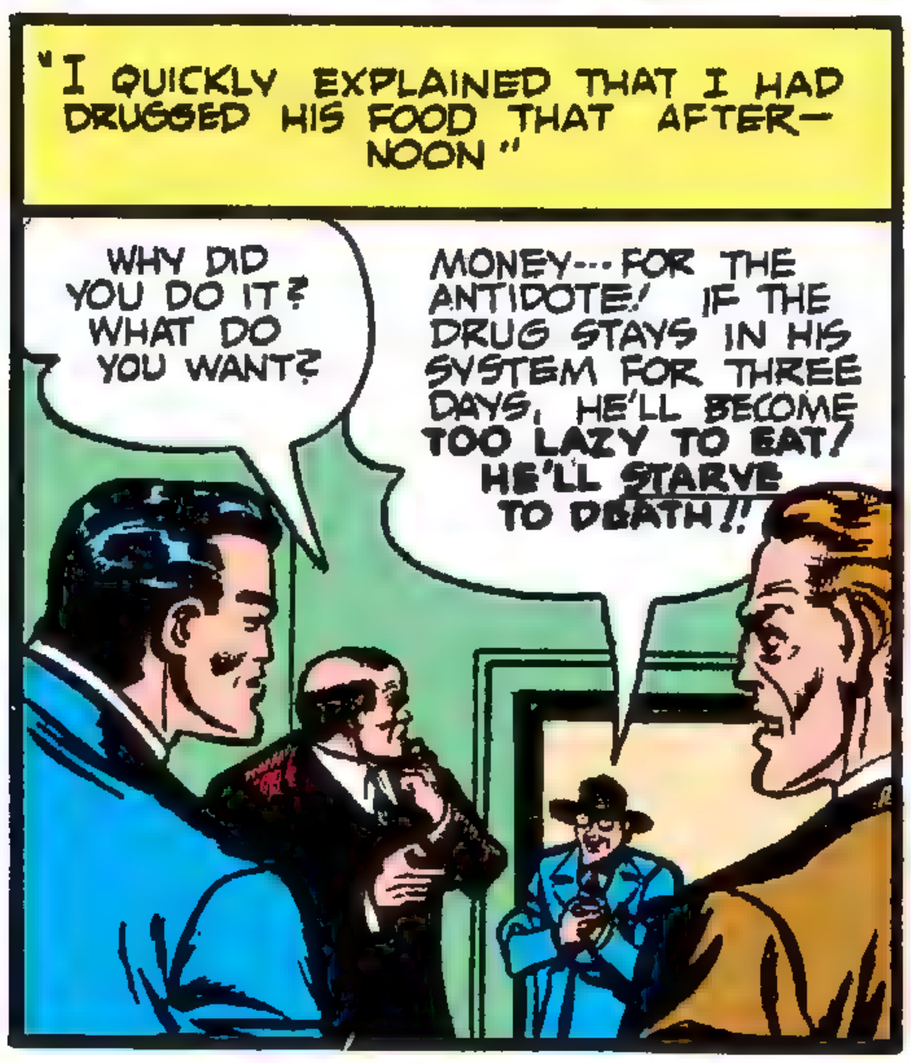
"AND THEN THE BATMAN HIT ME! HIS FIST WAS LIKE A HAMMER! MY TEETH ARE STILL LOOSE!"
OH-HH-H.
THE END OF STATION S-W-A-G! IT BLEW A FUSE!
6

THAT'S MY STORY- AND I'M STUCK WITH IT!
YOU'RE NOT KIDDIN'! OKAY, PROF -----HOW ABOUT YOU TELLIN' US YOUR BEDTIME STORY?
MY STORY IS A TRAGEDY— A TRAGEDY, AS YOU SOON SHALL SEE! TO BEGIN WITH, MY NAME IS PROFESSOR POST--I AM--A SCIENTIST!

"ONE MEMORABLE DAY IN MY LABORATORY--"
EUREKA! I'VE FOUND IT! A DRUG THAT ACTS ON A MAN'S BRAIN --SLOWS UP HIS REFLEXES -- AND MAKES HIM -- LAZY...LAZY.... HA! HA!
"HERE WAS THE ANSWER TO MY DREAMS— WEALTH--POWER!"

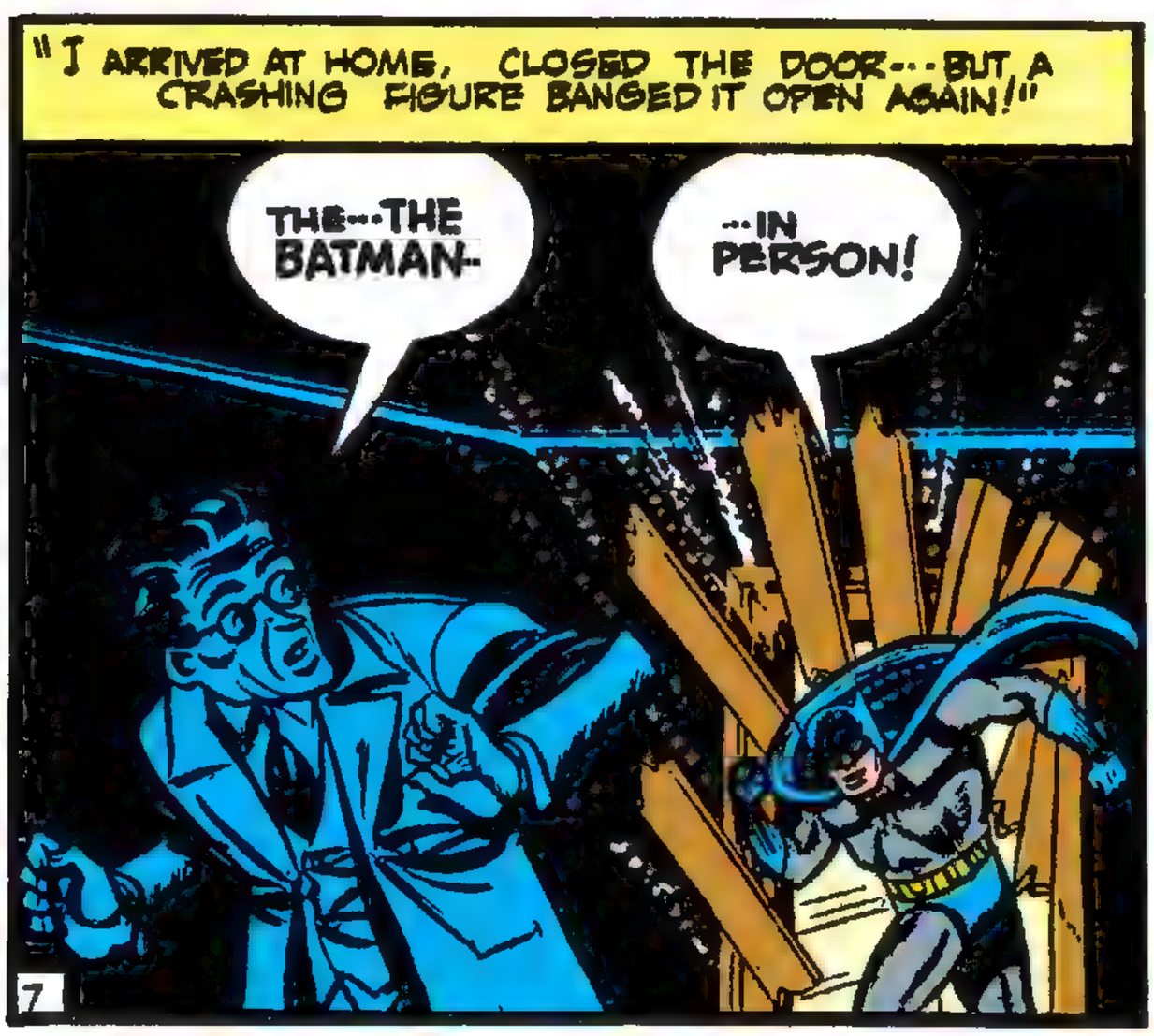

"THE NEXT DAY---IN A BUSY STOCK EXCHANGE OFFICE--"
MR. CHARTERS-- YOU KNOW THE STOCKHOLDERS ARE WAITING FOR YOUR DECISION ON OUR NEW POLICY!
---HO--HUM ---BUSINESS, BUSINESS---I'M TOO TIRED TO WORK-- THINK I'LL GO HOME TO SLEEP!

WE CAN'T MOVE WITHOUT HIM!
WE'LL LOSE MILLIONS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
I CAN TELL YOU WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM! HE'S JUST LAZY!

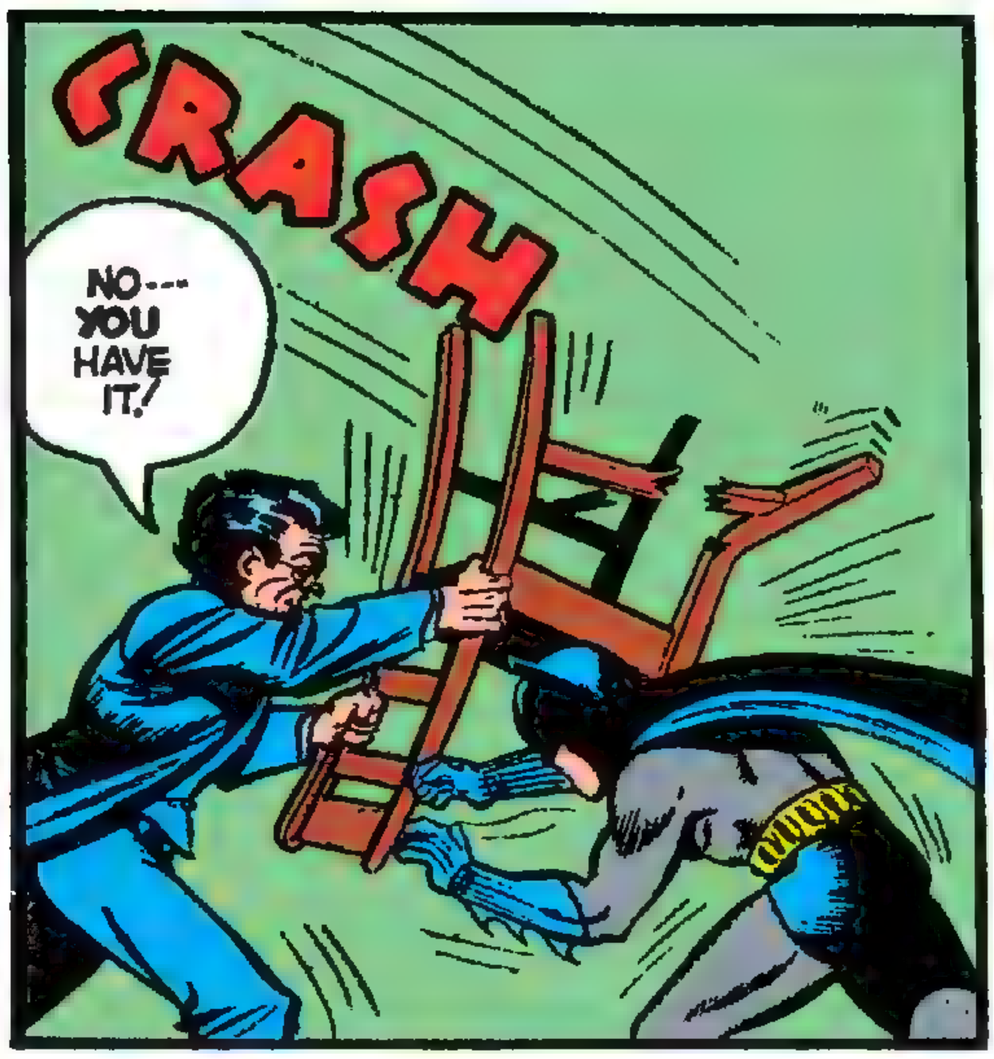

"I QUICKLY EXPLAINED THAT I HAD DRUGGED HIS FOOD THAT AFTER-NOON"
WHY DID YOU DO IT? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
MONEY---FOR THE ANTIDOTE! IF THE DRUG STAYS IN HIS SYSTEM FOR THREE DAYS, HE'LL BECOME TOO LAZY TO EAT! HE'LL STARVE TO DEATH!!

WE--WE'LL HAVE TO PAY YOU! HE'S A KEY MAN IN OUR ORGANIZATION, AND EVERY DAY HE'S OUT WILL COST US THOUSANDS!
I'LL SEND YOU THE ANTIDOTE BY MESSENGER. YOU CAN GIVE IT TO HIM! AND NOW MY MONEY, PLEASE---

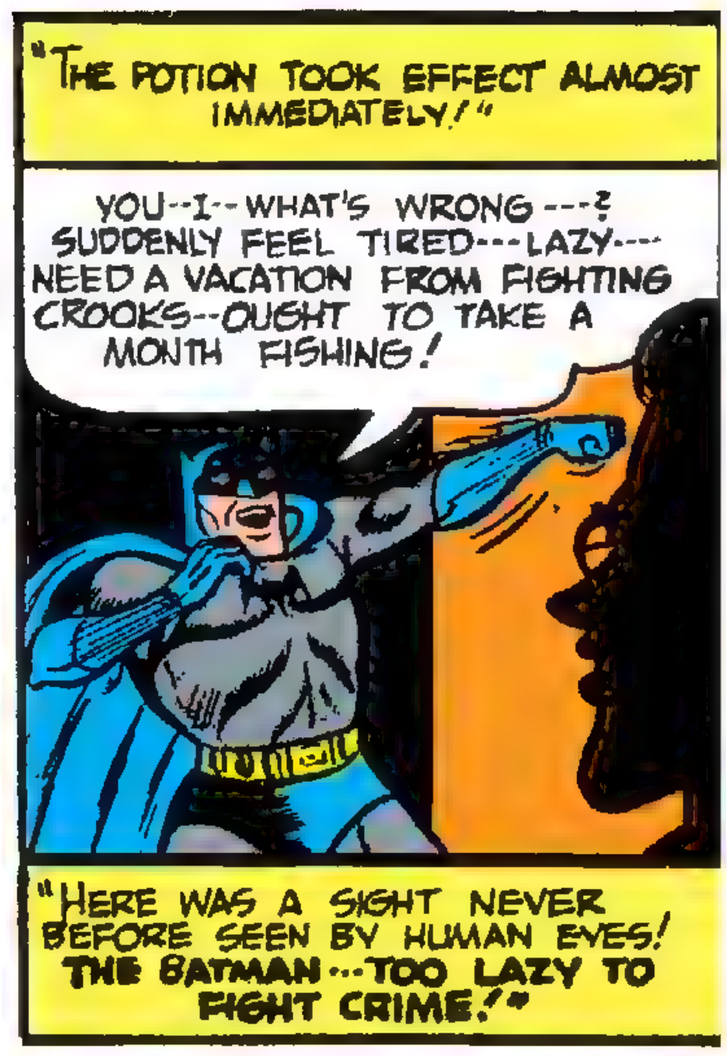
THAT WAS A VERY SWEET SETUP, PAL! VERY SWEET!
PERHAPS---BUT WHEN I LEFT, ONE OF THEM FOLLOWED ME-AS THE BATMAN! IT HAD TO BE ONE OF THEM! MIGHT HAVE BEEN THAT WAYNE FELLOW--NO-- HE SEEMED TOO MUCH THE PLAYBOY TYPE---OH WELL--

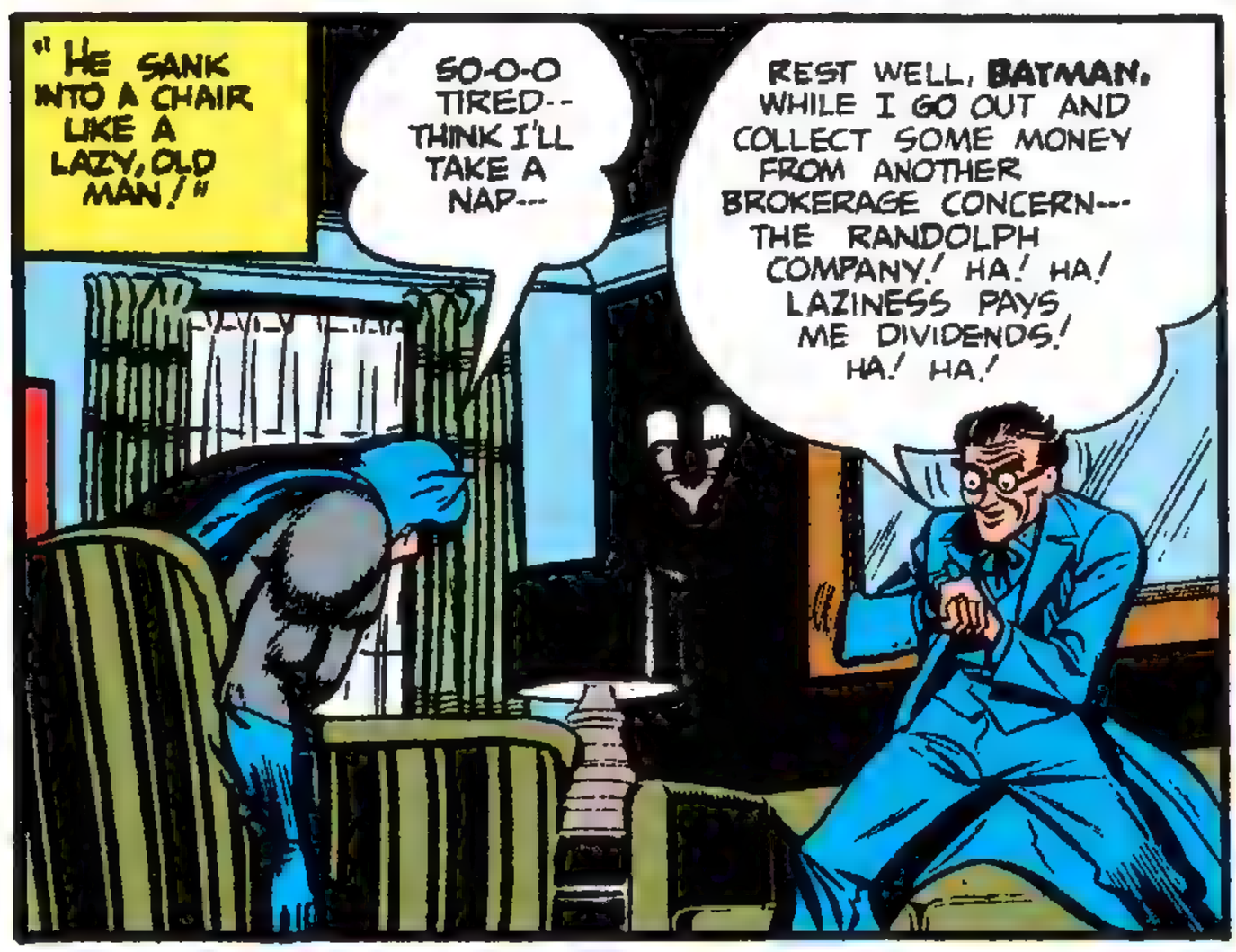

"I ARRIVED AT HOME, CLOSED THE DOOR---BUT A CRASHING FIGURE BANGED IT OPEN AGAIN!"
THE--THE BATMAN-
--IN PERSON!
7

DO HAVE A CHAIR!


CRASH
NO--- YOU HAVE IT!

"AT GUN-POINT, I FORCED HIM TO SWALLOW MY SERUM!"
DRINK IT! DRINK IT OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!


"THE POTION TOOK EFFECT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY!"
YOU--I--WHAT'S WRONG---? SUDDENLY FEEL TIRED---LAZY--- NEED A VACATION FROM FIGHTING CROOKS--OUGHT TO TAKE A MONTH FISHING!
"HERE WAS A SIGHT NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY HUMAN EYES! THE BATMAN---TOO LAZY TO FIGHT CRIME!"

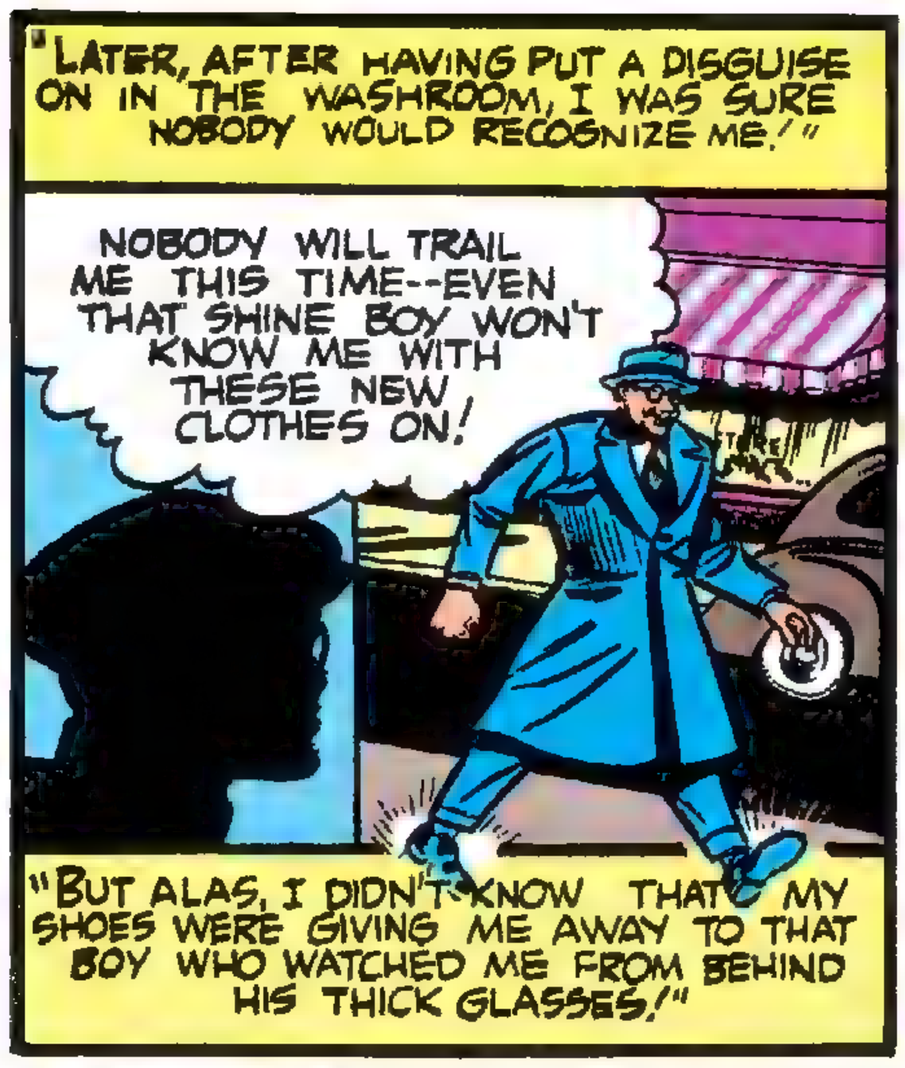

"HE SANK INTO A CHAIR LIKE A LAZY, OLD MAN!"
SO-O-O TIRED-- THINK I'LL TAKE A NAP---
REST WELL, BATMAN, WHILE I GO OUT AND COLLECT SOME MONEY FROM ANOTHER BROKERAGE CONCERN--- THE RANDOLPH COMPANY! HA! HA! LAZINESS PAYS ME DIVIDENDS! HA! HA!

"BUT LITTLE DID I KNOW THE BATMAN! LATER, I FOUND OUT THAT AS SOON AS I LEFT---"
---MUST-- MUST FIGHT THIS DRUG-- GET--GET MESSAGE TO ROBIN--- WIRELESS BOOT RADIO---MUST WARN HIM---

"THAT MAN MUST HAVE HAD TREMENDOUS WILL POWER TO FIGHT THE DRUG AS WELL AS HE DID!"
ROBIN--- LISTEN CAREFULLY-- GO-TO- RANDOLPH BROKERAGE COMPANY-- AND---
8

"AT THAT BROKERAGE COMPANY IT WAS THE SAME STORY---"
WE MUST PAY YOU, I SUPPOSE, OR ELSE WE'LL LOSE MONEY WHILE OUR CHAIRMAN IS UNDER YOUR INSIDIOUS DRUG!
HOW SENSIBLE! NO TRICKS NOW, ELSE YOUR CHAIRMAN BECOMES TOO LAZY TO LIVE--OR AM I BEING TOO SUBTLE?

"I FELT QUITE PLEASED WITH MYSELF, SO WHEN A SHINE BOY APPROACHED ME ON THE RAILWAY STATION NEARBY---"
SHINE, MISTER?
WHY NOT? MAKE THEM LIKE TWIN MIRRORS, BOY!

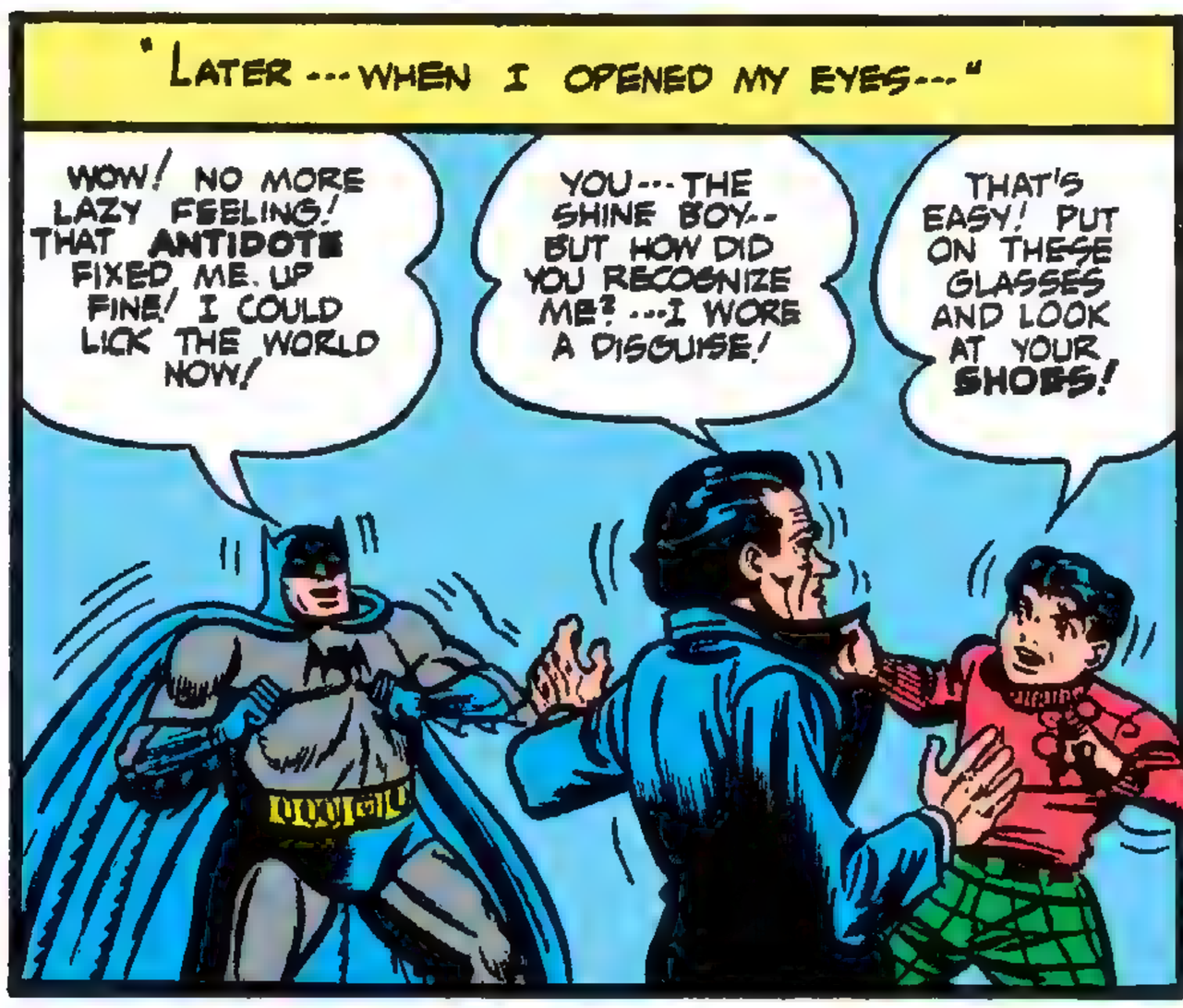

"LATER, AFTER HAVING PUT A DISGUISE ON IN THE WASHROOM, I WAS SURE NOBODY WOULD RECOGNIZE ME!"
NOBODY WILL TRAIL ME THIS TIME--EVEN THAT SHINE BOY WON'T KNOW ME WITH THESE NEW CLOTHES ON!
"BUT ALAS, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MY SHOES WERE GIVING ME AWAY TO THAT BOY WHO WATCHED ME FROM BEHIND HIS THICK GLASSES!"

"I WENT HOME EXULTANT! I TAUNTED THE HELPLESS BATMAN. I HAD THE WORLD UNDER MY SCIENTIFIC THUMB!"
HA! HA! NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE REAL MONEY! I'LL SELL MY SERVICES TO A FOREIGN POWER! I'LL MAKE DEFENSE LEADERS LAZY---I'LL MAKE A POWDERED FORM--

---AND SPRAY THE DRUG FROM A PLANE! I'LL MAKE THE NATION HELPLESS! THEY'LL BE LIKE YOU! WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT BACK? YOU CAN'T! HA! HA!

WHO?...
SHINE, MISTER?

"THAT BOY HIT ME AND MY WHOLE WORLD TOPPLED---"
BE GOOD AND I'LL ONLY HAVE TO HIT YOU ONCE!


"LATER---WHEN I OPENED MY EYES---"
WOW! NO MORE LAZY FEELING! THAT ANTIDOTE FIXED ME UP FINE! I COULD LICK THE WORLD NOW!
YOU---THE SHINE BOY--BUT HOW DID YOU RECOGNIZE ME? ---I WORE A DISGUISE!
THAT'S EASY! PUT ON THESE GLASSES AND LOOK AT YOUR SHOES!

"MIRACULOUSLY, UNDER THE GLASSES, MY SHOES GLOWED WITH AN UNEARTHLY LIGHT!"
MY SHOES ---THEY SHINE UNDER THESE GLASSES--
INFRA-RED LENSES THAT REVEAL THE SPECIAL CHEMICAL POLISH I PUT ON YOUR SHOES! YOU CHANGED YOUR CLOTHING--BUT NOT YOUR SHOES! I FOLLOWED THEM!
9

"I THINK I WENT A LITTLE MAD THEN! I SNATCHED UP A SCALPEL---"

YOU TRICKED ME! ME---A GREAT MIND!

YES--DO YOU MIND? YOUR GREAT MIND IS THROUGH, PROFESSOR!

--AND INDEED IT WAS THROUGH! THERE, YOU SEE, I TOLD YOU IT WAS A TRAGEDY!

YEAH---TOO BAD! YOU HAD A NICE RACKET THERE FOR A WHILE! NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU, BROTHER?

ME? OKAY--- UNBUTTON YOUR EARS WHILE I GIVE OUT!

"ME, I FIGURED I WASN'T GONNA BE NO ORDINARY MUGG. I HAD IDEAS---BIG IDEAS--- AN' I CARRIED 'EM OUT FAST, TOO!"

GOTHA

THREE ARMY TANKS STOLEN

FIFTH COLUMNIST ACTIVITY SUSPECTED

"'FIFTH COLUMNISTS!' HAW! THEM TANKS WAS STOLEN BY MY MOB..."

OKAY! NOW LET'S SHOW THIS TOWN WHAT BIG-TIME GUYS WE REALLY ARE! GET THOSE IRON BUGGIES GOING!

"WE SHOWED 'EM! WE PULLED ONE JOB AFTER ANOTHER WITH THEM BABY TANKS!"

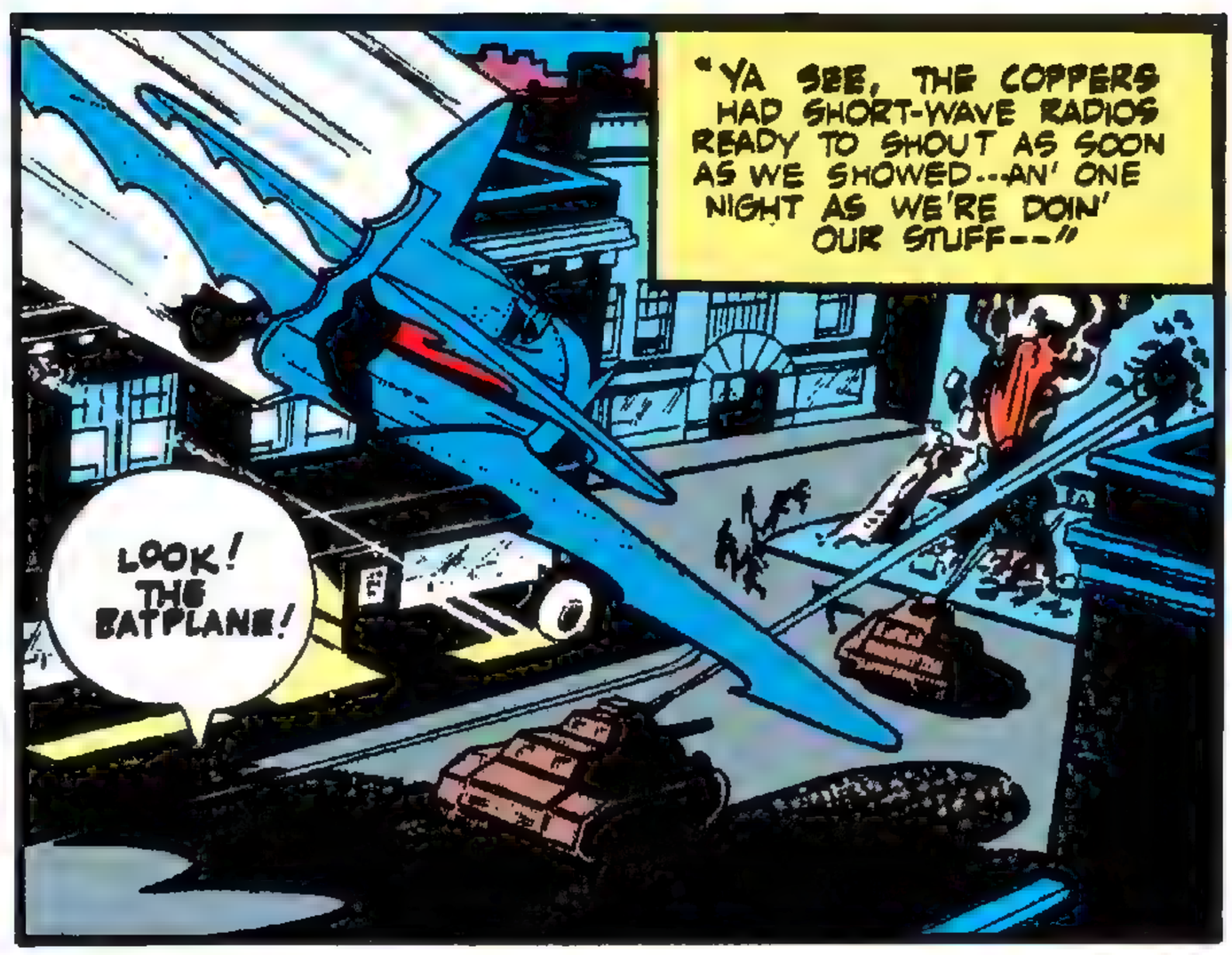
BANK

"NOTHIN' STOPPED US! NOTHIN'!"

RAT TAT

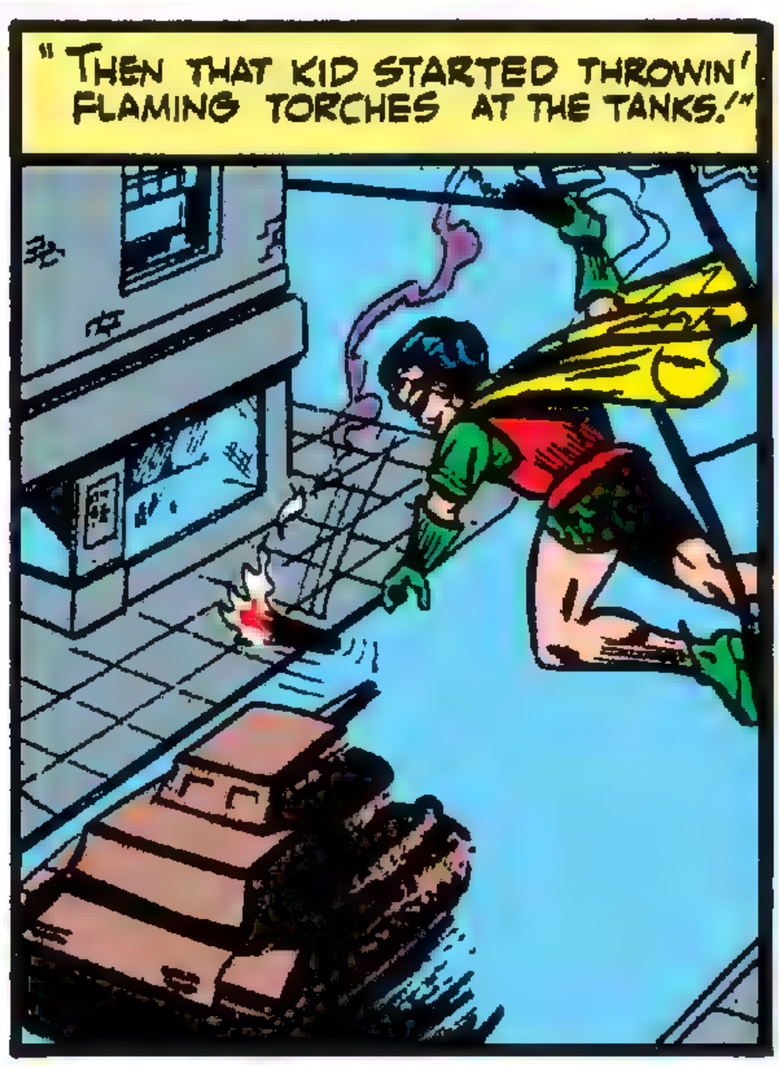
"AN' WE MADE GETAWAYS IN FAST TRUCKS! I COVERED ALL THE ANGLES!"

"SOON THE WHOLE TOWN BEGAN TO SIT UP AN' TAKE NOTICE! WE WERE FRONT-PAGE NEWS!"
NEWS
CITY BANKS PREY OF TANK BANDITS
BANDITS WAR ON POLKE
"YEP--I HAD EVERYTHING FIGURED OUT---BUT I FORGOT ONE GUY ---- THE BATMAN!"


"YA SEE, THE COPPERS HAD SHORT-WAVE RADIOS READY TO SHOUT AS SOON AS WE SHOWED--AN' ONE NIGHT AS WE'RE DOIN' OUR STUFF--"
LOOK! THE BATPLANE!

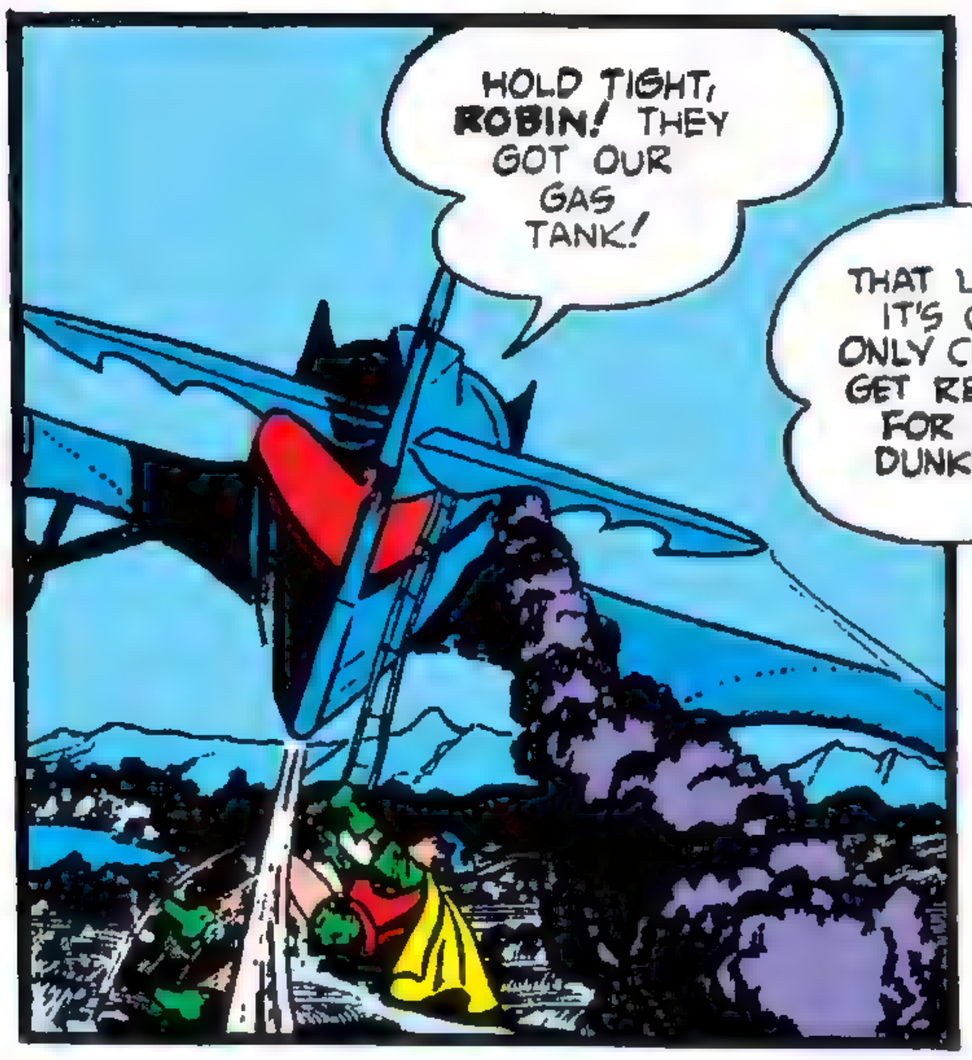
OKAY, ROBIN-- LET 'EM HAVE THE BOTTLES!
A PLEASURE!
"THEM TORCHES HIT---AND BOOM---THE TANKS LIT UP LIKE A ROMAN CANDLE!"
"KNOW WHAT THAT STUFF WAS IN THEM BOTTLES? GASOLINE---THAT'S WHAT, GASOLINE!"

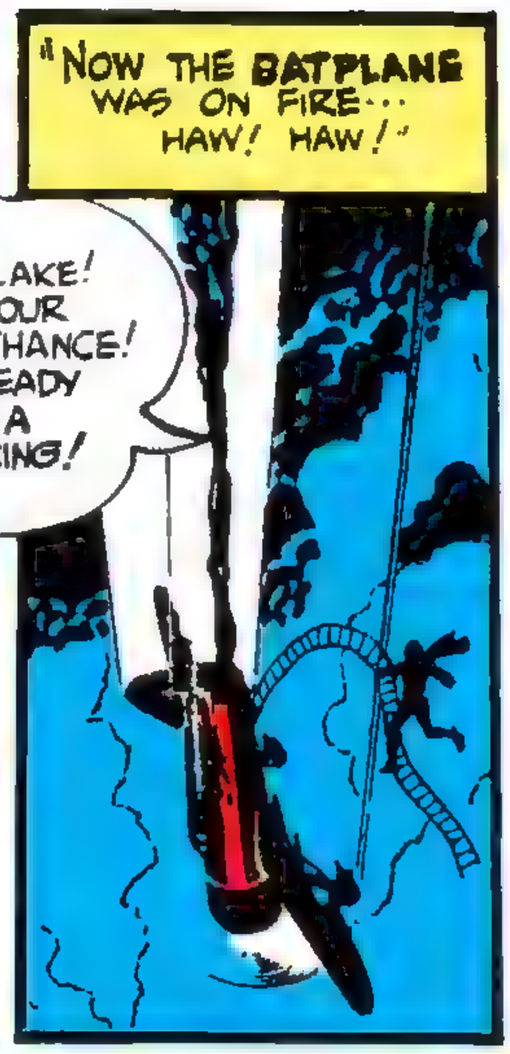
"THEM BOTTLES HIT THE TANKS, BROKE OPEN AND SPLASHED SOME KIND OF LIQUID ALL OVER 'EM."

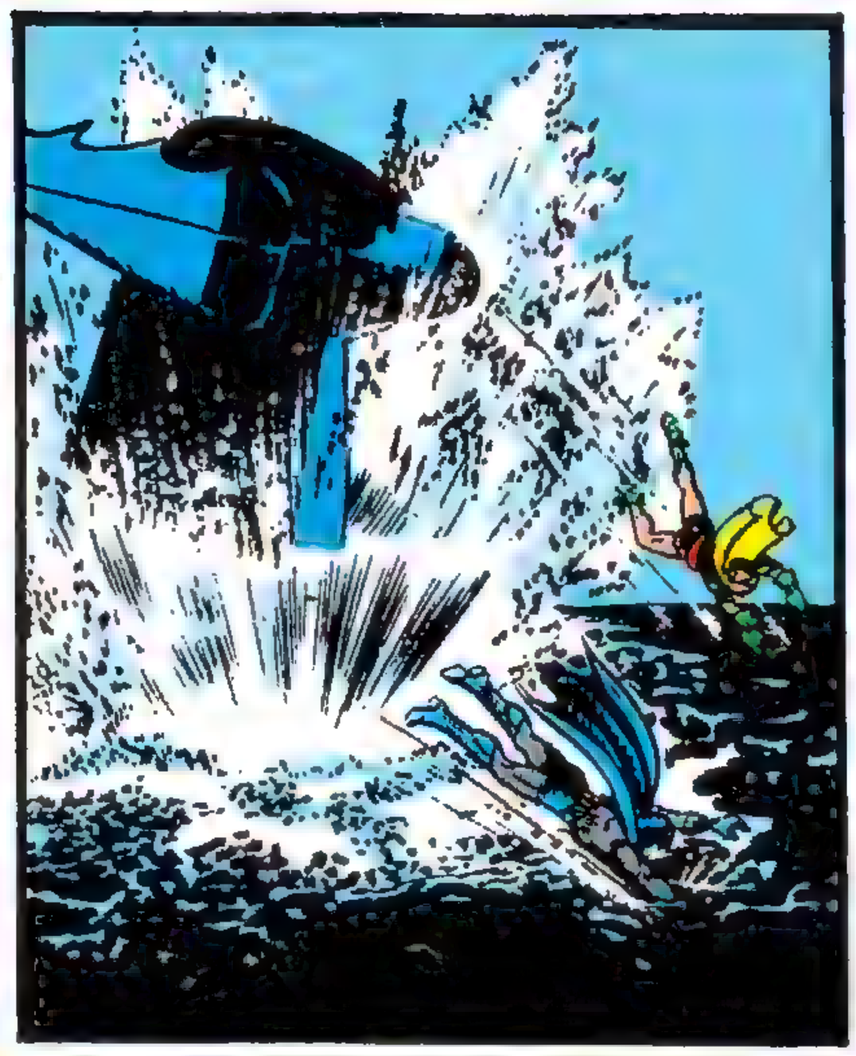

"THEN THAT KID STARTED THROWIN' FLAMING TORCHES AT THE TANKS!"

"PRETTY SOON THE INSIDE OF EACH TANK FELT LIKE A HOT STOVE!"
LEMME OUTA HERE!
AN I USTA LIKE BOILED CHICKEN!

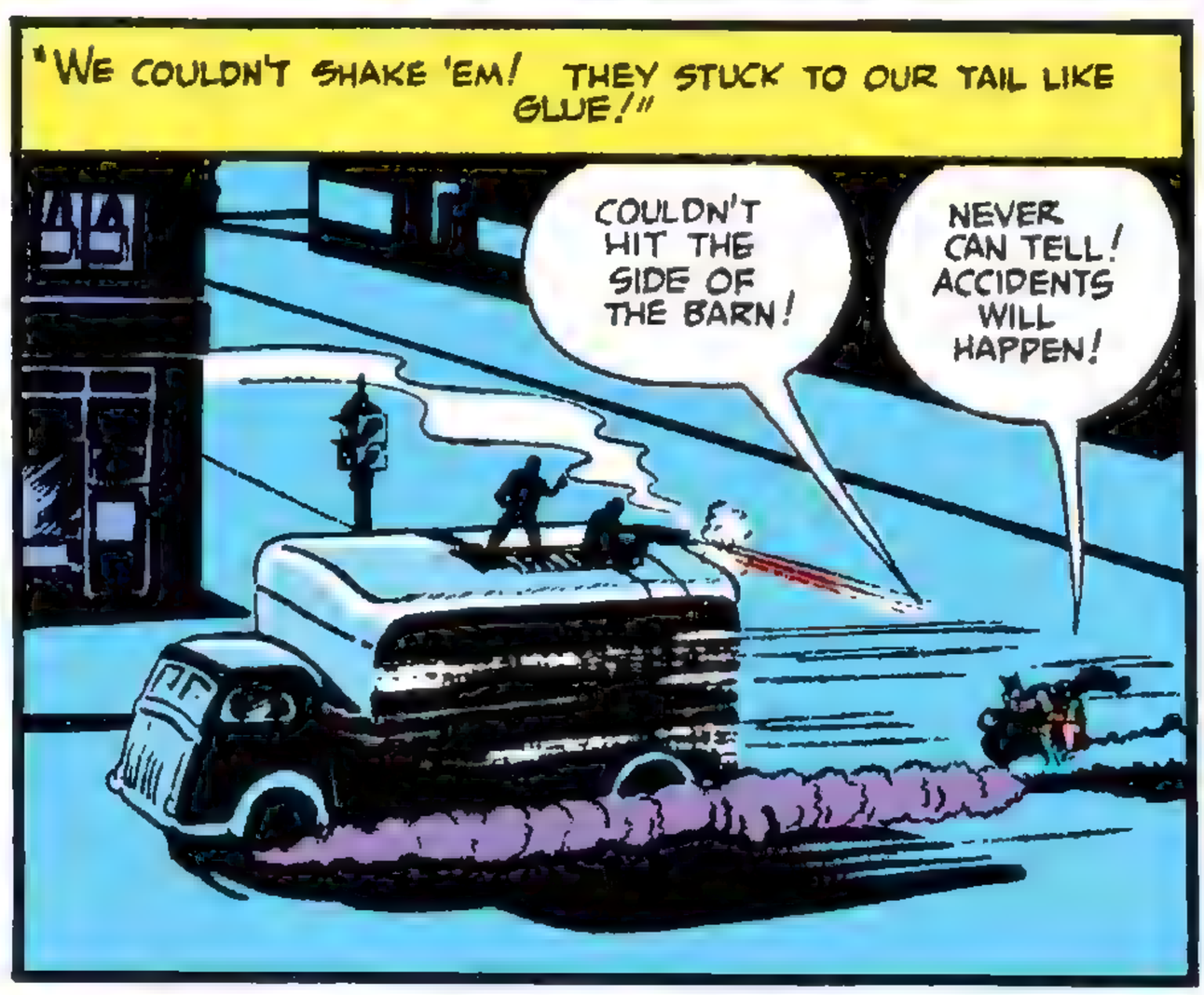
"WE HOPPED OUTA THEM TANKS LIKE THEY WAS POISON---AND INTO OUR TRUCKS! BUT I HAD AN ACE IN THE HOLE, TOO!"
GIVE IT TO 'EM! BLAST 'EM OUTA THE SKY!
"THE TOPS OF OUR TRUCKS FOLDED BACK. I HAD MACHINE GUNS PLANTED THERE!"


HOLD TIGHT, ROBIN! THEY GOT OUR GAS TANK!
THAT LAKE! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE! GET READY FOR A DUNKING!


"NOW THE BATPLANE WAS ON FIRE... HAW! HAW!"



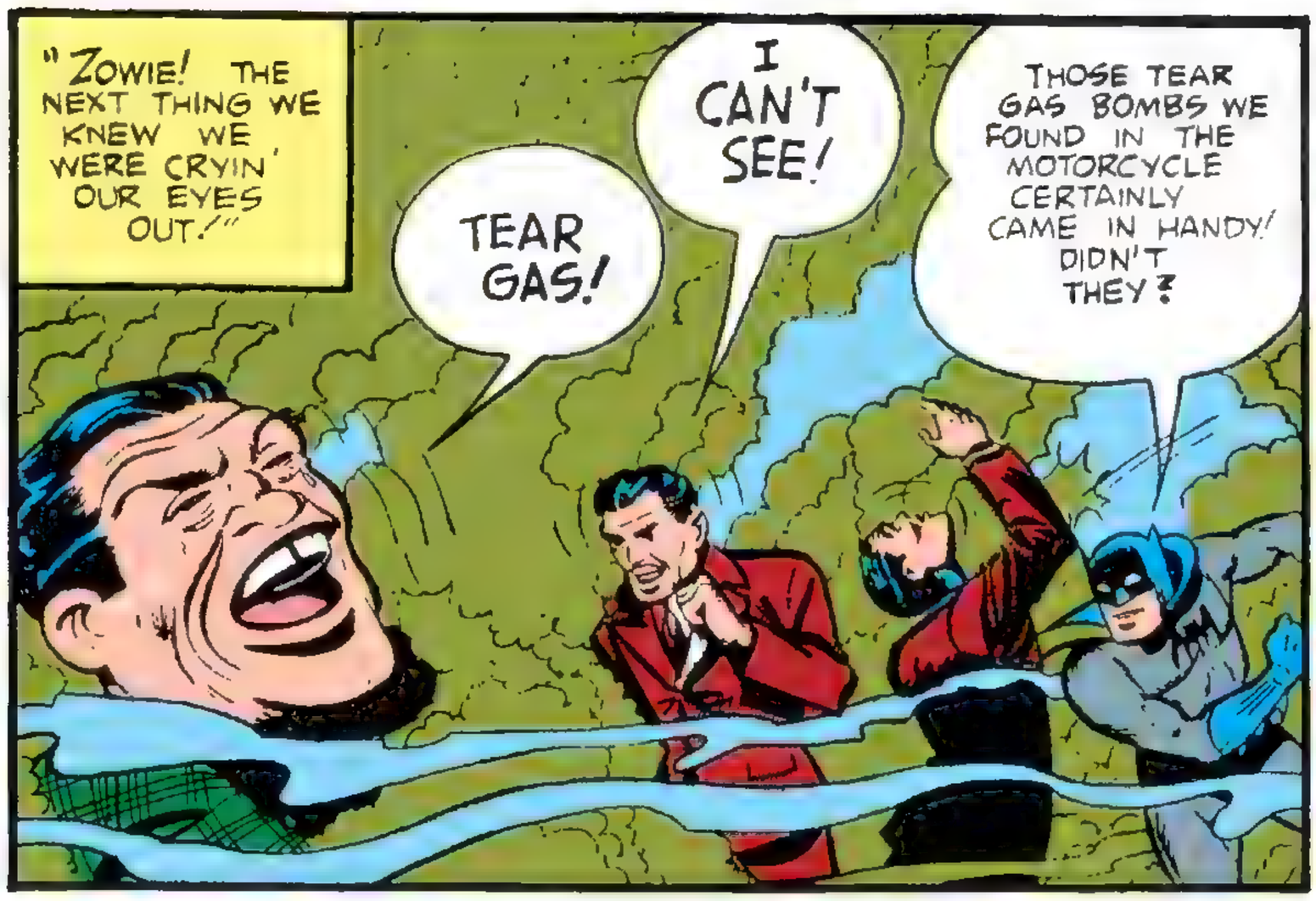
"THEM TWO HAD MORE LIVES THAN A CAT! THEY WERE OKAY...AND READY FOR MORE ACTION!"
SORRY, BUT WE NEED THIS MORE THAN YOU DO! OKAY?
OKAY, BATMAN!
OUR BATPLANE IS GONE! GOOD THING WE HAVE A SPARE, IMPROVED BATPLANE AT HOME!
PD

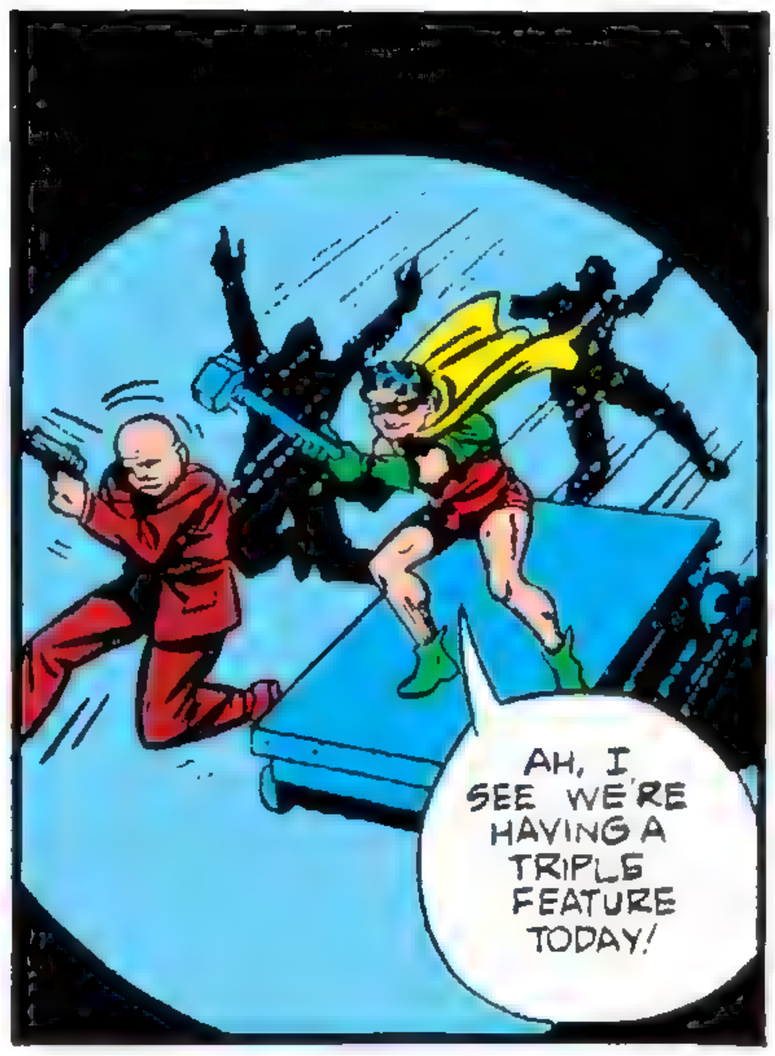

"WE COULDN'T SHAKE 'EM! THEY STUCK TO OUR TAIL LIKE GLUE!"
COULDN'T HIT THE SIDE OF THE BARN!
NEVER CAN TELL! ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN!

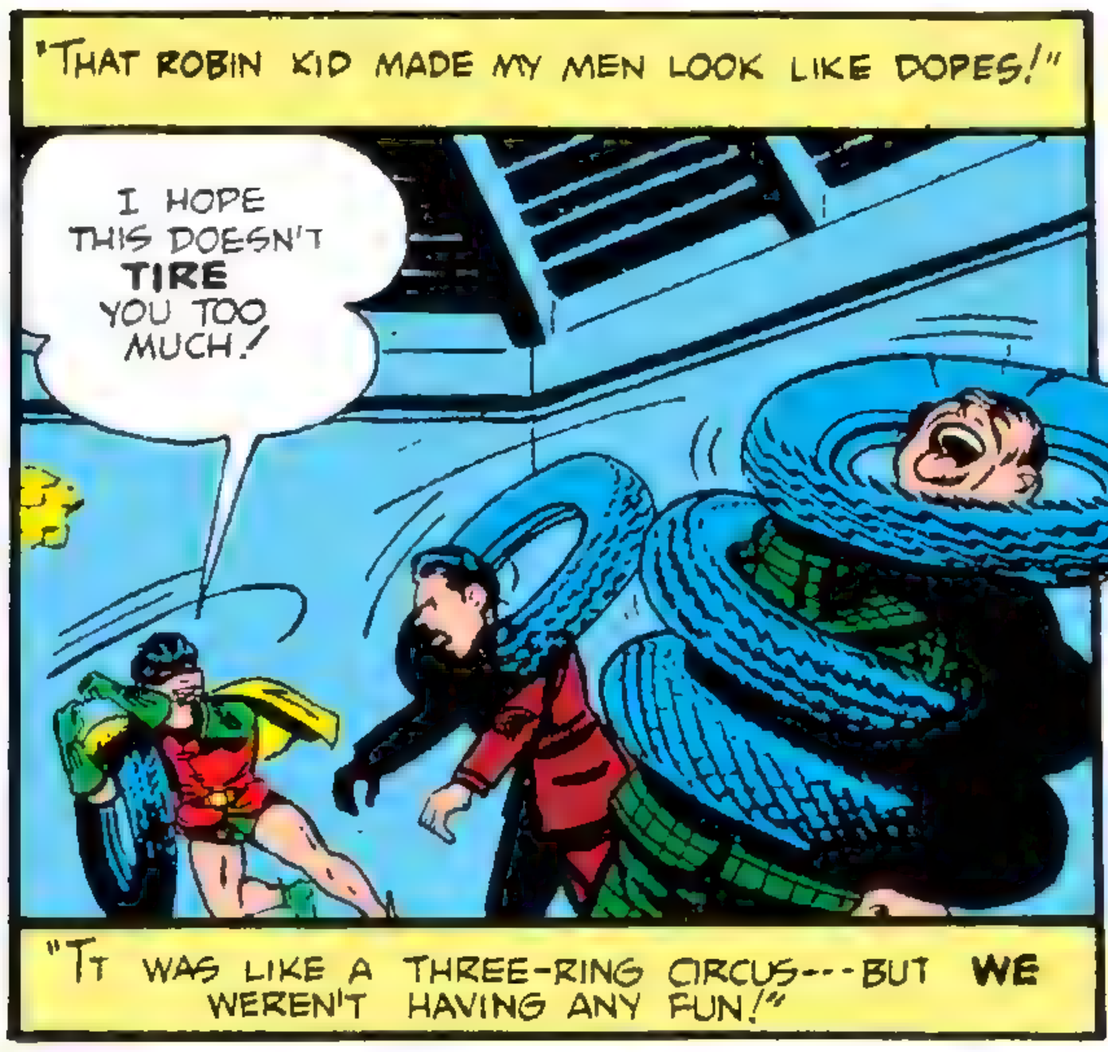
"WE GOT TO THE HIDEOUT AND GOT READY FOR A FIGHT!"
BOLT THEM DOORS! JUST LET THE BATMAN SHOW HIS FACE IN HERE! THAT'S ALL I ASK!
12

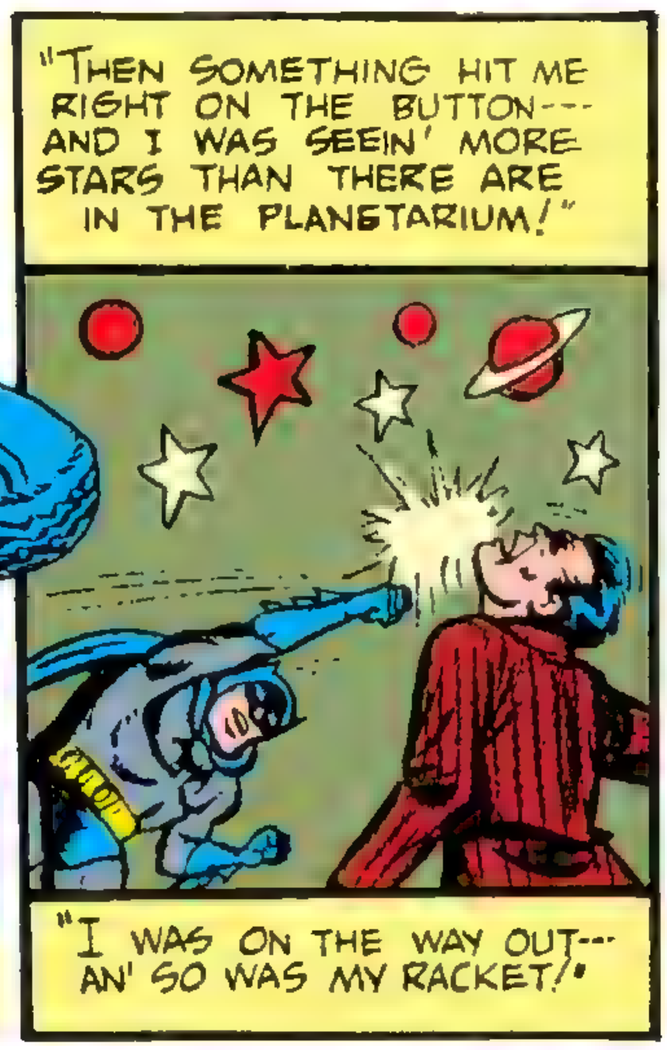
"SUDDENLY, THE DOOR CRASHED RIGHT IN! THAT MOTORCYCLE MUST HAVE HIT IT LIKE A CANNON BALL!"
"HEY---WHERE'S THE BATMAN?"
CRASH

"COMIN' THROUGH THAT DOOR WAS TROUBLE.... IN CAPITAL LETTERS!"
WE WANT IN, PAL!


"ZOWIE! THE NEXT THING WE KNEW WE WERE CRYIN' OUR EYES OUT!"
TEAR GAS!
I CAN'T SEE!
THOSE TEAR GAS BOMBS WE FOUND IN THE MOTORCYCLE CERTAINLY CAME IN HANDY! DIDN'T THEY?


AH, I SEE WE'RE HAVING A TRIPLE FEATURE TODAY!


"THAT ROBIN KID MADE MY MEN LOOK LIKE DOPES!"
I HOPE THIS DOESN'T TIRE YOU TOO MUCH!
"IT WAS LIKE A THREE-RING CIRCUS---BUT WE WEREN'T HAVING ANY FUN!"


"THEN SOMETHING HIT ME RIGHT ON THE BUTTON--- AND I WAS SEEIN' MORE STARS THAN THERE ARE IN THE PLANETARIUM!"
"I WAS ON THE WAY OUT--- AN' SO WAS MY RACKET!"

TOO BAD! YOU WERE IN THE SAME BOAT WE WERE, BUT AT LEAST WE ALL LED THE COPS A MERRY CHASE!
RIGHT! HOW MANY GUYS CAN THINK UP CLEVER RACKETS LIKE WE DID? WE'RE THREE SMART GUYS!
I AGREE WITH YOU! ALL OF US ARE REALLY BRILLIANT! BRILLIANT!

AND NOW... AS EVERY STORY MUST---OUR STORY COMES TO AN END--- BUT OURS ENDS WHERE IT BEGAN--- IN THE STATE PENITENTIARY!
HEY! IF YOU "GENIUSES" ARE READY, THE WARDEN WILL ASSIGN YOU TO YOUR CELLS!
13

IT WAS NICE SITTING HERE TALKING TO YOU GUYS!
YEAH! YOU KNOW, WHILE WE WAS GABBIN', I GOT ME AN IDEA FER A NEW RACKET!
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE BEFORE YOU CAN TRY IT OUT--ABOUT TWENTY YEARS, I BELIEVE! COME GENTLEMEN, THE GUARDS ARE GROWING IMPATIENT!

THREE SMART GUYS... OUTSMARTED BY THE BATMAN! THAT OUGHT TO PROVE SOMETHING!!
BOB KANE

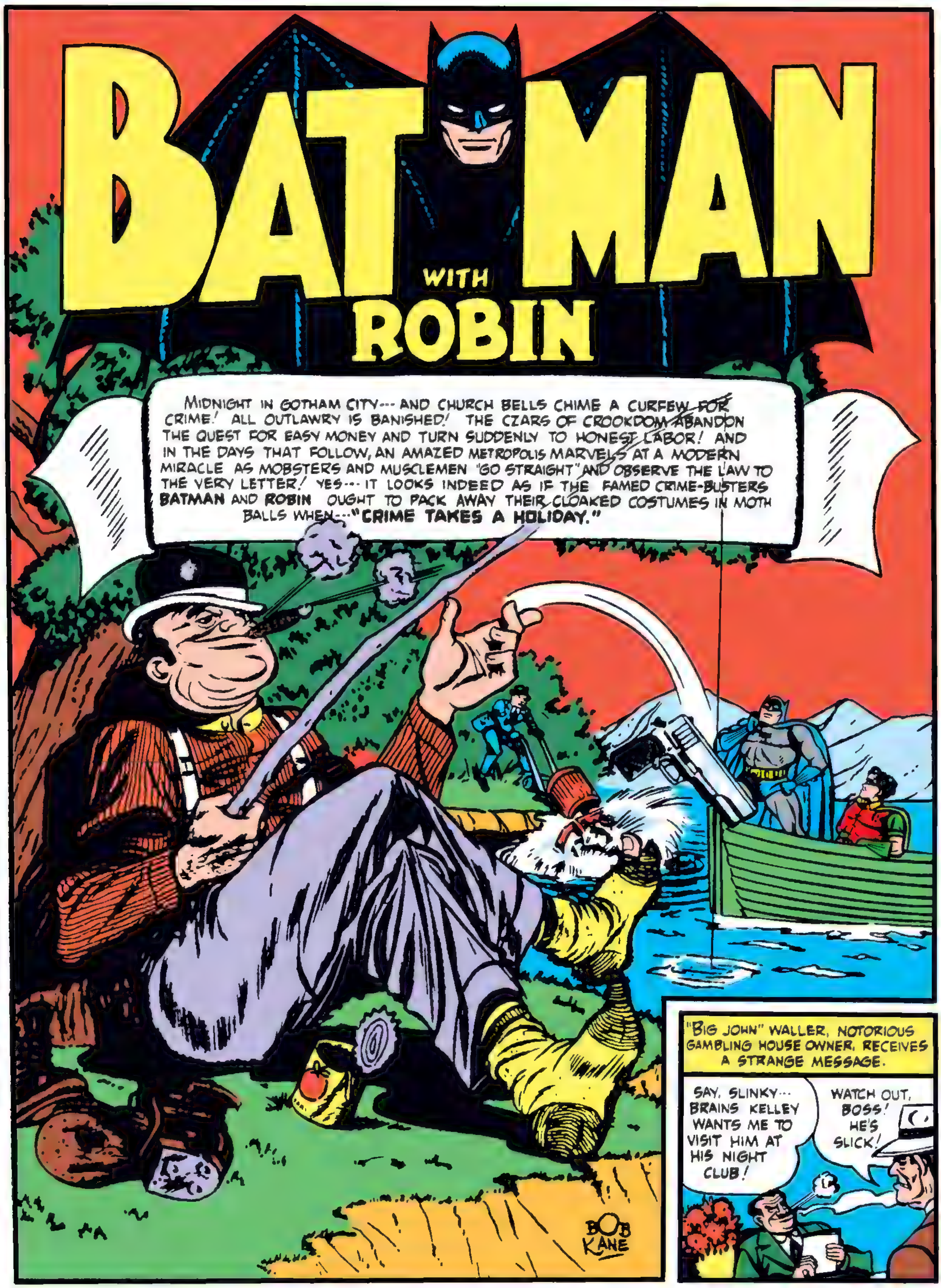
No. 5

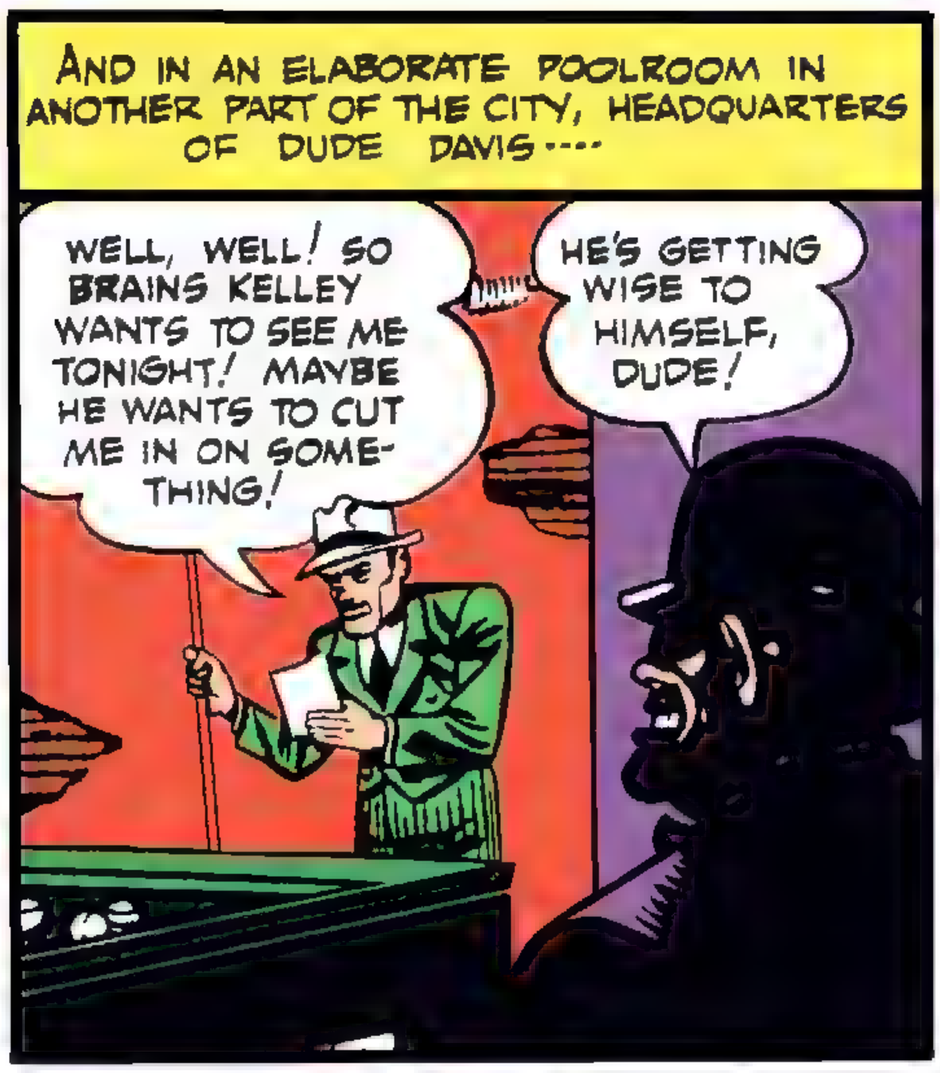
SPRING ISSUE

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

96 THRILLING PAGES!

SUPERMAN • BATMAN AND ROBIN
SANDMAN • ZATARA
RED, WHITE & BLUE


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
MIDNIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY--- AND CHURCH BELLS CHIME A CURFEW FOR CRIME! ALL OUTLAWRY IS BANISHED! THE CZARS OF CROOKDOM ABANDON THE QUEST FOR EASY MONEY AND TURN SUDDENLY TO HONEST LABOR! AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, AN AMAZED METROPOLIS MARVELS AT A MODERN MIRACLE AS MOBSTERS AND MUSCLEMEN "GO STRAIGHT" AND OBSERVE THE LAW TO THE VERY LETTER! YES--- IT LOOKS INDEED AS IF THE FAMED CRIME-BUSTERS BATMAN AND ROBIN OUGHT TO PACK AWAY THEIR CLOAKED COSTUMES IN MOTH BALLS WHEN---"CRIME TAKES A HOLIDAY."
BOB KANE
"BIG JOHN" WALLER, NOTORIOUS GAMBLING HOUSE OWNER, RECEIVES A STRANGE MESSAGE.
SAY, SLINKY--- BRAINS KELLEY WANTS ME TO VISIT HIM AT HIS NIGHT CLUB!
WATCH OUT, BOSS! HE'S SLICK!

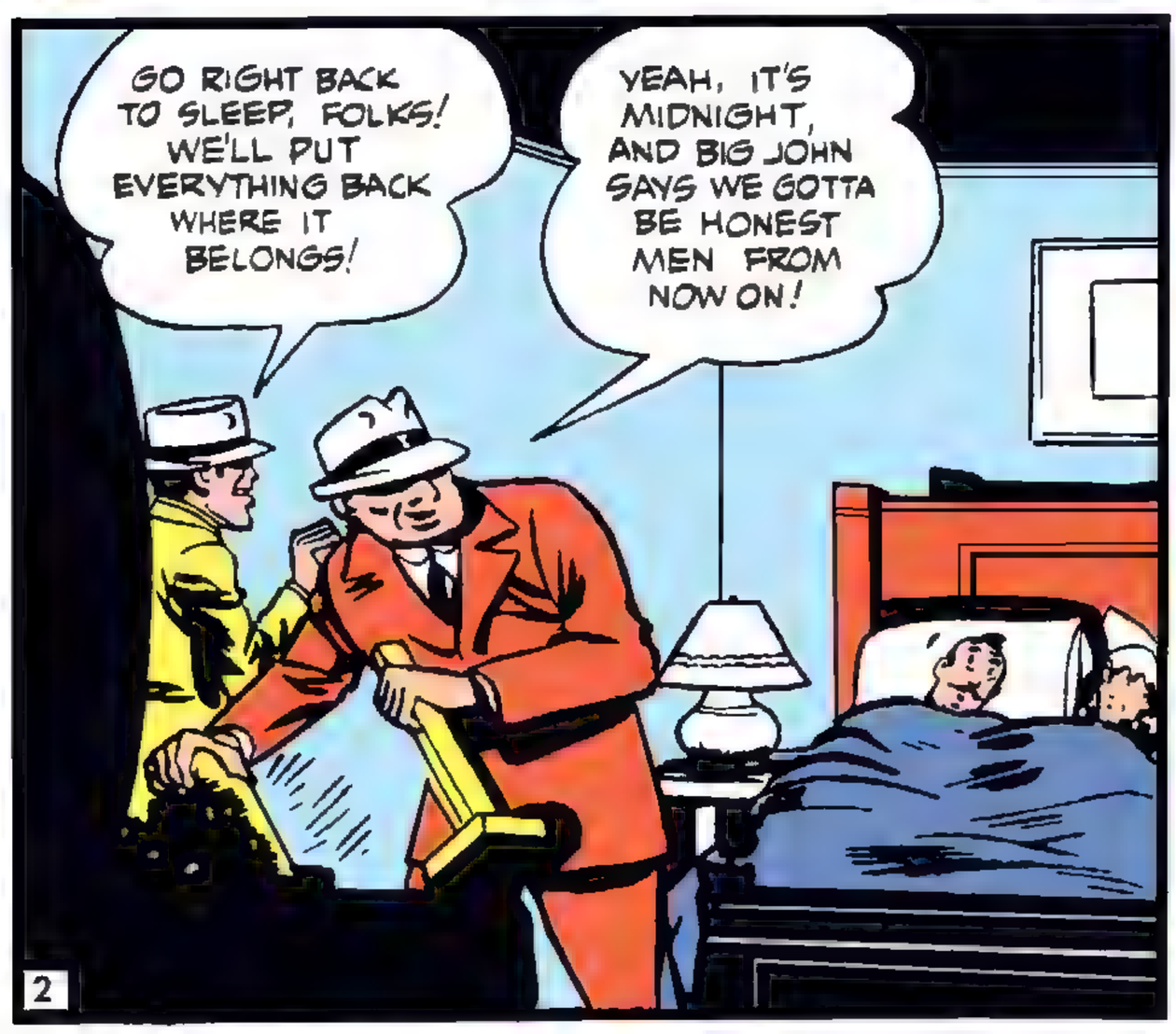

AND IN AN ELABORATE POOLROOM IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, HEADQUARTERS OF DUDE DAVIS....
WELL, WELL! SO BRAINS KELLEY WANTS TO SEE ME TONIGHT! MAYBE HE WANTS TO CUT ME IN ON SOMETHING!
HE'S GETTING WISE TO HIMSELF, DUDE!

LATE THAT NIGHT, THE THREE CRIME LORDS OF GOTHAM CITY MEET IN BRAINS KELLEY'S LAVISH NIGHT CLUB!
WHAT'S UP, BRAINS?
SOMETHING BIG COOKING?
HERE'S THE IDEA, GENTLEMEN--I WANT YOU TO INSTRUCT YOUR MEN TO STOP ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN GOTHAM CITY, BEGINNING AT MIDNIGHT TOMORROW!

TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE, HUH? THINK WE'RE CRAZY?
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO CUT US IN ON SOME JOB! BUT YOU WANT TO CUT OUR OWN THROATS!
SIT DOWN, BOYS--I'M NOT CRAZY--LISTEN---

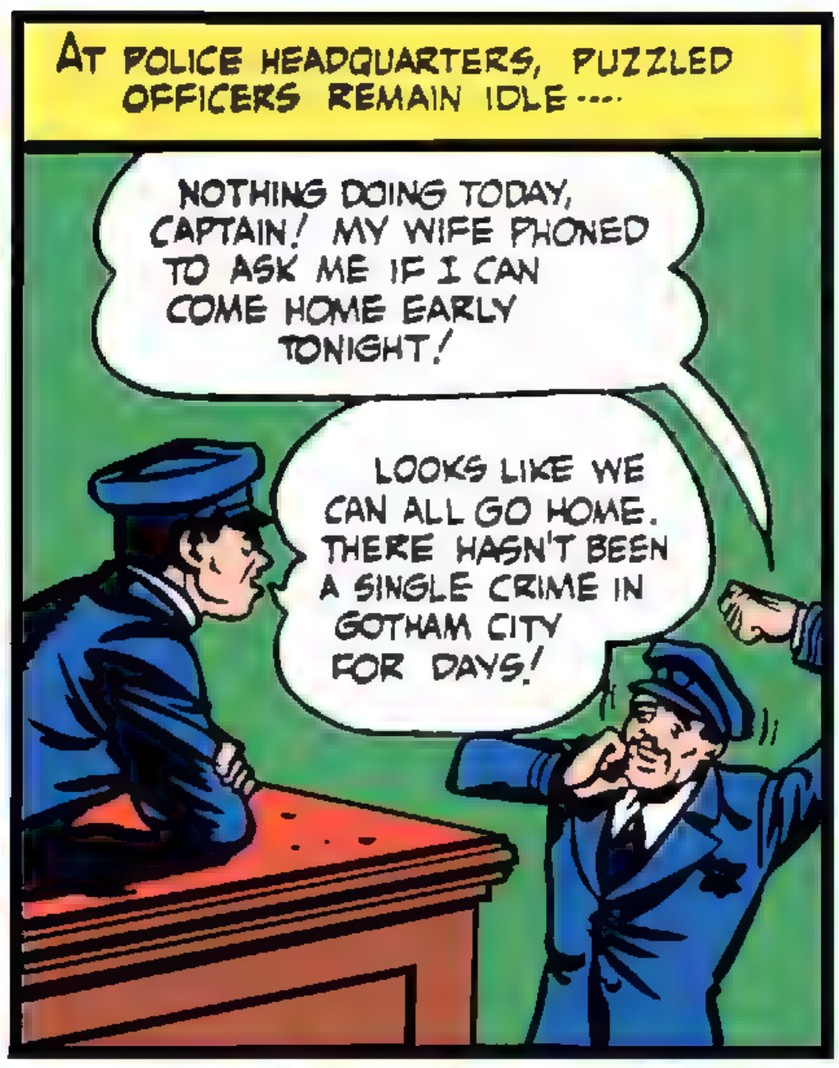
AND AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT THE NEXT DAY, A UNIQUE REFORM WAVE SWEEPS GOTHAM CITY...
HERE, MISTER-- I JUST TOOK THIS OUTTA YOUR POCKET! BUT DUDE DAVIS SAYS NO MORE CRIME FROM NOW ON!
HUH... NO MORE CRIME?

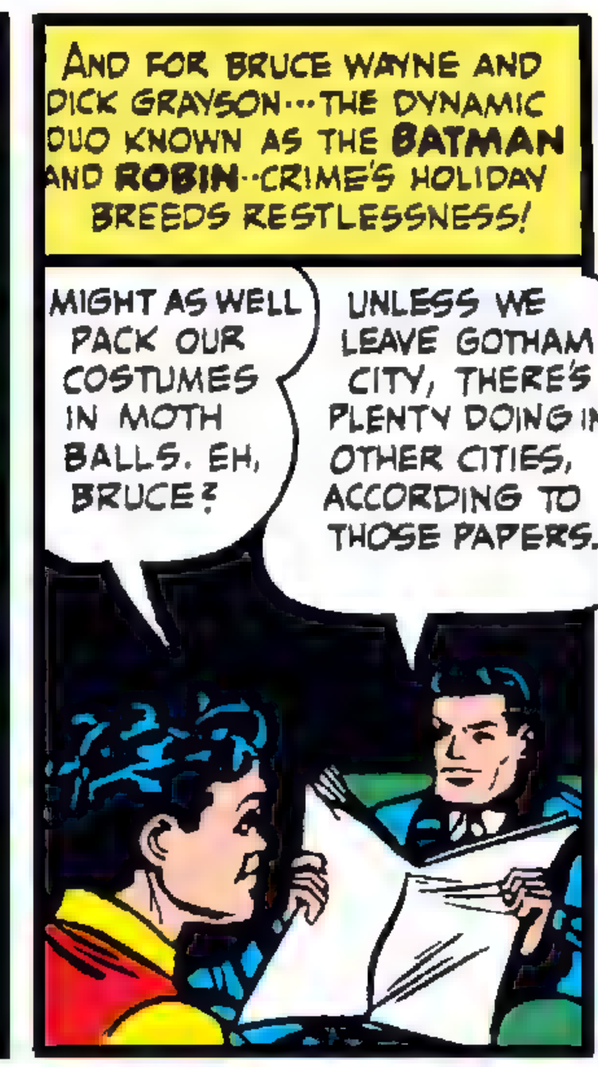
SORRY, MISTER. I CAN'T TAKE THIS FROM YOU! I GOT ORDERS TO KNOCK OFF ----CAN'T DO ANY MORE ROBBING!

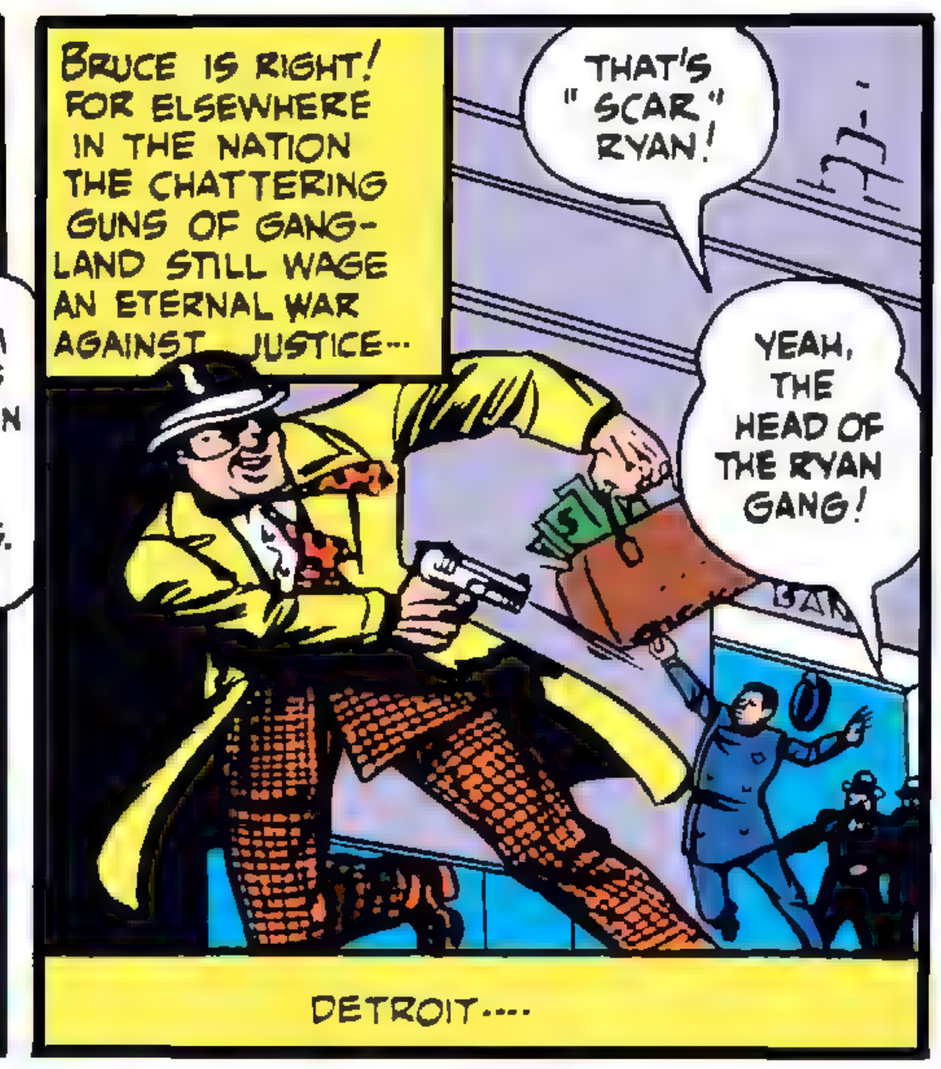

GO RIGHT BACK TO SLEEP, FOLKS! WE'LL PUT EVERYTHING BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!
YEAH, IT'S MIDNIGHT, AND BIG JOHN SAYS WE GOTTA BE HONEST MEN FROM NOW ON!
2

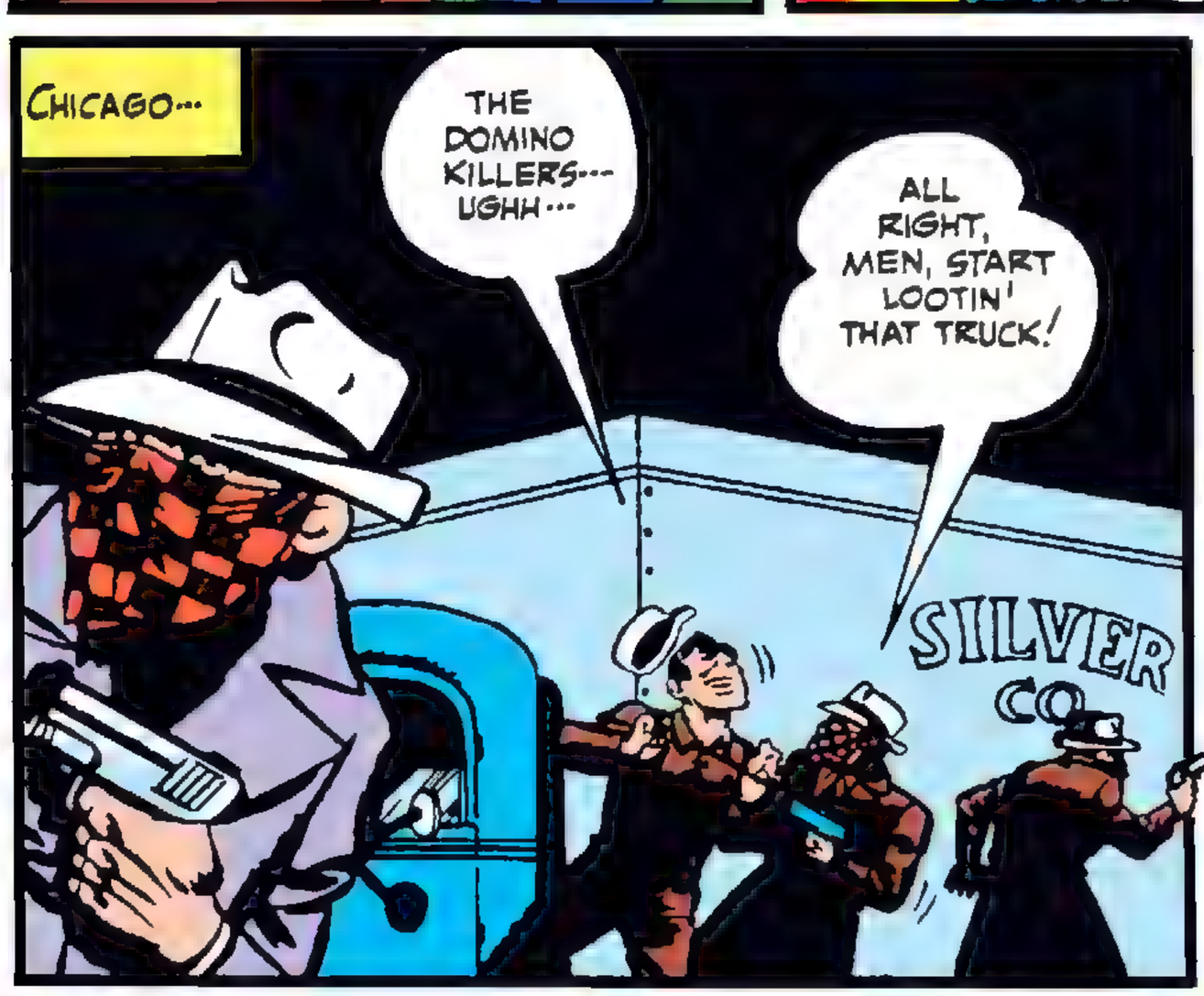
CRIME TAKES A HOLIDAY IN GOTHAM CITY! IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, UNDERWORLD ROGUES CONTINUE TO BEWILDER THE METROPOLIS---
WAIT FOR THE GREEN LIGHT! WE ALL GOTTA OBEY THE LAW!

PRESENT FROM THE BOYS, OFFICER! A PAIR OF RUBBERS FOR RAINY WEATHER. CAN'T HAVE YOU CATCHING COLD!

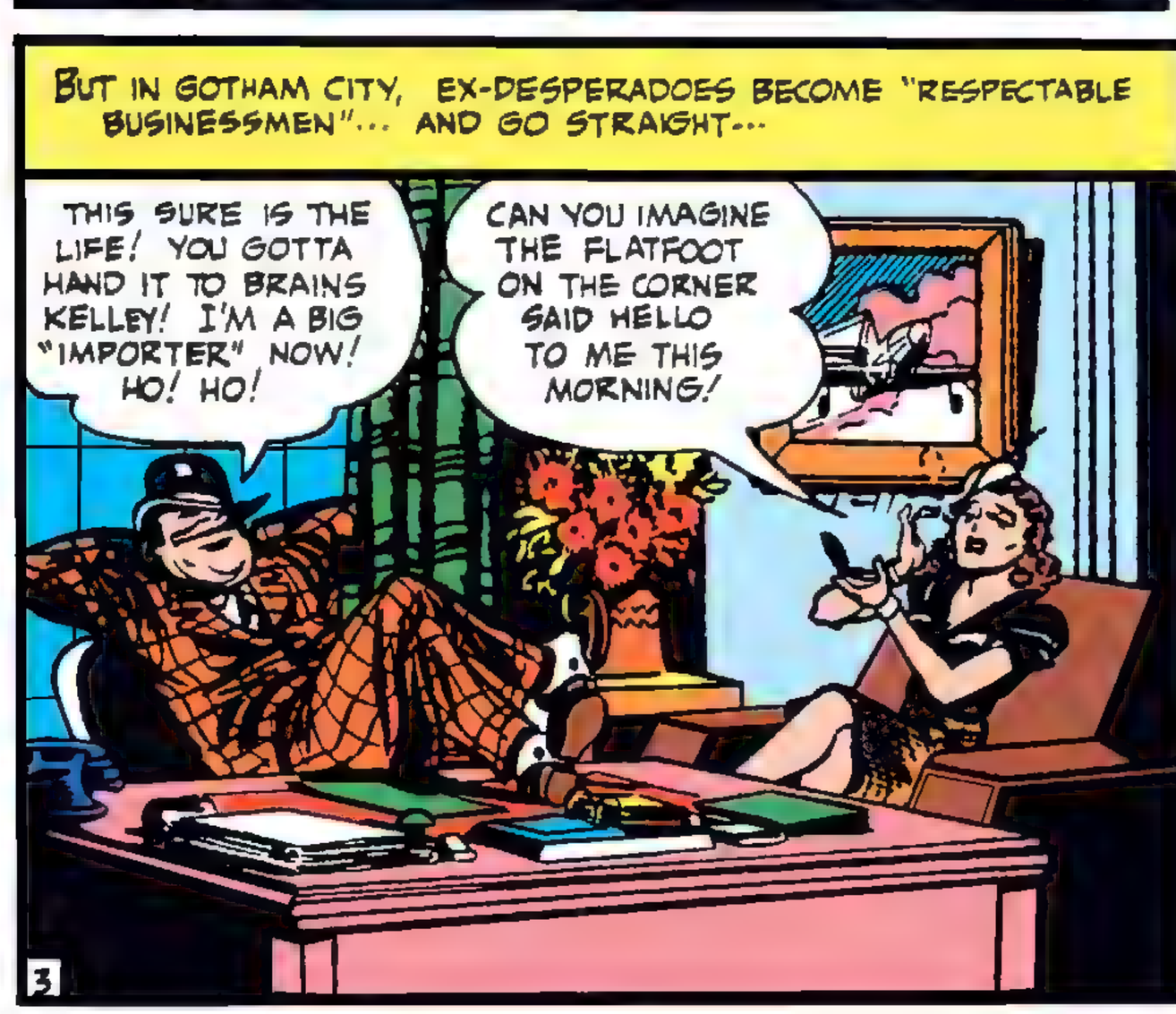

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, PUZZLED OFFICERS REMAIN IDLE....
NOTHING DOING TODAY, CAPTAIN! MY WIFE PHONED TO ASK ME IF I CAN COME HOME EARLY TONIGHT!
LOOKS LIKE WE CAN ALL GO HOME. THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE CRIME IN GOTHAM CITY FOR DAYS!


AND FOR BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...THE DYNAMIC DUO KNOWN AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN..CRIME'S HOLIDAY BREEDS RESTLESSNESS!
MIGHT AS WELL PACK OUR COSTUMES IN MOTH BALLS. EH, BRUCE?
UNLESS WE LEAVE GOTHAM CITY, THERE'S PLENTY DOING IN OTHER CITIES, ACCORDING TO THOSE PAPERS.

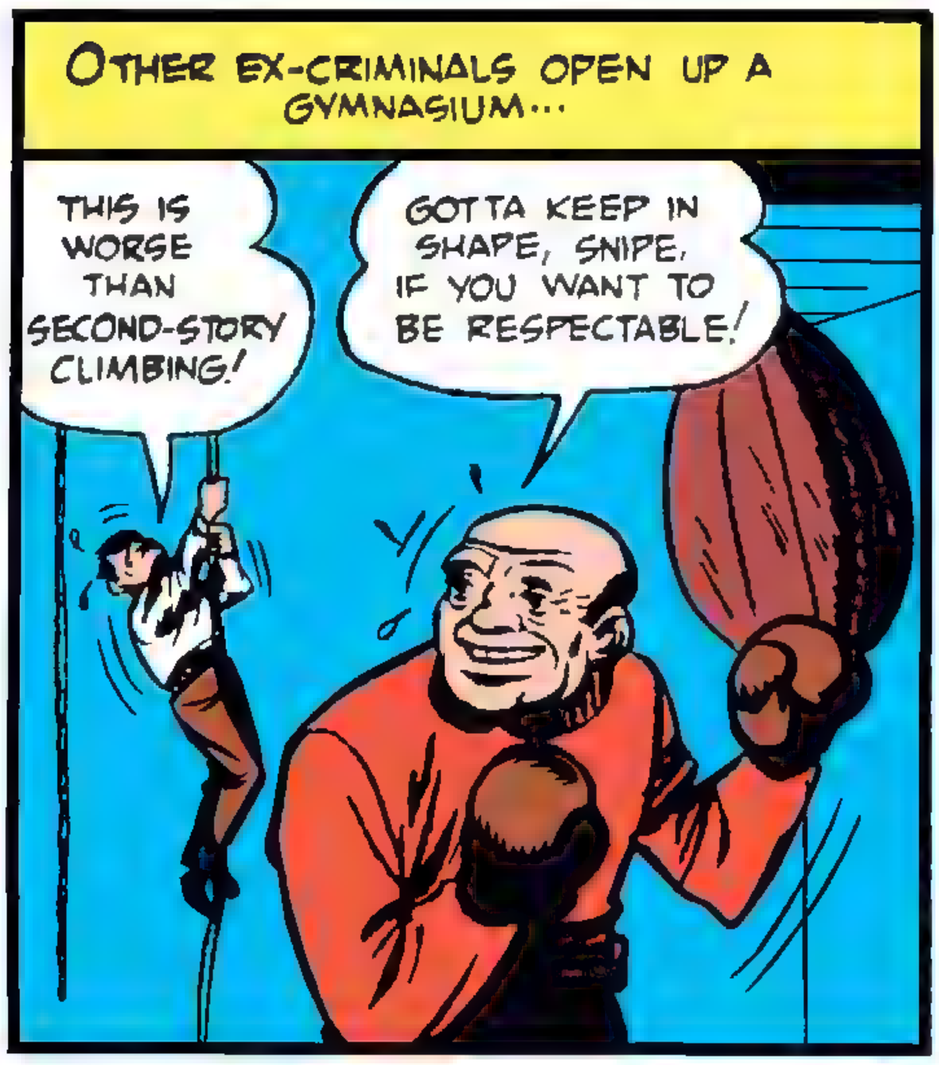

BRUCE IS RIGHT! FOR ELSEWHERE IN THE NATION THE CHATTERING GUNS OF GANG-LAND STILL WAGE AN ETERNAL WAR AGAINST JUSTICE...
THAT'S "SCAR" RYAN!
YEAH, THE HEAD OF THE RYAN GANG!
DETROIT....

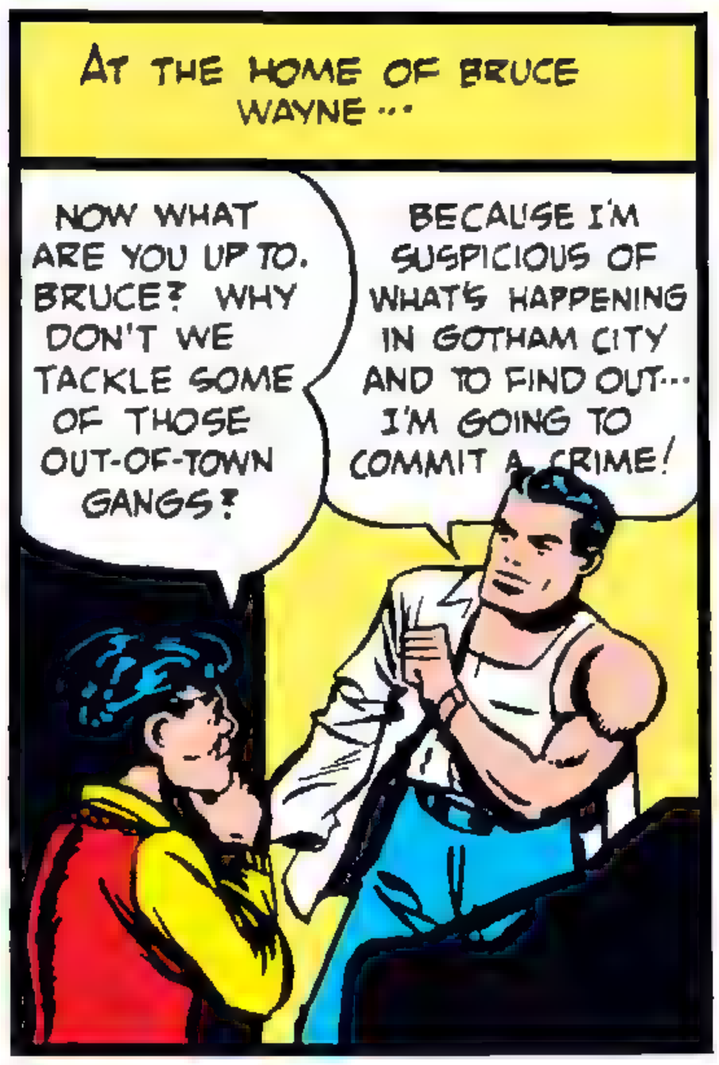

CHICAGO...
THE DOMINO KILLERS... UGHH...
ALL RIGHT, MEN, START LOOTIN' THAT TRUCK!
SILVER CO.

ST. LOUIS...
LET'S HAVE THAT SABLE COAT, LADY!
SHOW ME THAT SAFE - QUICK!
THE HOODED GUNMEN!
HELEN'S FURS


BUT IN GOTHAM CITY, EX-DESPERADOES BECOME "RESPECTABLE BUSINESSMEN"... AND GO STRAIGHT...
THIS SURE IS THE LIFE! YOU GOTTA HAND IT TO BRAINS KELLEY! I'M A BIG "IMPORTER" NOW! HO! HO!
CAN YOU IMAGINE THE FLATFOOT ON THE CORNER SAID HELLO TO ME THIS MORNING!
3

BOY, BEING IN BUSINESS IS SWELL! I NEVER SEEN SO MUCH ICE IN MY LIFE!
AND HANDLING THESE DIAMONDS DON'T MEAN BARS FOR US!


OTHER EX-CRIMINALS OPEN UP A GYMNASIUM...
THIS IS WORSE THAN SECOND-STORY CLIMBING!
GOTTA KEEP IN SHAPE, SNIPE, IF YOU WANT TO BE RESPECTABLE!


AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...
NOW WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, BRUCE? WHY DON'T WE TACKLE SOME OF THOSE OUT-OF-TOWN GANGS?
BECAUSE I'M SUSPICIOUS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GOTHAM CITY AND TO FIND OUT... I'M GOING TO COMMIT A CRIME!

LATER, AS DUSK SETTLES OVER THE CRIMELESS CITY, A DISGUISED BRUCE WAYNE SCALES THE FIRE-ESCAPE OF BIG JOHN'S GAMBLING HOUSE...
MAYBE I'LL WIND UP IN MORE TROUBLE THAN I BARGAINED FOR, BUT THIS IS ONE WAY TO LEARN WHAT'S BEHIND THE HOLIDAY OF CRIME!

A LONE FIGURE STEPS INTO THE LION'S DEN...
STICK 'EM UP, GENTS!
A ROBBER!
HE MUST BE CRAZY, TRYIN' TO PULL A JOB ON US!

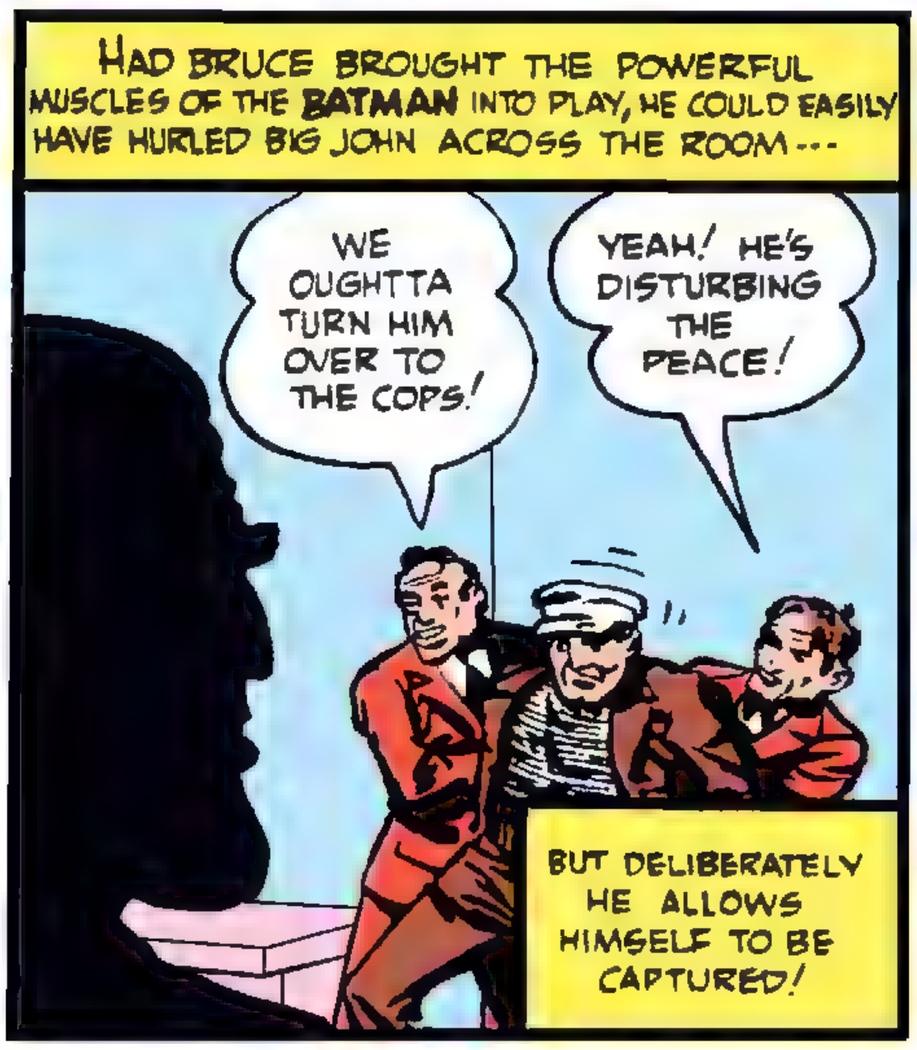
SHELL OUT YOUR DOUGH, PUNKS!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! DON'T YOU KNOW THERE AIN'T NO CRIME IN GOTHAM CITY? GET HIM, PETE!

WHIRLING WITH CATLIKE SPEED, THE DISGUISED BATMAN FIRES A STREAM OF WATER AT HIS ONRUSHING ASSAILANT!
GLUB... A WATER PISTOL!
COOL OFF, CHUM!
4

A WHIRLWIND OF FLYING FISTS SCATTERS THE ENEMY.
GOTTA BE BETTER THAN THAT TO TAKE ME! I'M THE GOLD COAST KID!

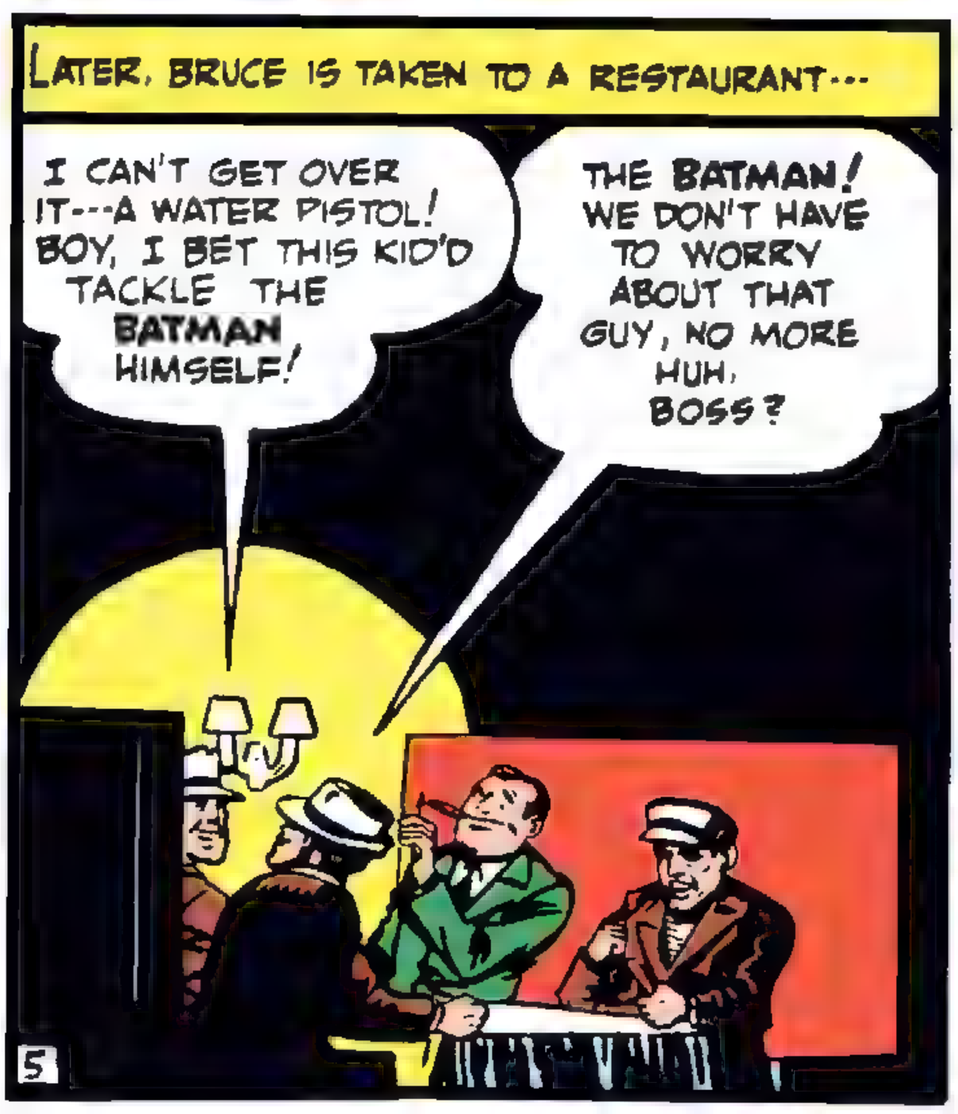
I AM A TOUGH GUY, I AM!

YOU MEAN-- YOU WERE!


HAD BRUCE BROUGHT THE POWERFUL MUSCLES OF THE BATMAN INTO PLAY, HE COULD EASILY HAVE HURLED BIG JOHN ACROSS THE ROOM---
WE OUGHTTA TURN HIM OVER TO THE COPS!
YEAH! HE'S DISTURBING THE PEACE!
BUT DELIBERATELY HE ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE CAPTURED!

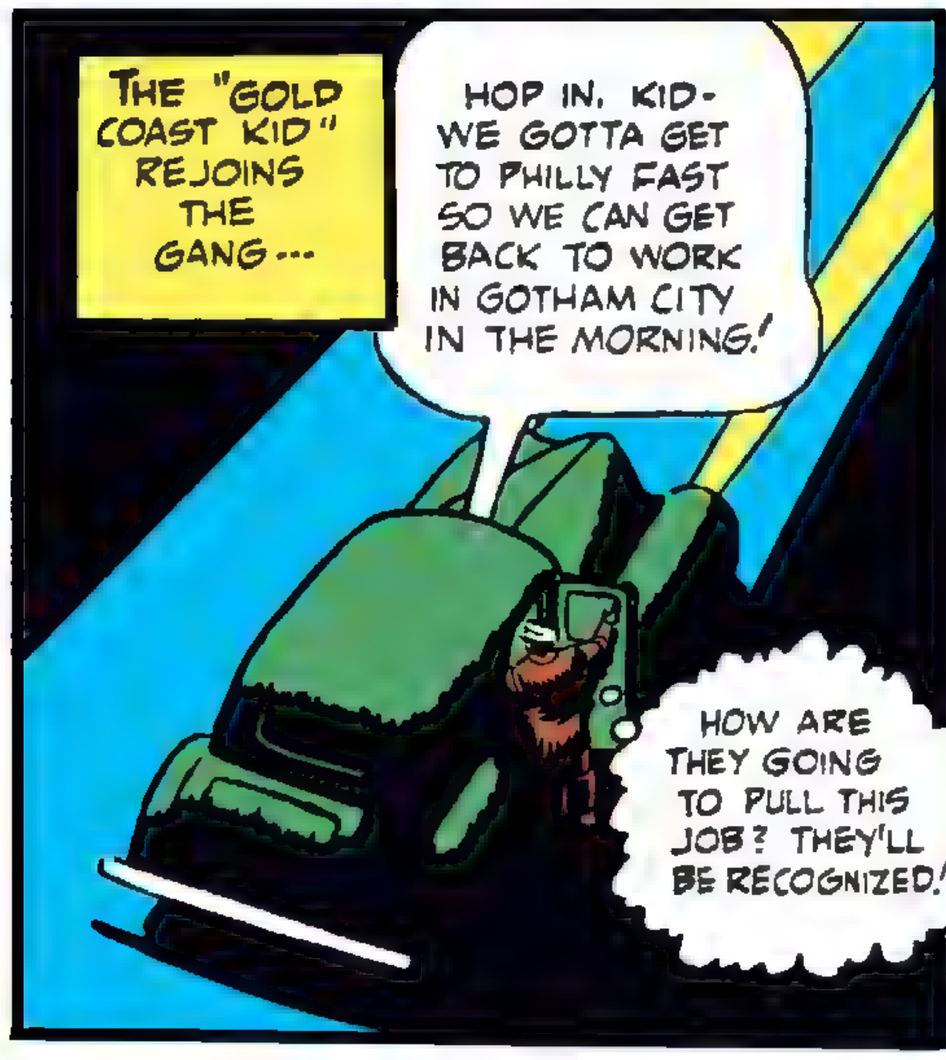
WAIT A MINUTE! THIS GUY HAD ENOUGH NERVE TO HOLD ME UP WITH A WATER PISTOL AND THEN PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT! MAYBE WE CAN USE HIM!
JUST WHAT I HOPED HE'D THINK! MY PLAN IS WORKING!

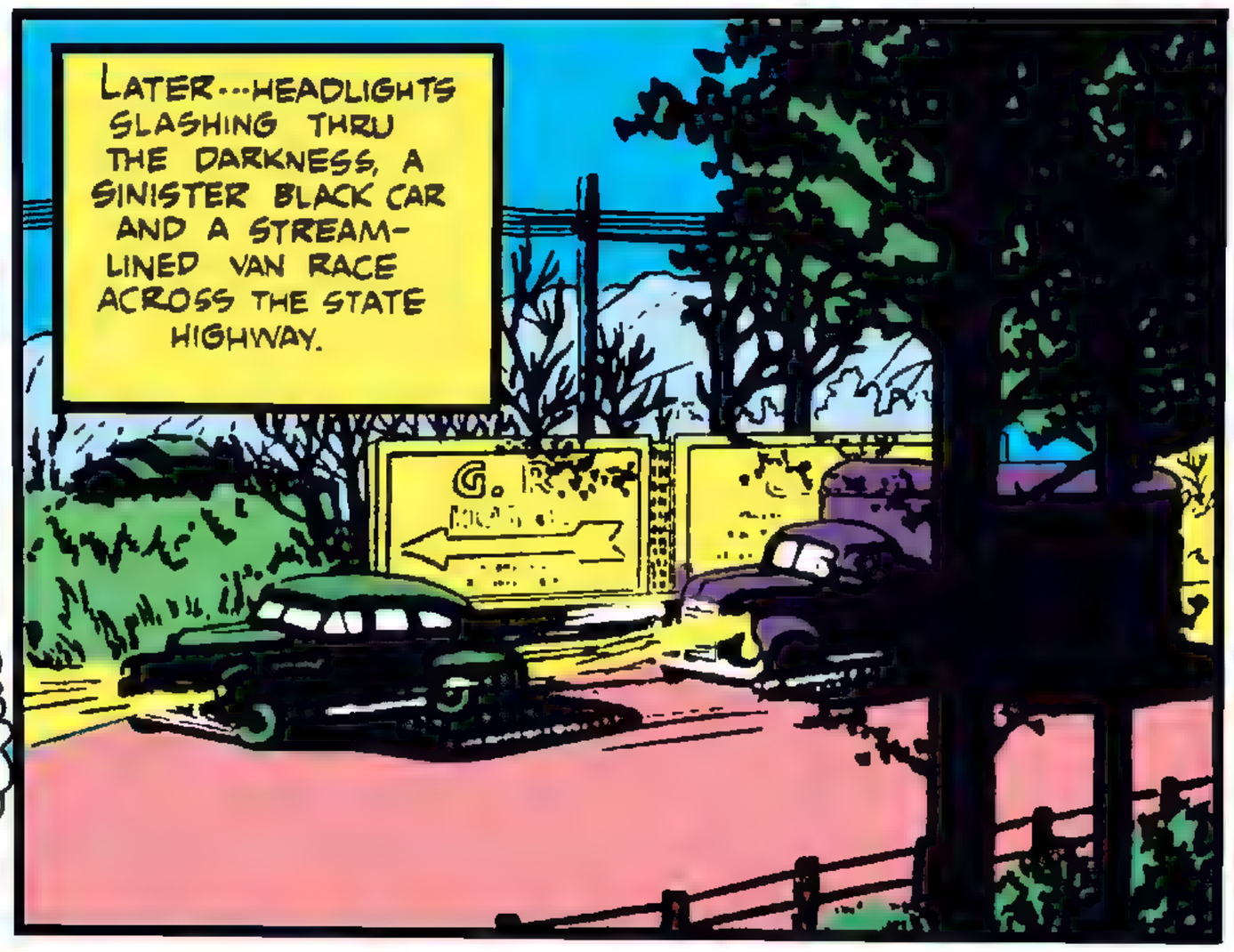
THE GOLD COAST KID, EH? YOU MUST BE A STRANGER, OR YOU'D KNOW THERE'S NO MORE CRIME IN GOTHAM CITY. BUT I NEED ANOTHER MAN ON A CERTAIN JOB. LISTEN, KID---
SURE, IF IT MEANS DOUGH. COUNT ME IN!
I'M IN WITH THE GANG!

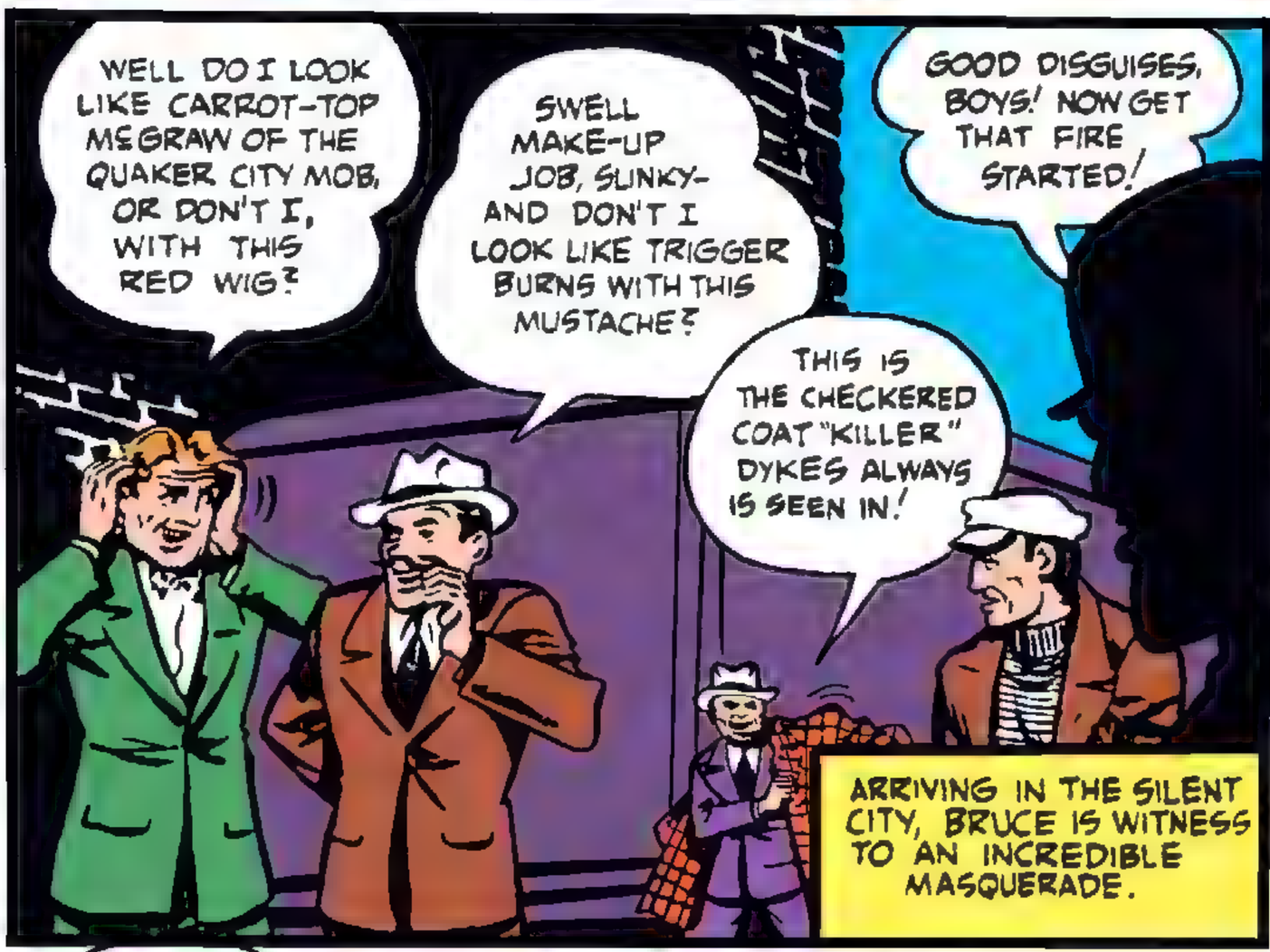

LATER, BRUCE IS TAKEN TO A RESTAURANT---
I CAN'T GET OVER IT---A WATER PISTOL! BOY, I BET THIS KID'D TACKLE THE BATMAN HIMSELF!
THE BATMAN! WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT GUY, NO MORE HUH, BOSS?
5

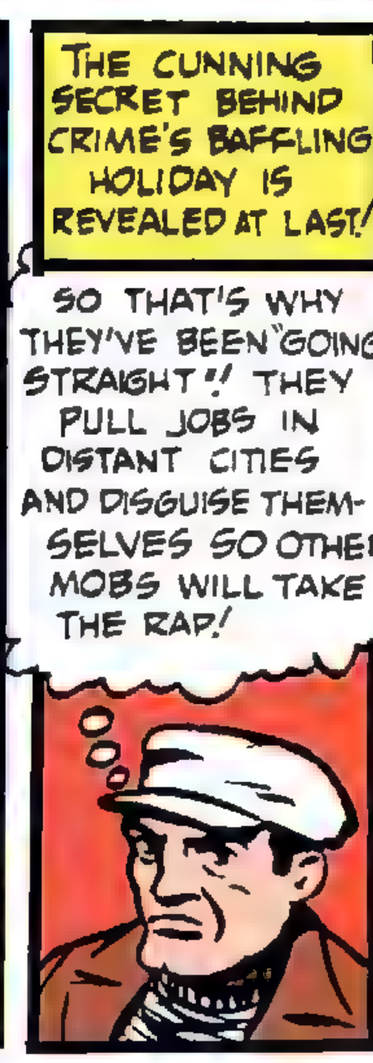
YEAH, WE TIED HIS HANDS WITH THIS HOLIDAY CRIME'S SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING. FINISH UP YOUR MEAL, KID. WE'LL MEET YOU OUTSIDE.
I'LL BE WITH YA IN A SECOND!

LEFT ALONE FOR A MOMENT, BRUCE SWIFTLY MAKES AN URGENT CALL ON HIS PORTABLE WIRELESS---
BRUCE, ANY NEWS?
HAVE TO TALK FAST---I'M IN WITH BIG JOHN'S GANG! WE'RE GOING TO ROB THE CURTIS SILK WAREHOUSE IN PHILADELPHIA. TIP OFF THE POLICE!

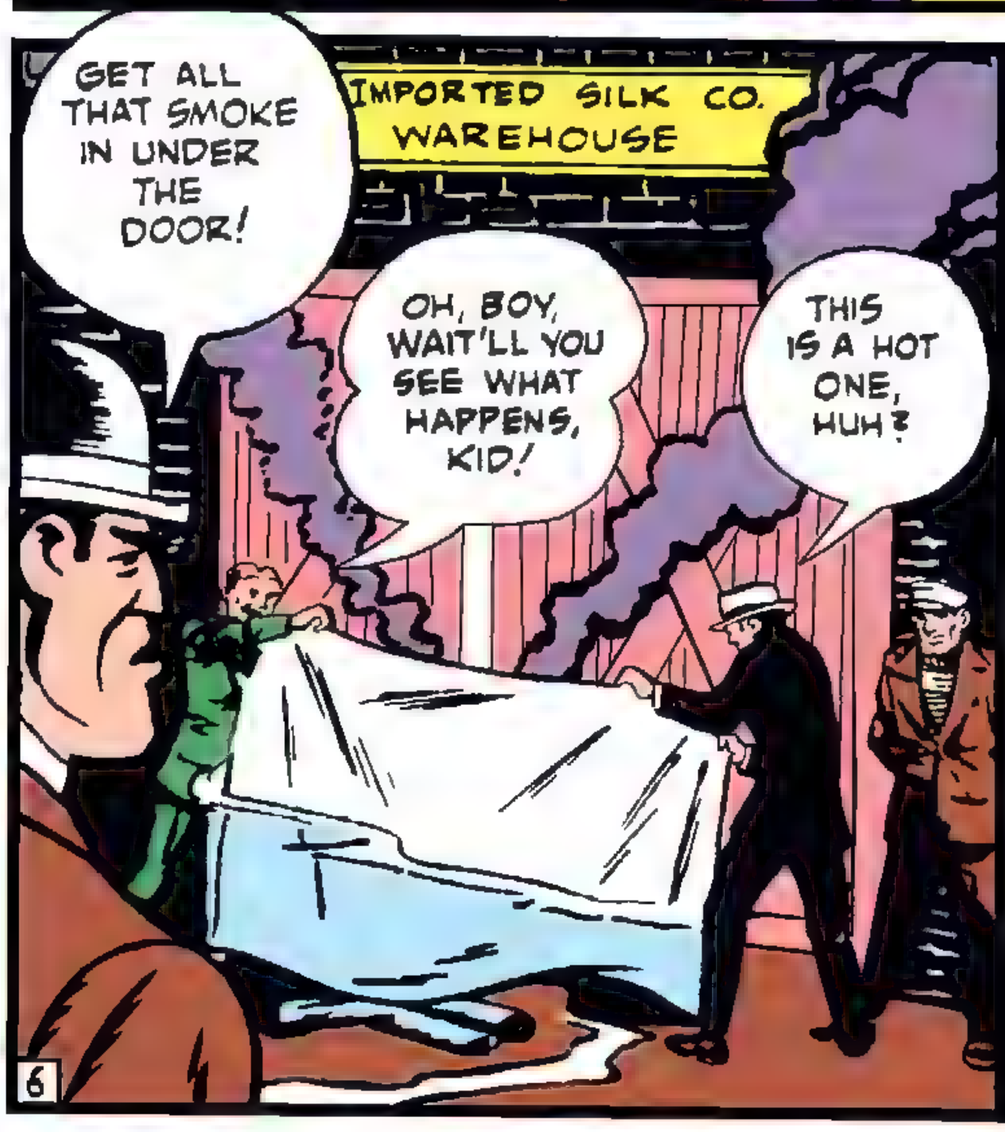

THE "GOLD COAST KID" REJOINS THE GANG...
HOP IN, KID- WE GOTTA GET TO PHILLY FAST SO WE CAN GET BACK TO WORK IN GOTHAM CITY IN THE MORNING!
HOW ARE THEY GOING TO PULL THIS JOB? THEY'LL BE RECOGNIZED!


LATER...HEADLIGHTS SLASHING THRU THE DARKNESS, A SINISTER BLACK CAR AND A STREAM-LINED VAN RACE ACROSS THE STATE HIGHWAY.


WELL DO I LOOK LIKE CARROT-TOP MCGRAW OF THE QUAKER CITY MOB, OR DON'T I, WITH THIS RED WIG?
SWELL MAKE-UP JOB, SLINKY- AND DON'T I LOOK LIKE TRIGGER BURNS WITH THIS MUSTACHE?
GOOD DISGUISES, BOYS! NOW GET THAT FIRE STARTED!
THIS IS THE CHECKERED COAT "KILLER" DYKES ALWAYS IS SEEN IN!
ARRIVING IN THE SILENT CITY, BRUCE IS WITNESS TO AN INCREDIBLE MASQUERADE.


THE CUNNING SECRET BEHIND CRIME'S BAFFLING HOLIDAY IS REVEALED AT LAST!
SO THAT'S WHY THEY'VE BEEN "GOING STRAIGHT"! THEY PULL JOBS IN DISTANT CITIES AND DISGUISE THEM-SELVES SO OTHER MOBS WILL TAKE THE RAP!

THAT'S ENOUGH, BOYS. NOW USE THAT ASBESTOS SHEET LIKE I TOLD YOU!
SAY, YOU GUYS ARE SMART!
SURE, WE GOT TO MAKE THIS LOOK LIKE A QUAKER CITY GANG JOB!

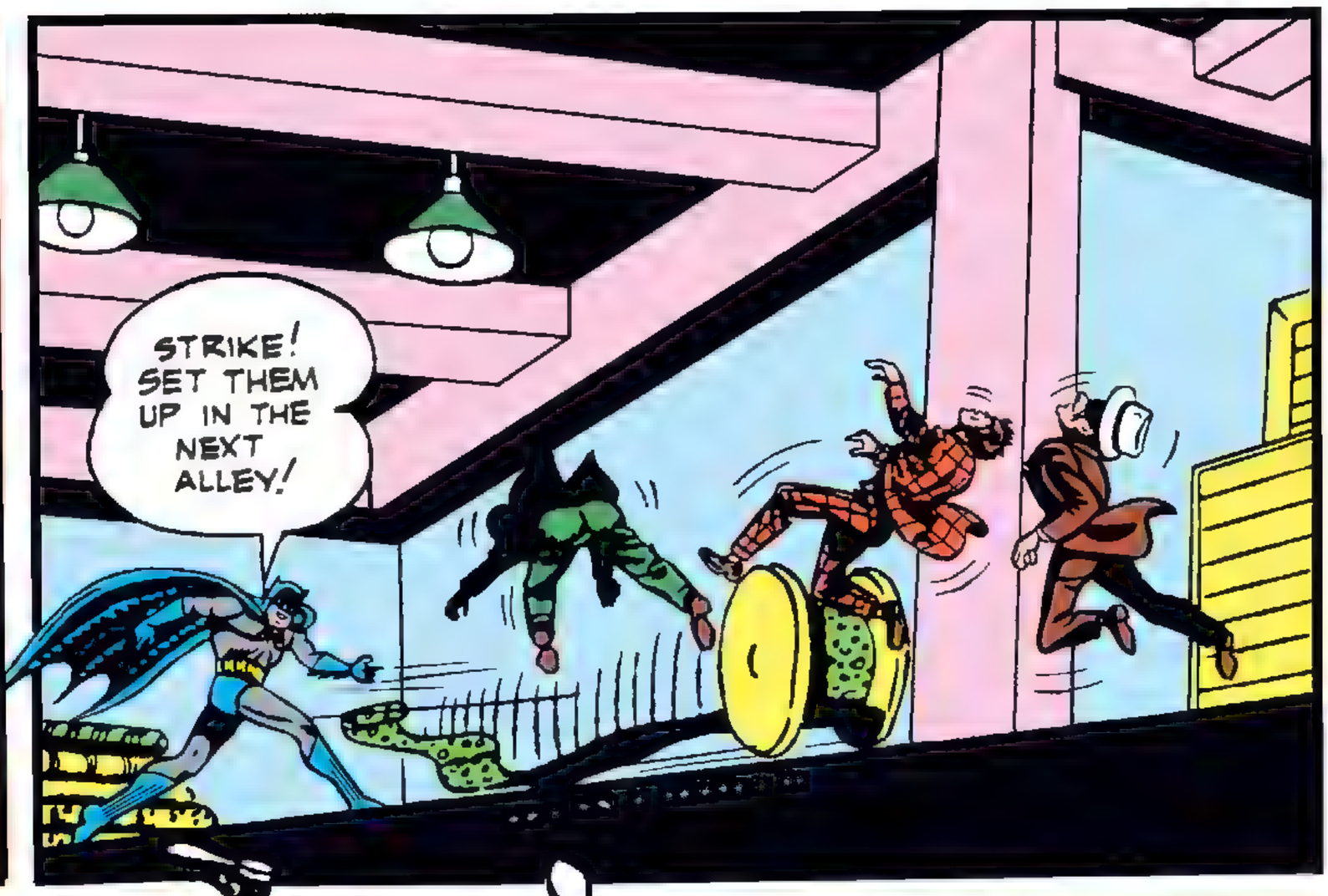

GET ALL THAT SMOKE IN UNDER THE DOOR!
IMPORTED SILK CO. WAREHOUSE
OH, BOY, WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS, KID!
THIS IS A HOT ONE, HUH?
6

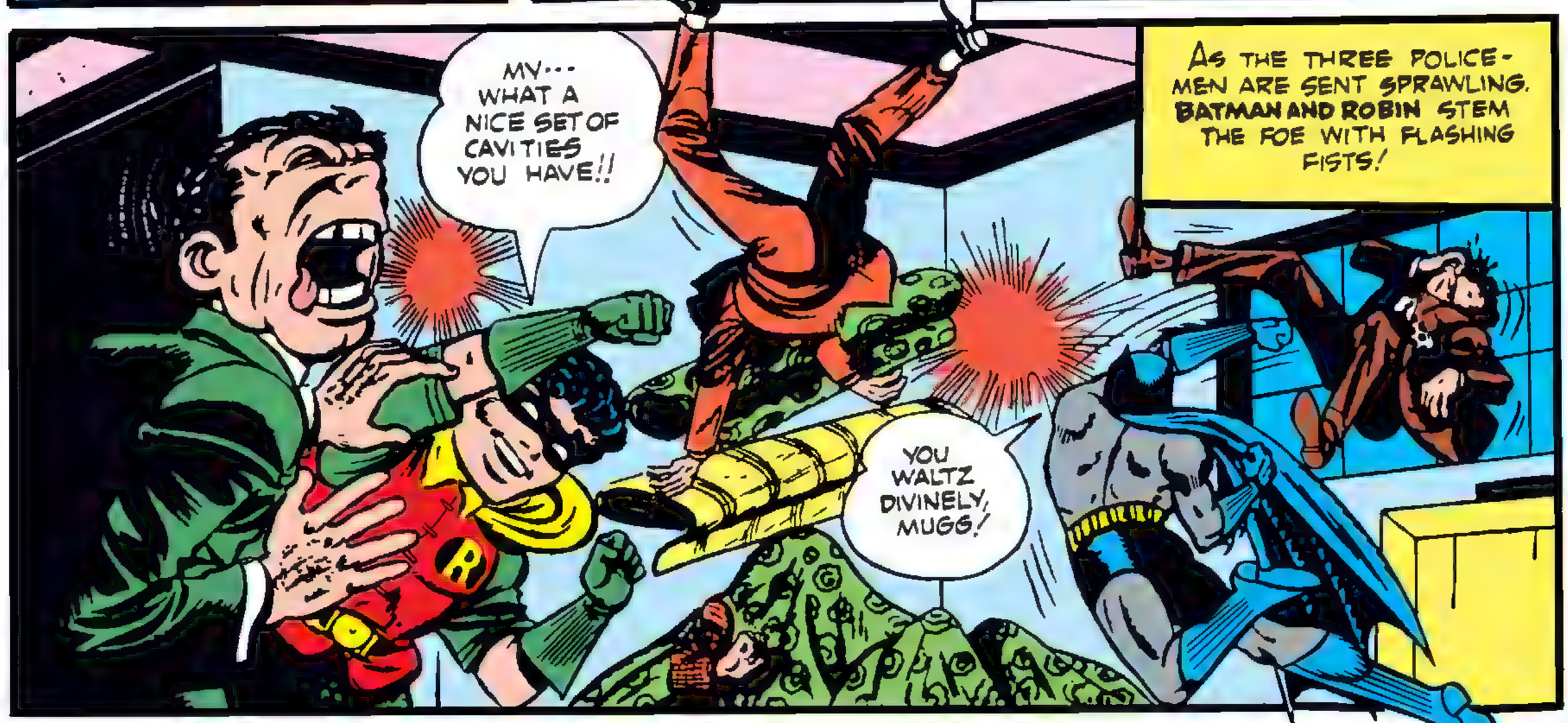
DENSE SMOKE SEEPS IN UNDER THE DOOR... TERRIFIED BY THE FEAR OF FIRE, THE WATCH-MAN RUSHES OUT!
FIRE... OH, CARROT-TOP MCGRAW!
YEAH --THE QUAKER CITY MOB! WE SMOKED YOU OUT, DOPE!

THE SILK IN THIS PLACE IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD NOWADAYS! COME AND GET IT, BOYS!

SUDDENLY... A BAND OF BLUE-CLAD LAWMEN LED BY A YELLOW-CLAD YOUTH ERUPTS FROM NOWHERE!
IT'S THAT ROBIN KID, AND A FLOCK OF COPPERS! SOMEBODY TIPPED THEM OFF!
BUT NOBODY COULD, BOSS!
THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE, BOYS! I'M TELLING YOU WHERE TO GET OFF!
I DIDN'T CATCH THE NAME, RAT!
GET 'EM, BOYS! WE WANT THAT SILK!
HEY, THEY GOT THE GOLD COAST KID!
BUT BRUCE IS ONLY PRETENDING TO BE WOUNDED! HE STAGGERS TOWARD A DARK CORNER OF THE WAREHOUSE, AND THERE...
AND I TOLD ROBIN WE WOULD HAVE TO PUT OUR COSTUMES IN MOTH BALLS!
...HE EMERGES AS THE BATMAN, DREADED SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD...
LIKE A SHOT OUT OF A CANNON, THE BATMAN HURLS HIMSELF INTO THE FURIOUS FRAY!
THE BATMAN!
OWOO
R-I-P-P-P-P-P-P
YES- BEWARE OF IMITATIONS!
HEY, I'M STRANGLING!
THEN LIE DOWN HERE AND YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!
7

HMM! WONDER HOW MY BOWLING IS GETTING ALONG?


STRIKE! SET THEM UP IN THE NEXT ALLEY!

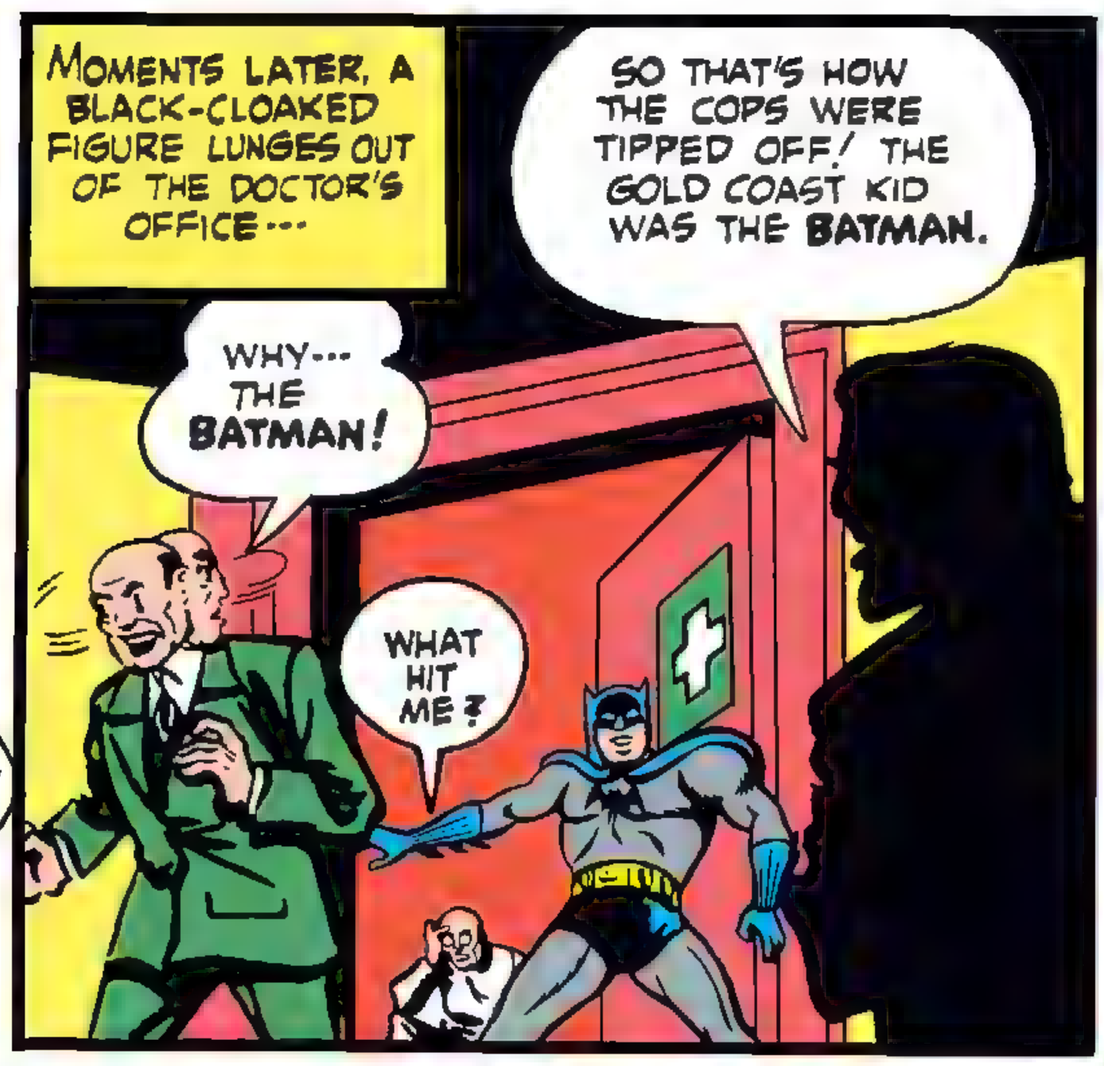

MY... WHAT A NICE SET OF CAVITIES YOU HAVE!!
AS THE THREE POLICEMEN ARE SENT SPRAWLING, BATMAN AND ROBIN STEM THE FOE WITH FLASHING FISTS!
YOU WALTZ DIVINELY, MUGG!

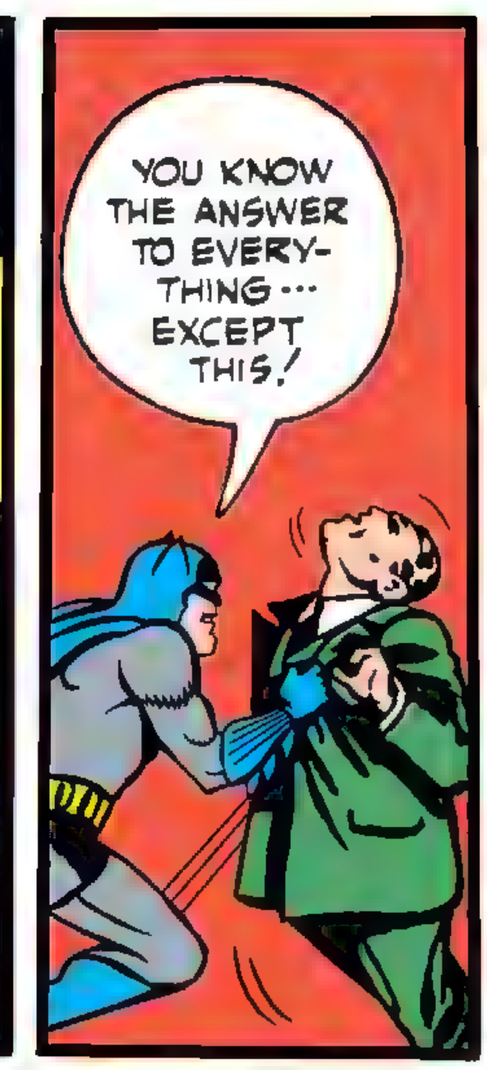
I THINK YELLOW WOULD BE MORE BECOMING!
A TIGHT FIT, BUT YOU'RE BOTH CLOSE FRIENDS!

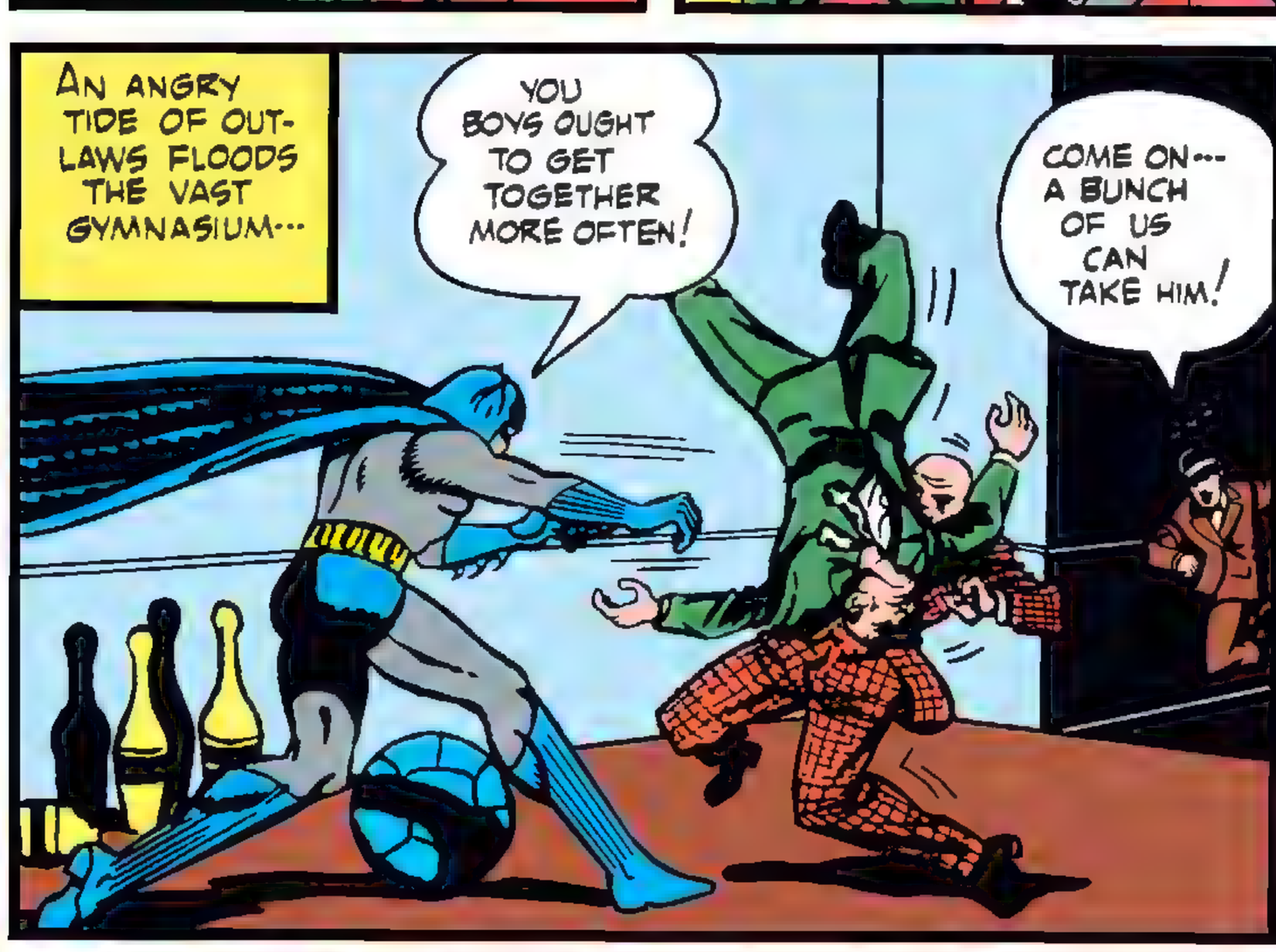
LET'S SCRAM! WE'D HAVE GOT THE SILK IF IT WASN'T FOR THE BATMAN AND THAT BRAT!
SILK

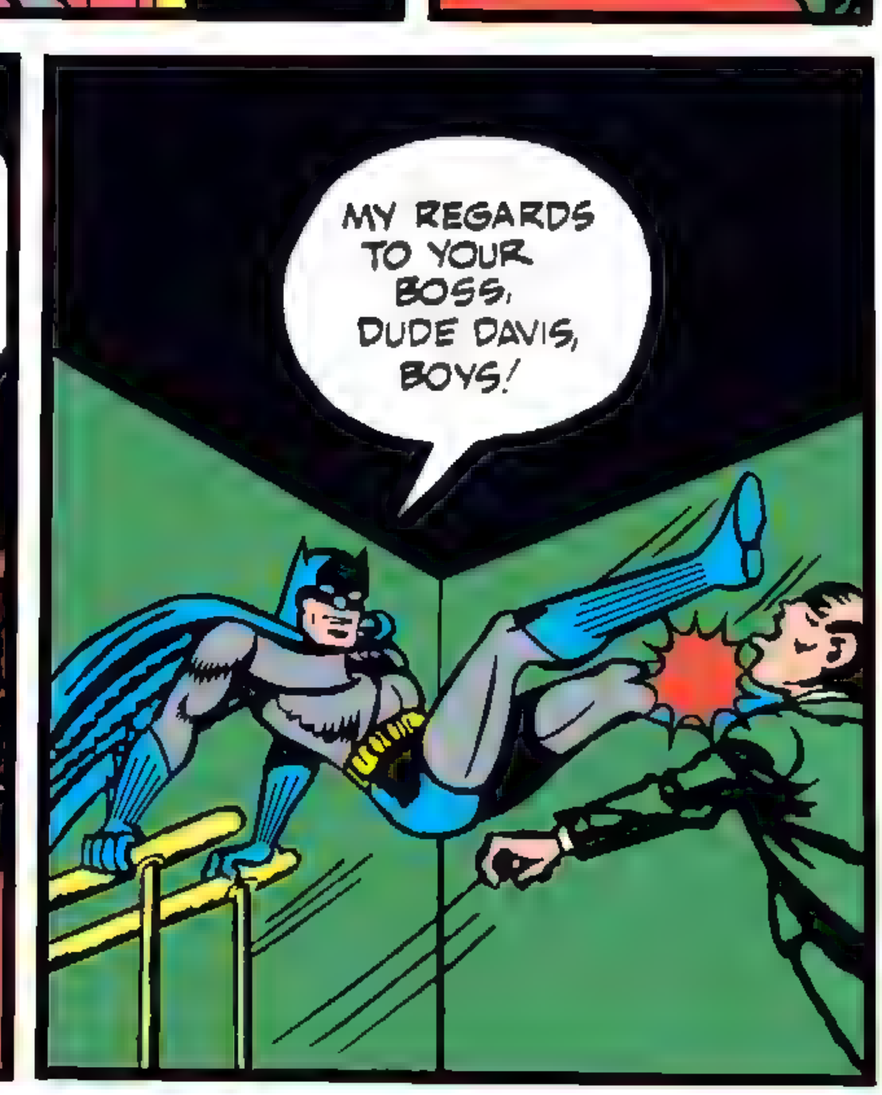
QUICK AS A WINK, THE BATMAN CHANGES BACK TO HIS GANGSTER DISGUISE...
LET THEM ESCAPE! I'LL GO BACK TO GOTHAM CITY WITH THEM TO FIND OUT ALL THE ANGLES!
AW! YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN!

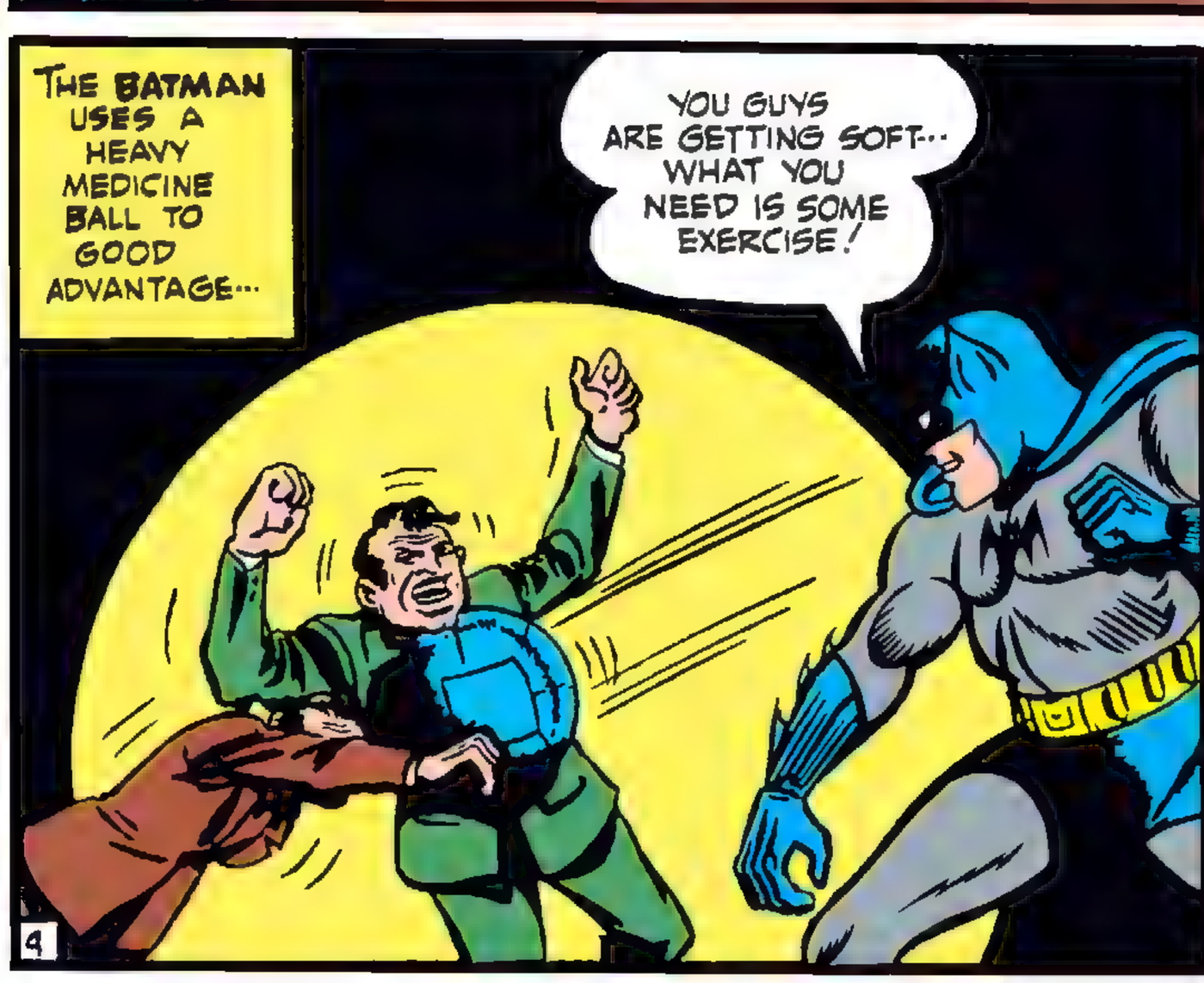
BACK IN GOTHAM CITY, THE "GOLD COAST KID" IS LED TO THE GANG DOCTOR'S OFFICE IN THE GYM...
GO ON IN, KID! OUR DOC'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
YOU MEAN, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DOC--- OTHERWISE HE'LL DISCOVER I WASN'T WOUNDED!
THANKS!


MOMENTS LATER, A BLACK-CLOAKED FIGURE LUNGES OUT OF THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...
SO THAT'S HOW THE COPS WERE TIPPED OFF! THE GOLD COAST KID WAS THE BATMAN.
WHY... THE BATMAN!
WHAT HIT ME?

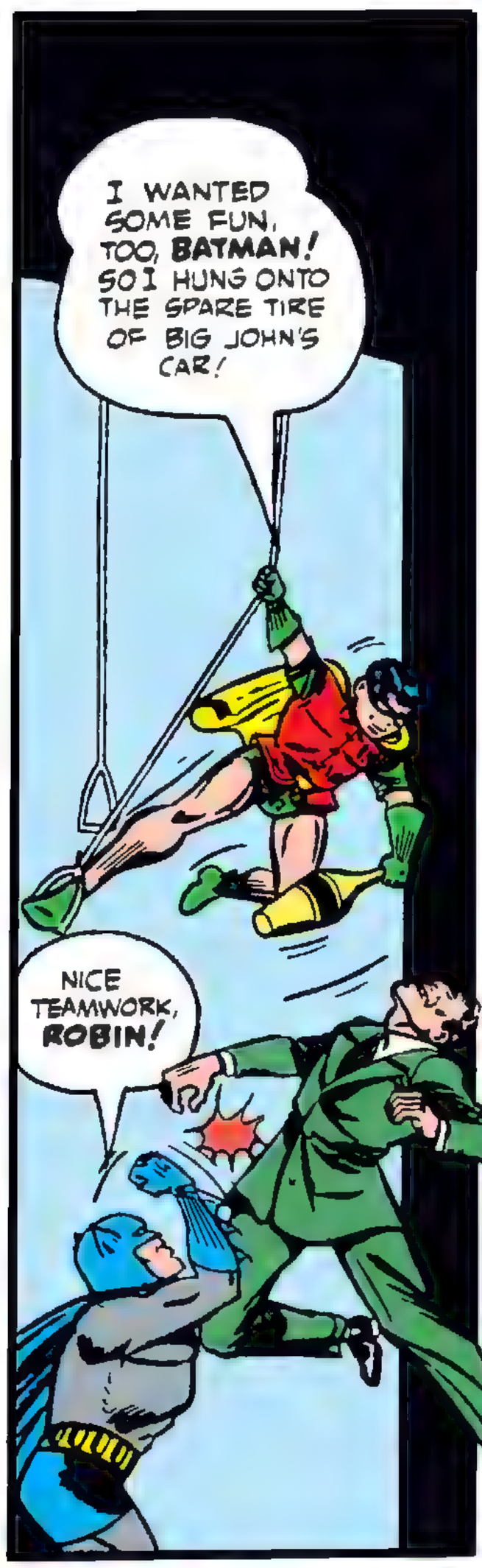

YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO EVERY-THING... EXCEPT THIS!


AN ANGRY TIDE OF OUT-LAWS FLOODS THE VAST GYMNASIUM...
YOU BOYS OUGHT TO GET TOGETHER MORE OFTEN!
COME ON--- A BUNCH OF US CAN TAKE HIM!


MY REGARDS TO YOUR BOSS, DUDE DAVIS, BOYS!


THE BATMAN USES A HEAVY MEDICINE BALL TO GOOD ADVANTAGE...
YOU GUYS ARE GETTING SOFT... WHAT YOU NEED IS SOME EXERCISE!
4

SUDDENLY, TO THE REAR OF THE SAVAGE PACK, THE OTHER MEMBER OF A WORLD-FAMOUS T.N.T. TEAM EXPLODES INTO DYNAMIC ACTION!
CAN I JOIN YOUR INDIAN CLUB?

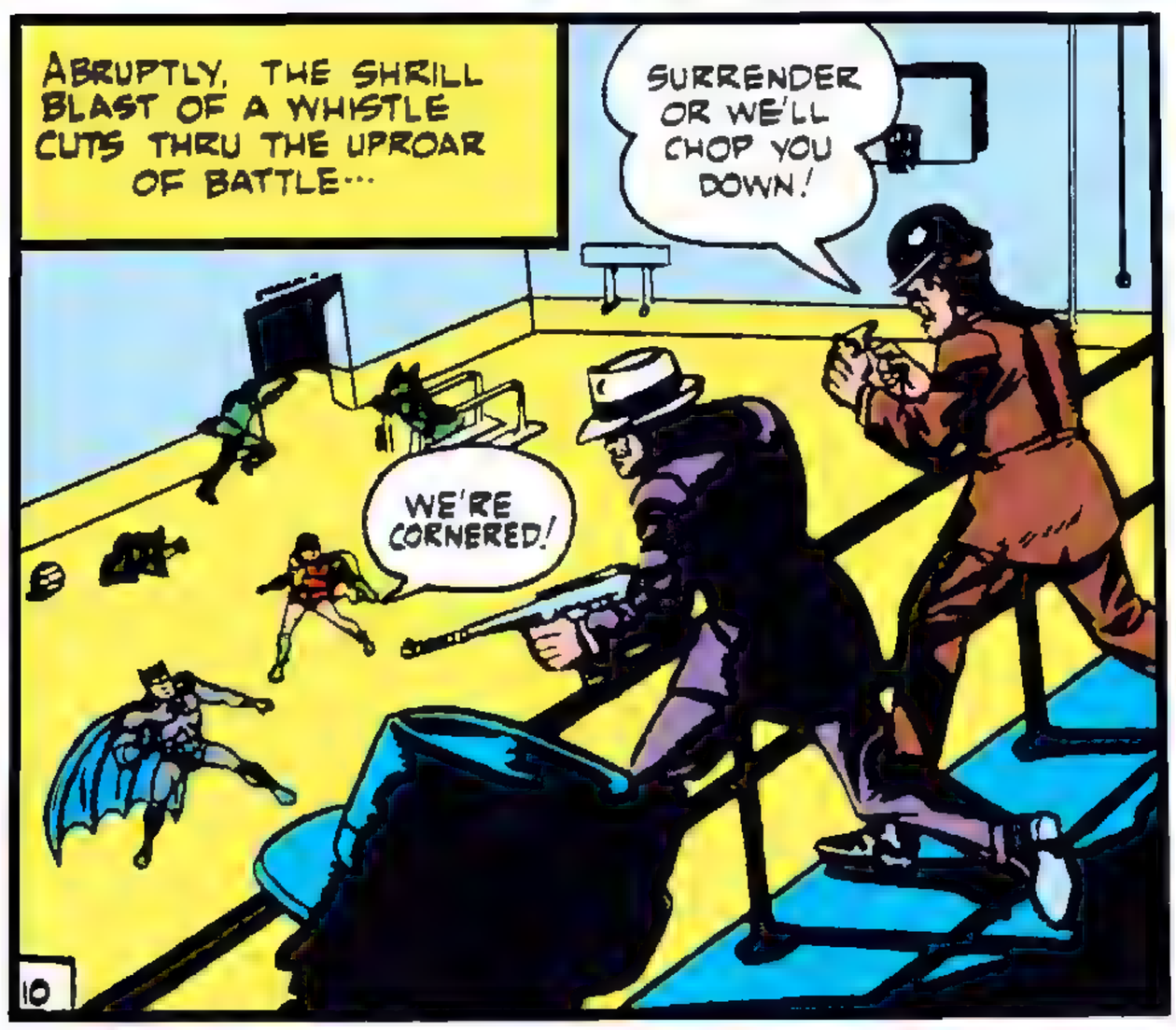

I WANTED SOME FUN, TOO, BATMAN! SO I HUNG ONTO THE SPARE TIRE OF BIG JOHN'S CAR!
NICE TEAMWORK, ROBIN!

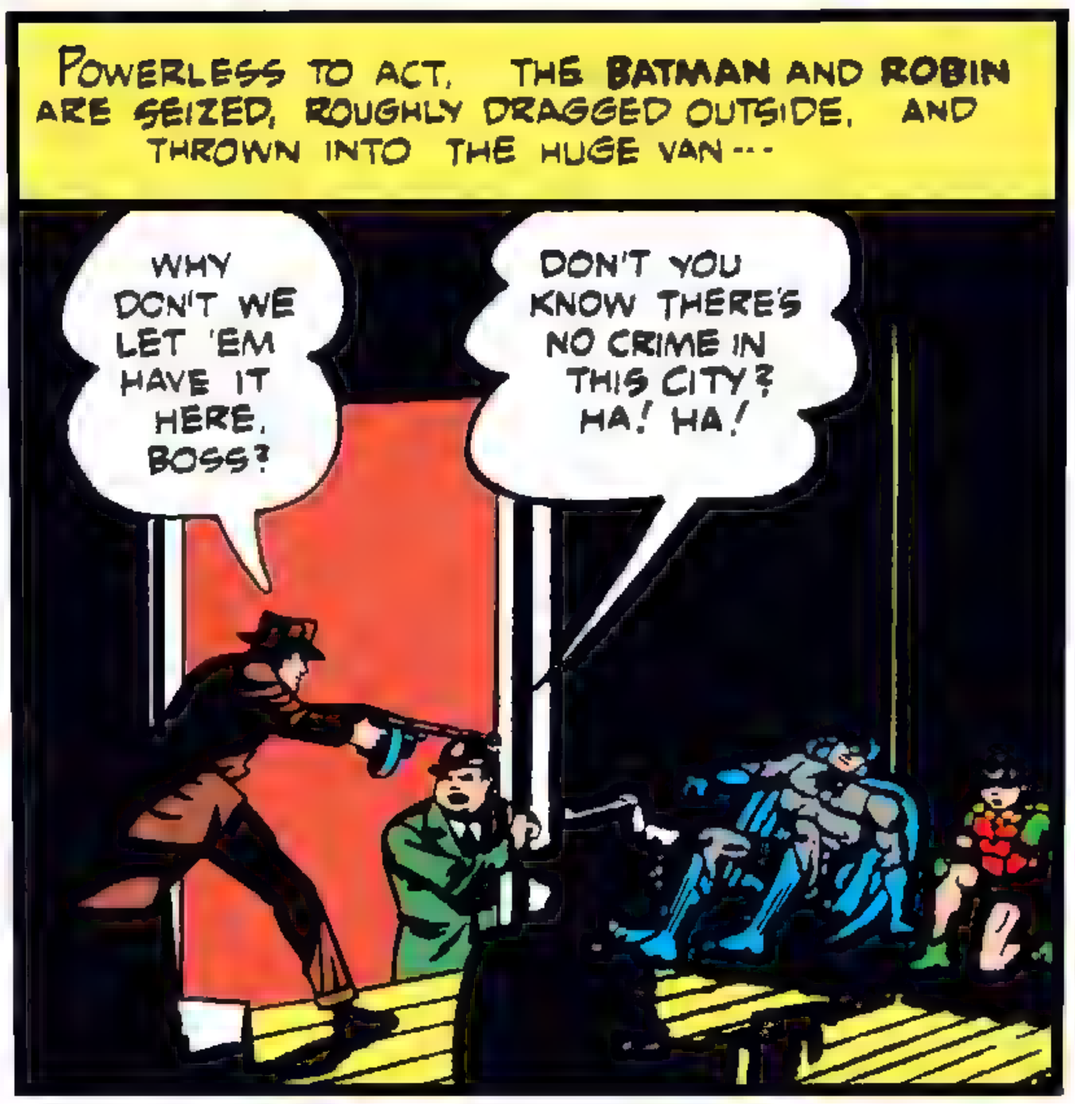
I'LL GET YOU, YOU LITTLE-- OOF!
YOU BIG DUMBBELL, YOU OUGHT TO HAVE BETTER MANNERS!

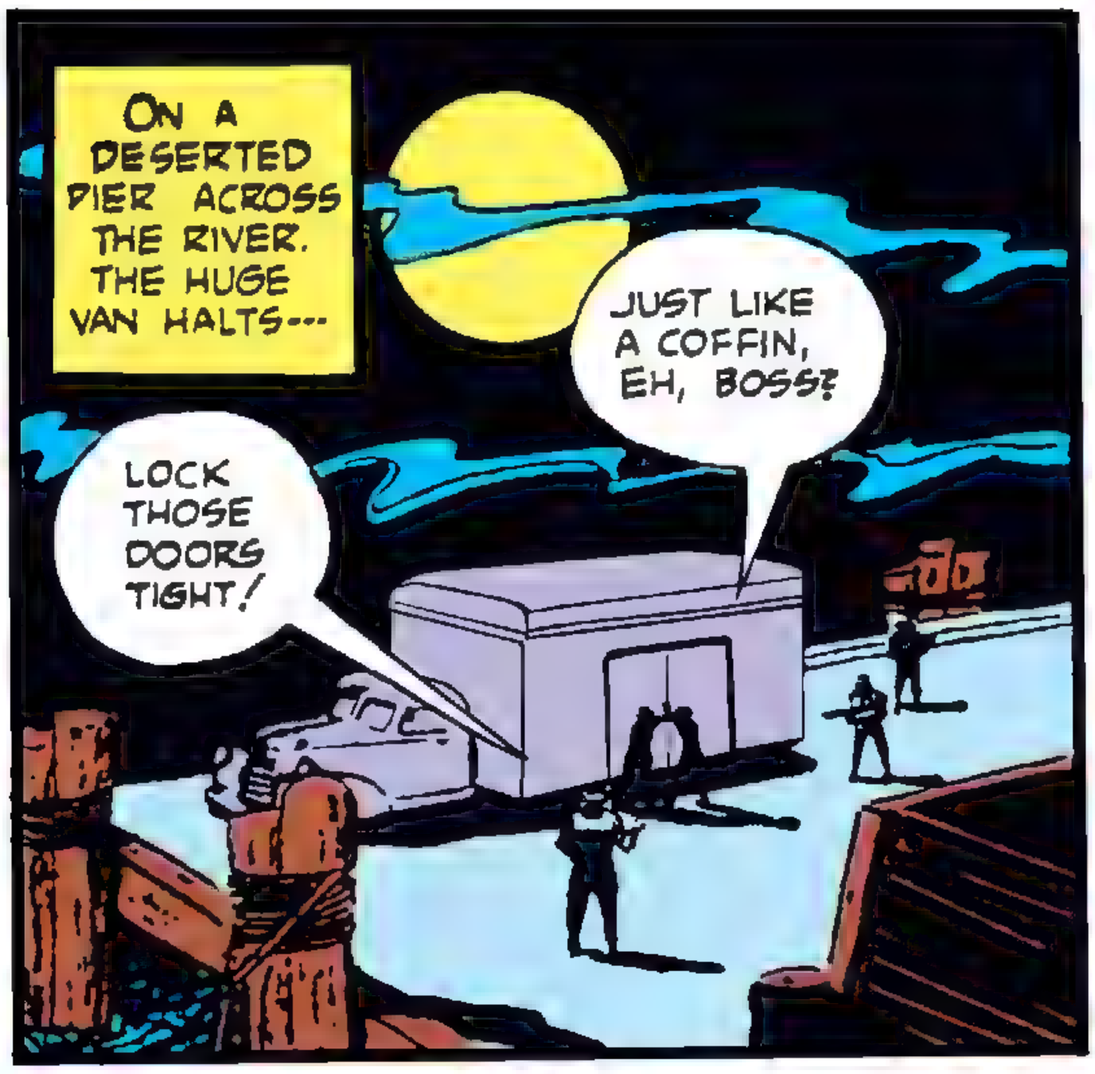
HEY! CUT IT OUT--
...SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE PUNISHED-
9 FT.

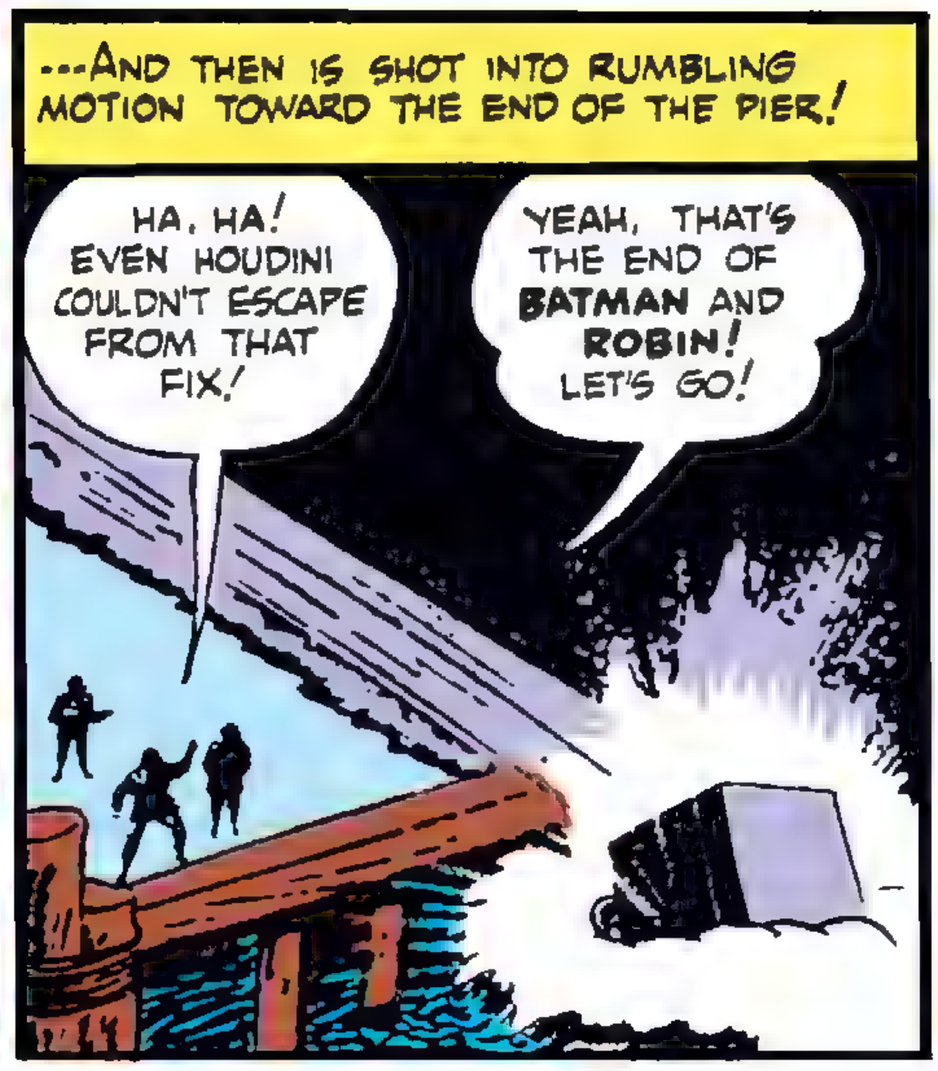
--BY WALKING THE PLANK!

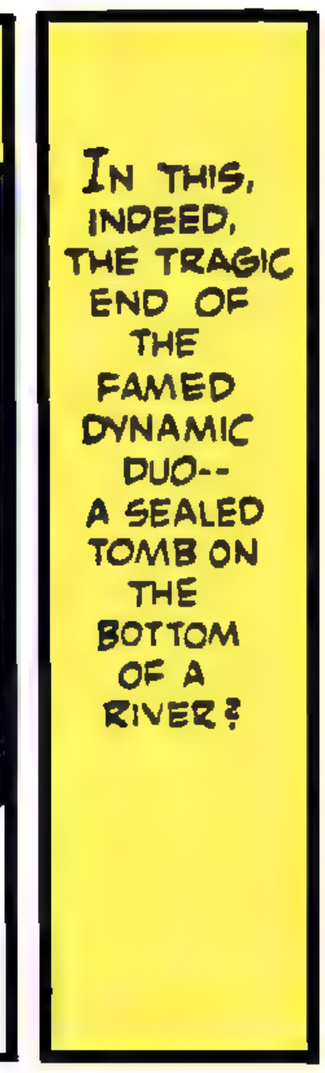
THIS PLACE NEEDS A GOOD SWEEPING!

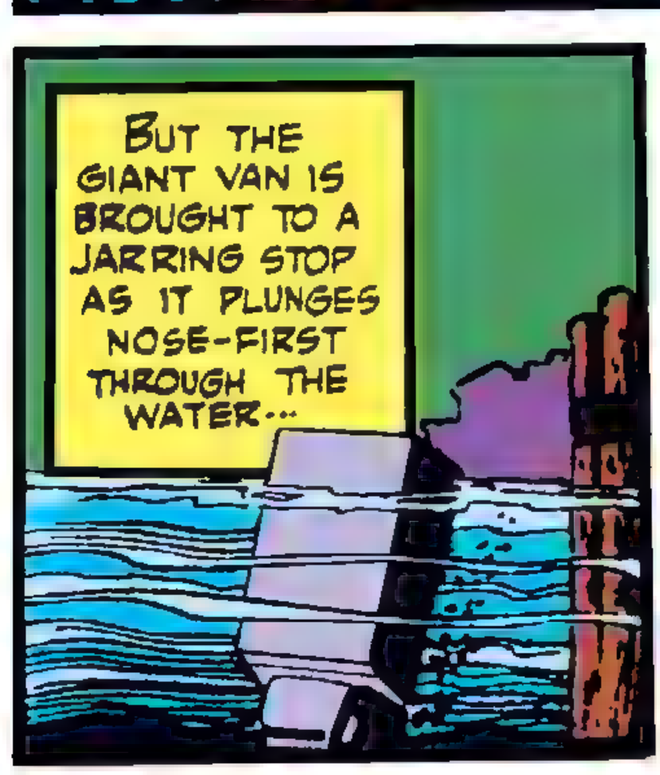

ABRUPTLY, THE SHRILL BLAST OF A WHISTLE CUTS THRU THE UPROAR OF BATTLE...
SURRENDER OR WE'LL CHOP YOU DOWN!
WE'RE CORNERED!
10

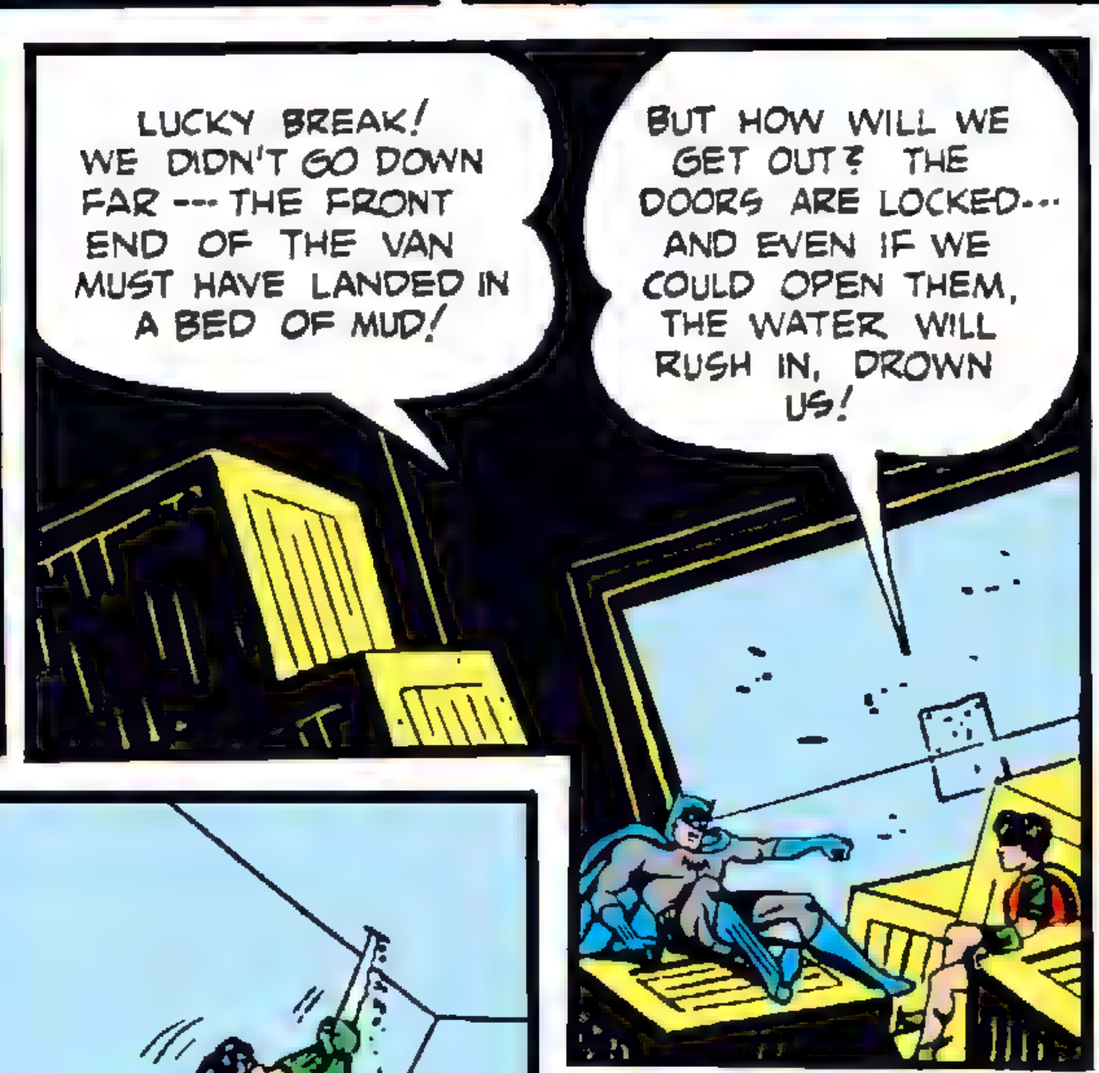

POWERLESS TO ACT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SEIZED, ROUGHLY DRAGGED OUTSIDE, AND THROWN INTO THE HUGE VAN...
WHY DON'T WE LET 'EM HAVE IT HERE, BOSS?
DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S NO CRIME IN THIS CITY? HA! HA!

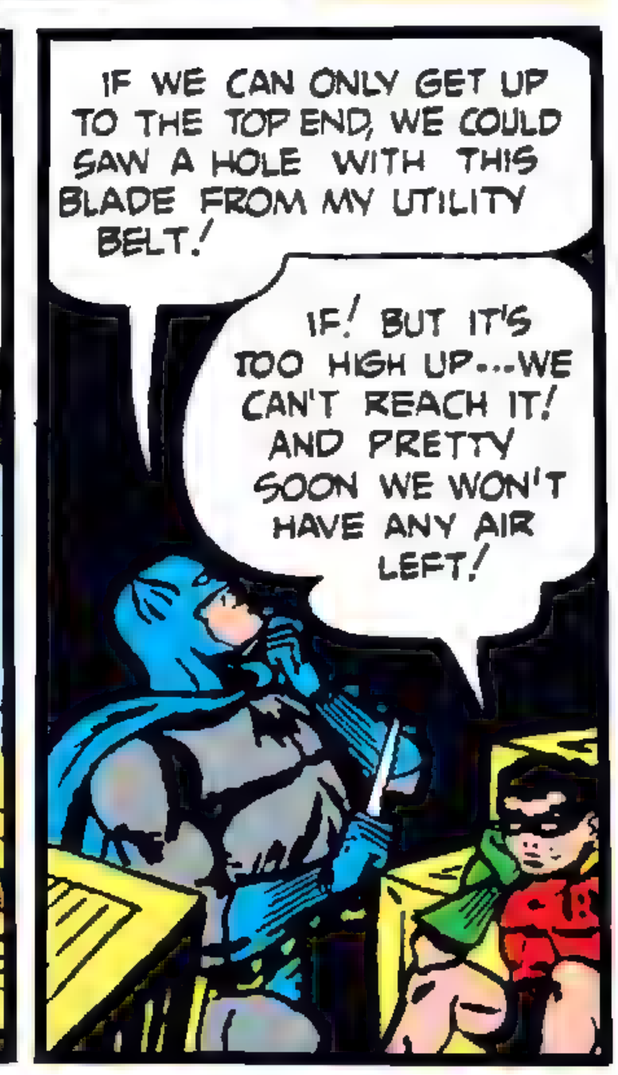

ON A DESERTED PIER ACROSS THE RIVER. THE HUGE VAN HALTS---
JUST LIKE A COFFIN, EH, BOSS?
LOCK THOSE DOORS TIGHT!

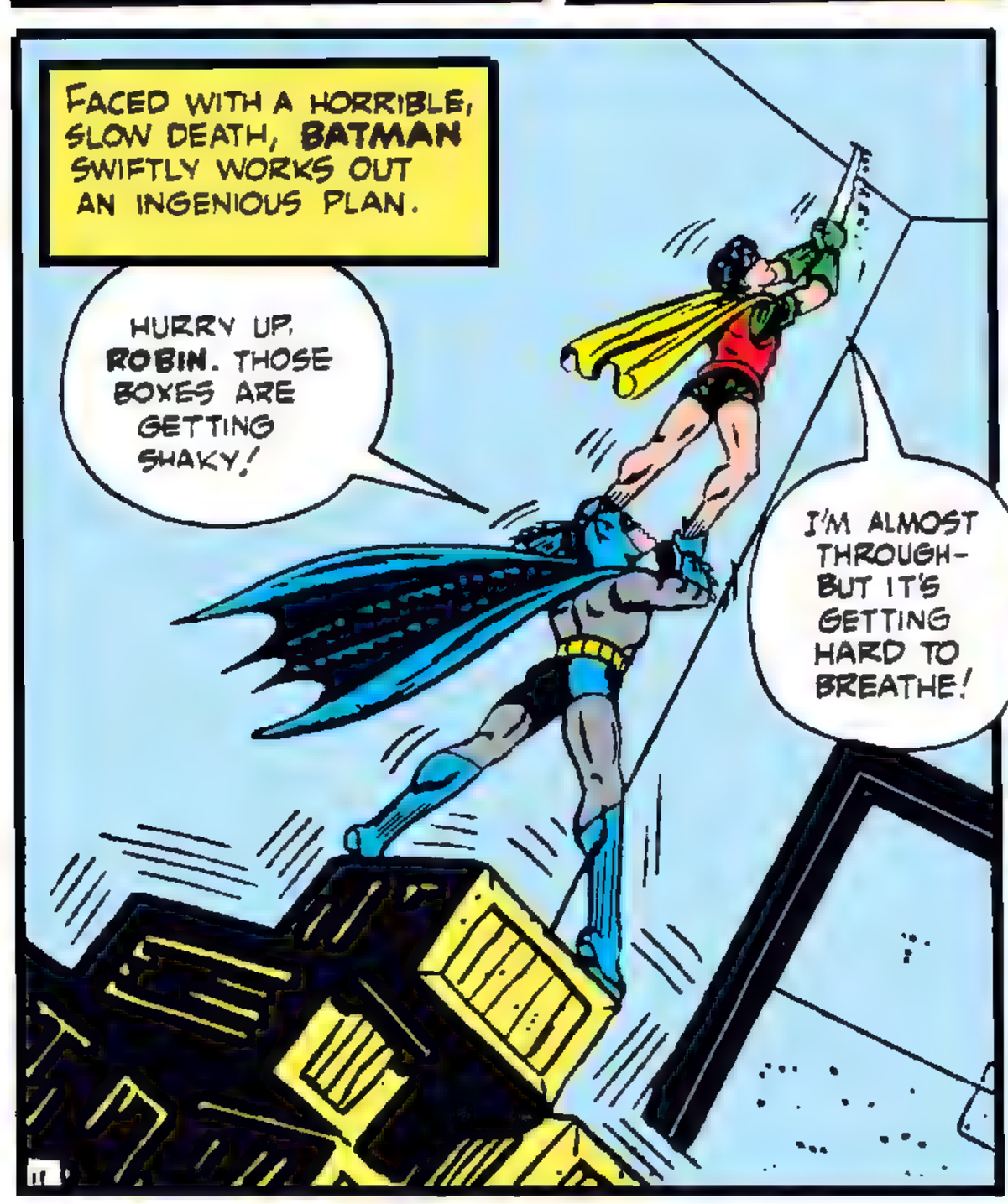

---AND THEN IS SHOT INTO RUMBLING MOTION TOWARD THE END OF THE PIER!
HA, HA! EVEN HOUDINI COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THAT FIX!
YEAH, THAT'S THE END OF BATMAN AND ROBIN! LET'S GO!

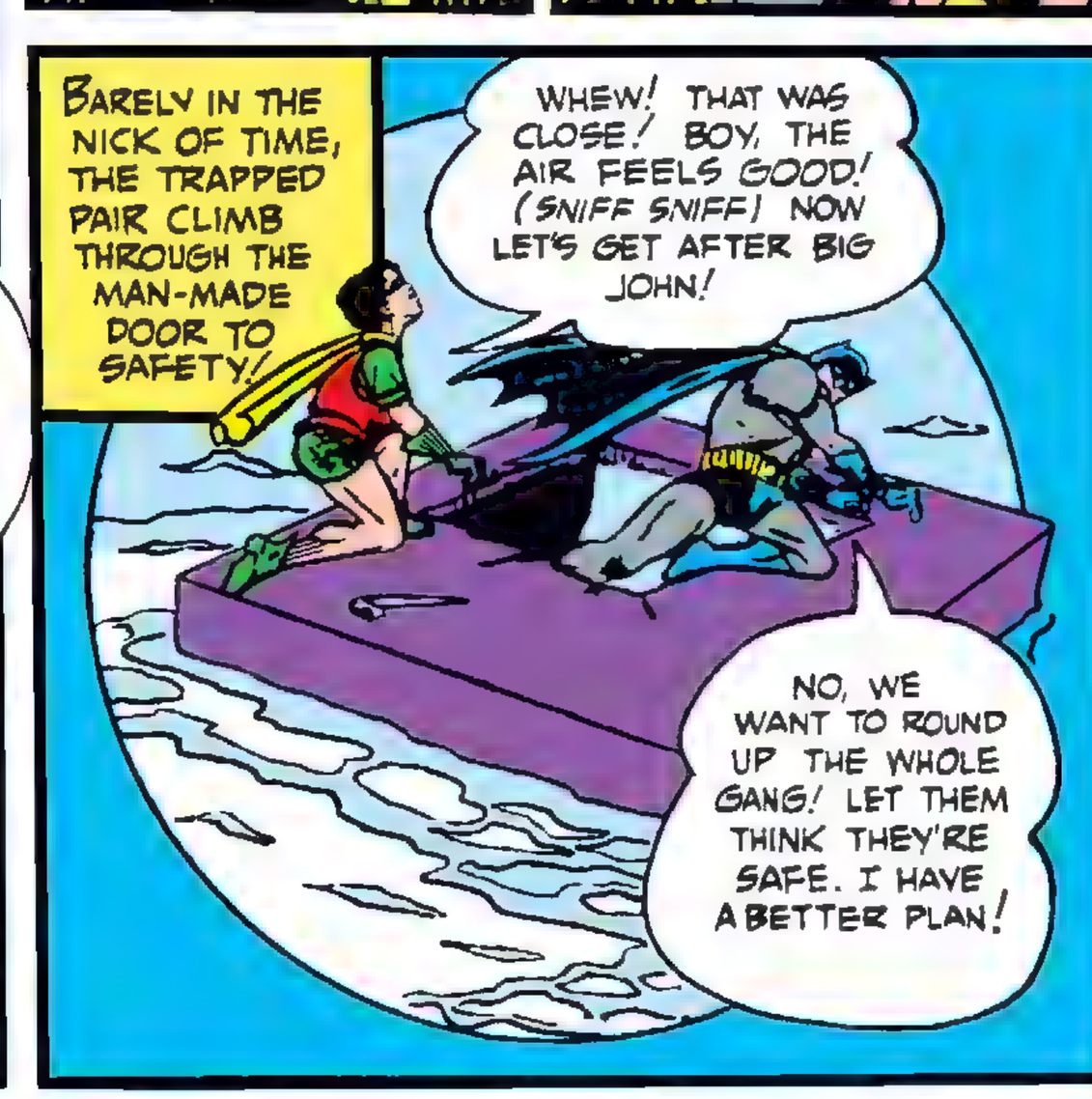

IN THIS, INDEED, THE TRAGIC END OF THE FAMED DYNAMIC DUO-- A SEALED TOMB ON THE BOTTOM OF A RIVER?

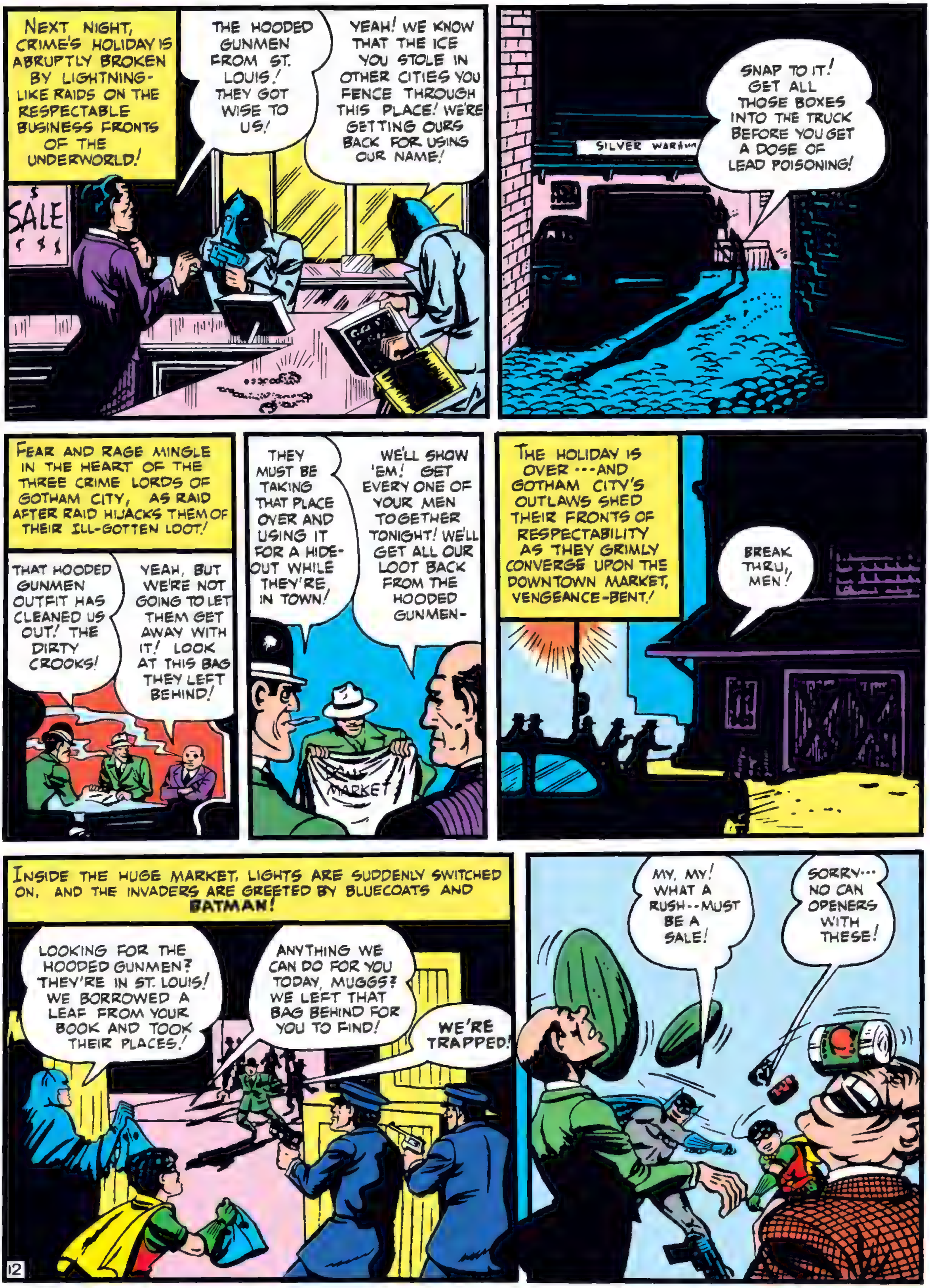

BUT THE GIANT VAN IS BROUGHT TO A JARRING STOP AS IT PLUNGES NOSE-FIRST THROUGH THE WATER...

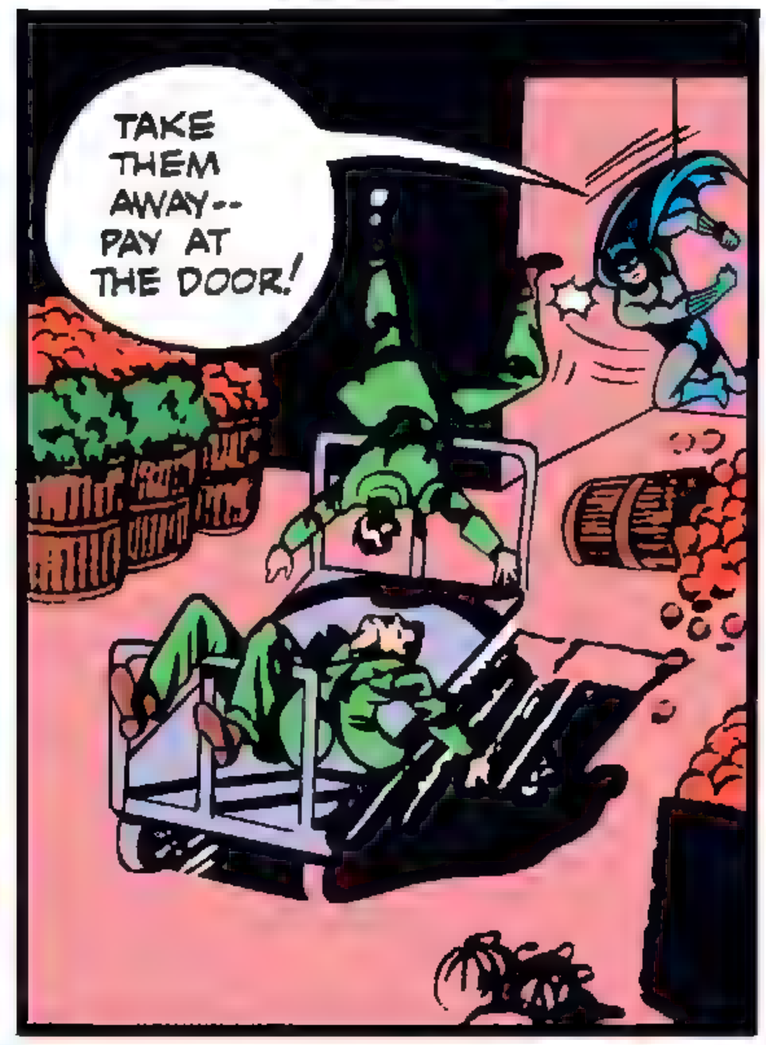

LUCKY BREAK! WE DIDN'T GO DOWN FAR --- THE FRONT END OF THE VAN MUST HAVE LANDED IN A BED OF MUD!
BUT HOW WILL WE GET OUT? THE DOORS ARE LOCKED... AND EVEN IF WE COULD OPEN THEM, THE WATER WILL RUSH IN, DROWN US!

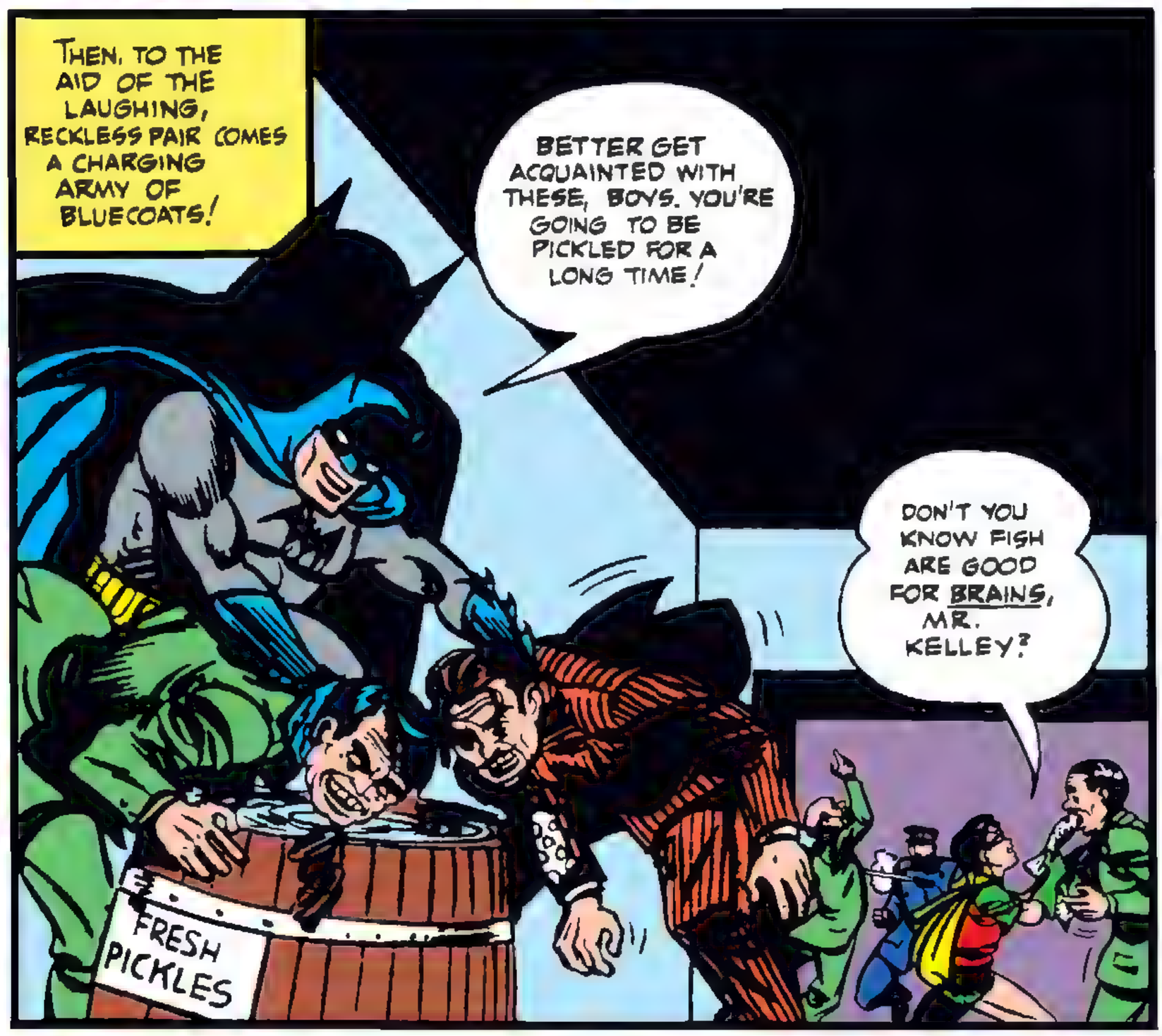

IF WE CAN ONLY GET UP TO THE TOP END, WE COULD SAW A HOLE WITH THIS BLADE FROM MY UTILITY BELT!
IF! BUT IT'S TOO HIGH UP...WE CAN'T REACH IT! AND PRETTY SOON WE WON'T HAVE ANY AIR LEFT!

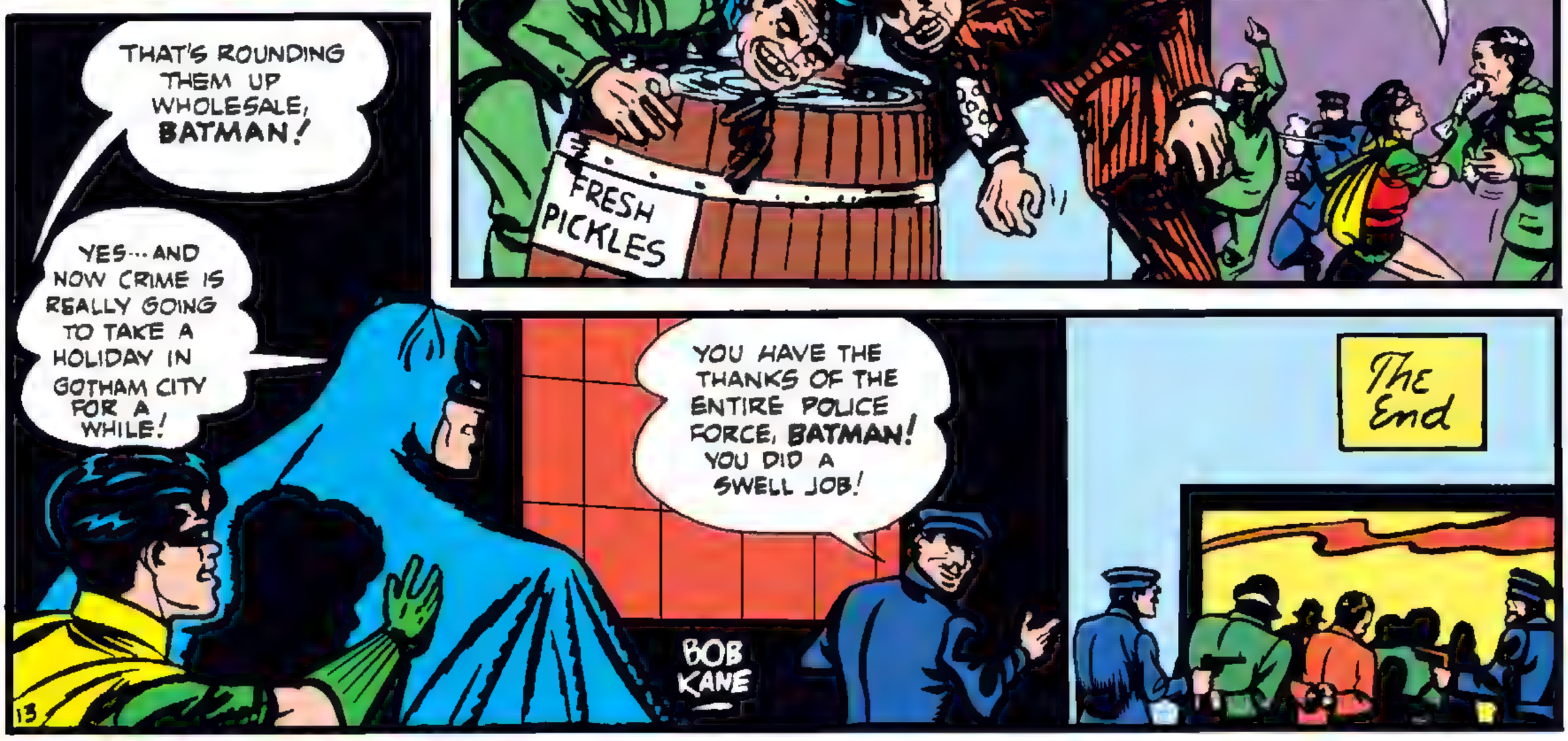

FACED WITH A HORRIBLE, SLOW DEATH, BATMAN SWIFTLY WORKS OUT AN INGENIOUS PLAN.
HURRY UP, ROBIN. THOSE BOXES ARE GETTING SHAKY!
I'M ALMOST THROUGH- BUT IT'S GETTING HARD TO BREATHE!


BARELY IN THE NICK OF TIME, THE TRAPPED PAIR CLIMB THROUGH THE MAN-MADE DOOR TO SAFETY!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! BOY, THE AIR FEELS GOOD! (SNIFF SNIFF) NOW LET'S GET AFTER BIG JOHN!
NO, WE WANT TO ROUND UP THE WHOLE GANG! LET THEM THINK THEY'RE SAFE. I HAVE A BETTER PLAN!

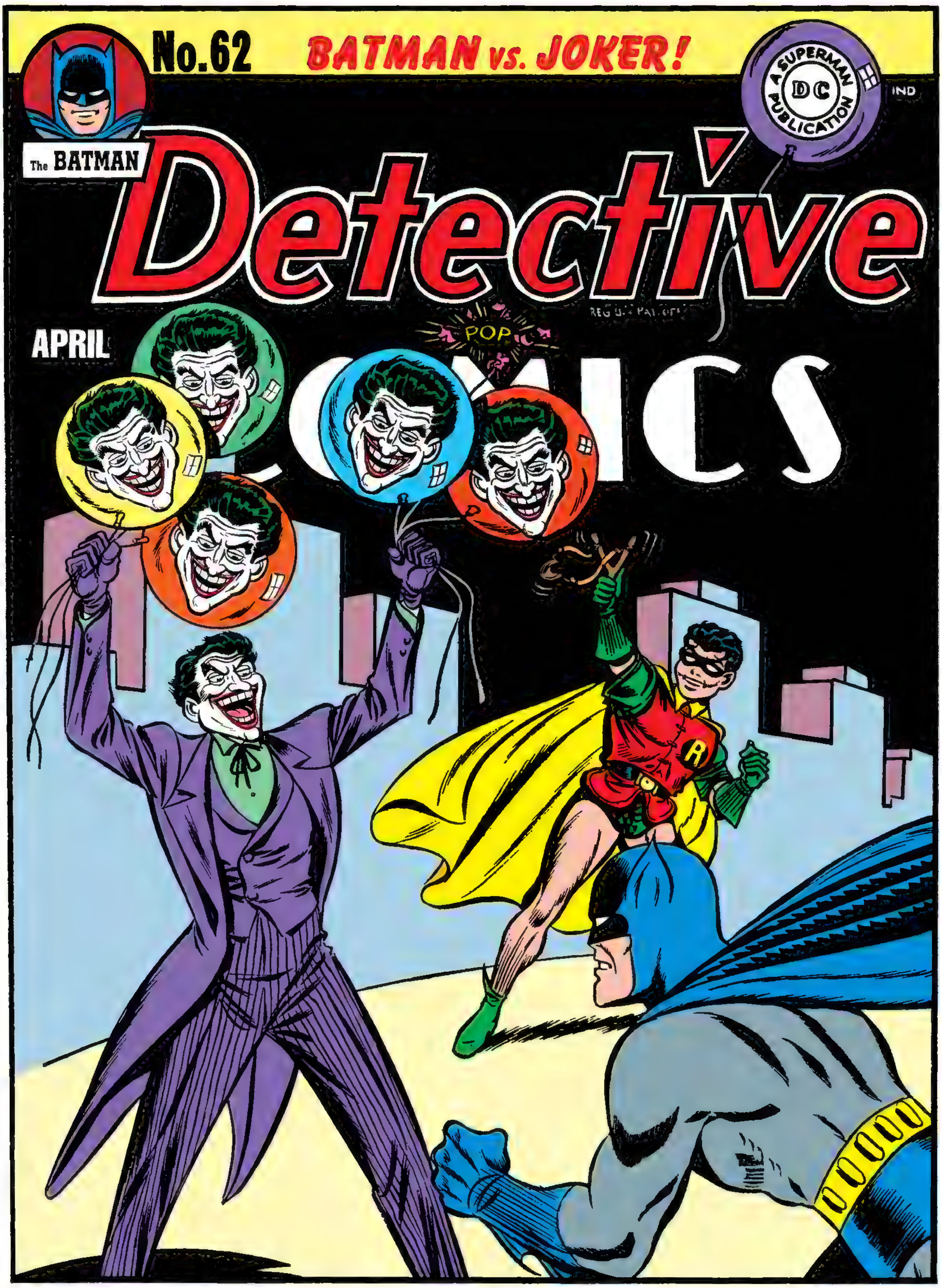

NEXT NIGHT, CRIME'S HOLIDAY IS ABRUPTLY BROKEN BY LIGHTNING-LIKE RAIDS ON THE RESPECTABLE BUSINESS FRONTS OF THE UNDERWORLD!
THE HOODED GUNMEN FROM ST. LOUIS! THEY GOT WISE TO US!
YEAH! WE KNOW THAT THE ICE YOU STOLE IN OTHER CITIES YOU FENCE THROUGH THIS PLACE! WE'RE GETTING OURS BACK FOR USING OUR NAME!
SALE
SNAP TO IT! GET ALL THOSE BOXES INTO THE TRUCK BEFORE YOU GET A DOSE OF LEAD POISONING!
FEAR AND RAGE MINGLE IN THE HEART OF THE THREE CRIME LORDS OF GOTHAM CITY, AS RAID AFTER RAID HIJACKS THEM OF THEIR ILL-GOTTEN LOOT!
THAT HOODED GUNMEN OUTFIT HAS CLEANED US OUT! THE DIRTY CROOKS!
YEAH, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT! LOOK AT THIS BAG THEY LEFT BEHIND!
THEY MUST BE TAKING THAT PLACE OVER AND USING IT FOR A HIDE-OUT WHILE THEY'RE IN TOWN!
WE'LL SHOW 'EM! GET EVERY ONE OF YOUR MEN TOGETHER TONIGHT! WE'LL GET ALL OUR LOOT BACK FROM THE HOODED GUNMEN-
MARKET
THE HOLIDAY IS OVER ...AND GOTHAM CITY'S OUTLAWS SHED THEIR FRONTS OF RESPECTABILITY AS THEY GRIMLY CONVERGE UPON THE DOWNTOWN MARKET, VENGEANCE-BENT!
BREAK THRU, MEN!
INSIDE THE HUGE MARKET, LIGHTS ARE SUDDENLY SWITCHED ON, AND THE INVADERS ARE GREETED BY BLUECOATS AND BATMAN!
LOOKING FOR THE HOODED GUNMEN? THEY'RE IN ST. LOUIS! WE BORROWED A LEAF FROM YOUR BOOK AND TOOK THEIR PLACES!
ANYTHING WE CAN DO FOR YOU TODAY, MUGGS? WE LEFT THAT BAG BEHIND FOR YOU TO FIND!
WE'RE TRAPPED!
MY, MY! WHAT A RUSH--MUST BE A SALE!
SORRY... NO CAN OPENERS WITH THESE!
12

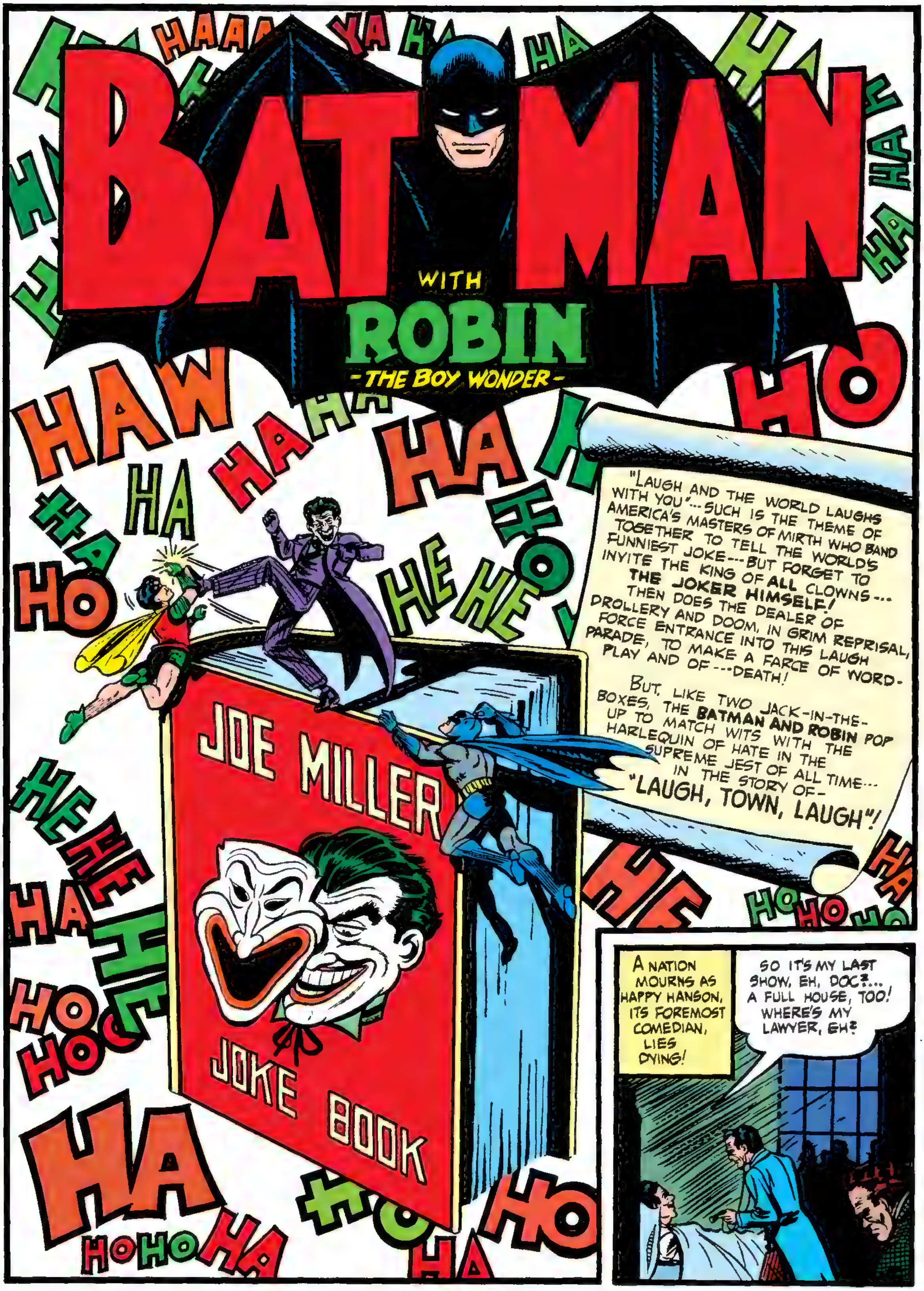






BATMAN and ROBIN zoom thru every issue of DETECTIVE COMICS!

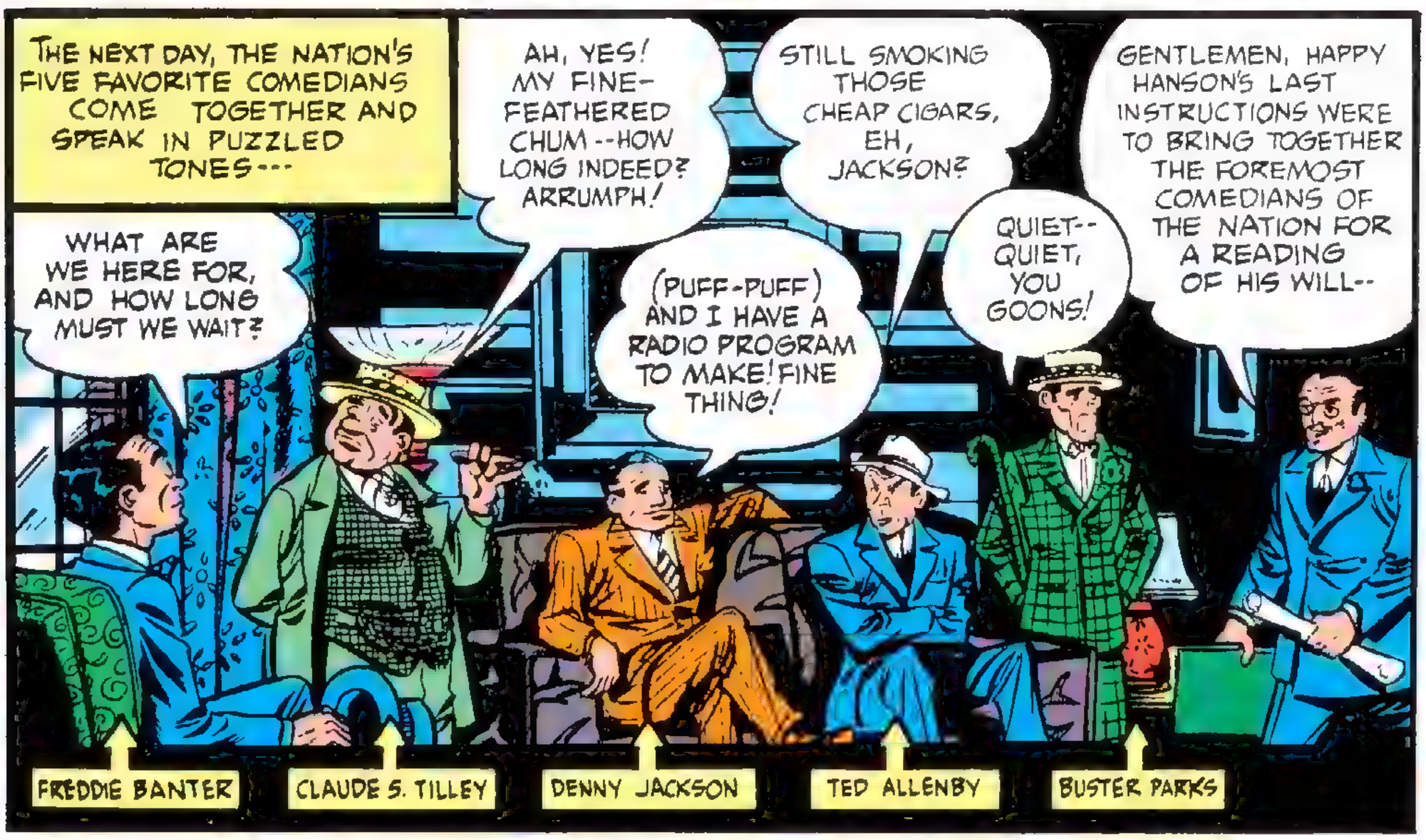

No.62
BATMAN vs. JOKER!
A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION
IND
The BATMAN
Detective
REG U.S. PAT. OFF.
APRIL
POP
COMICS

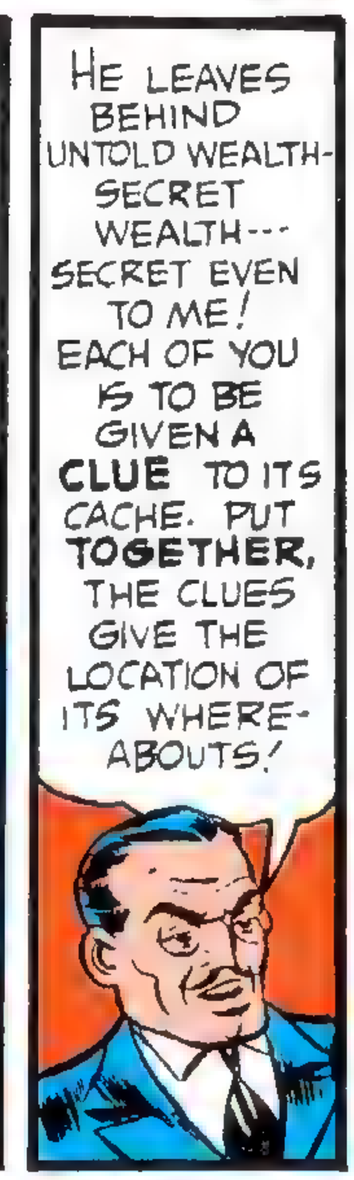

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
"LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU"... SUCH IS THE THEME OF AMERICA'S MASTERS OF MIRTH WHO BAND TOGETHER TO TELL THE WORLD'S FUNNIEST JOKE---BUT FORGET TO INVITE THE KING OF ALL CLOWNS... THE JOKER HIMSELF! THEN DOES THE DEALER OF DROLLERY AND DOOM, IN GRIM REPRISAL, FORCE ENTRANCE INTO THIS LAUGH PARADE, TO MAKE A FARCE OF WORD-PLAY AND OF---DEATH!
BUT, LIKE TWO JACK-IN-THE-BOXES, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN POP UP TO MATCH WITS WITH THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE IN THE SUPREME JEST OF ALL TIME... IN THE STORY OF- "LAUGH, TOWN, LAUGH"!
JOE MILLER
JOKE BOOK
A NATION MOURNS AS HAPPY HANSON, ITS FOREMOST COMEDIAN, LIES DYING!
SO IT'S MY LAST SHOW, EH, DOC?... A FULL HOUSE, TOO! WHERE'S MY LAWYER, EH?

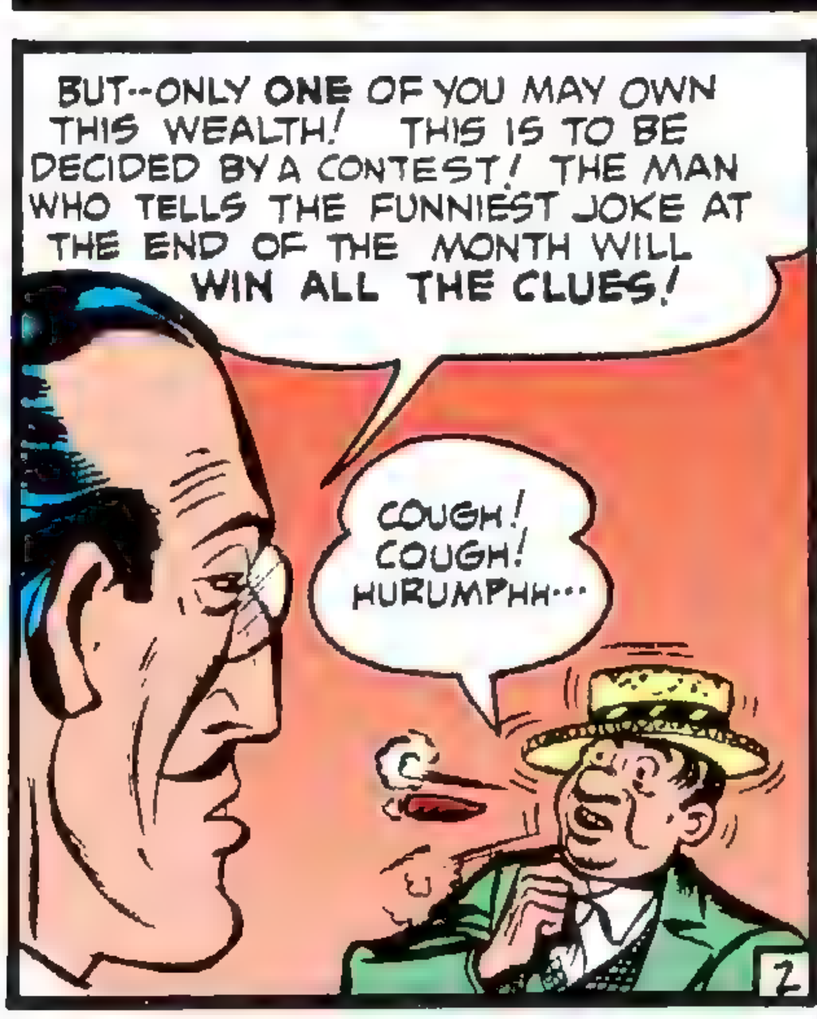
YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD LAWYER. DON'T FORGET MY WILL--- HA--HA! ...I--I GUESS THIS IS MY EXIT CUE!--- WHAT A SPOT TO SAY, "THIS IS KILLING ME"---

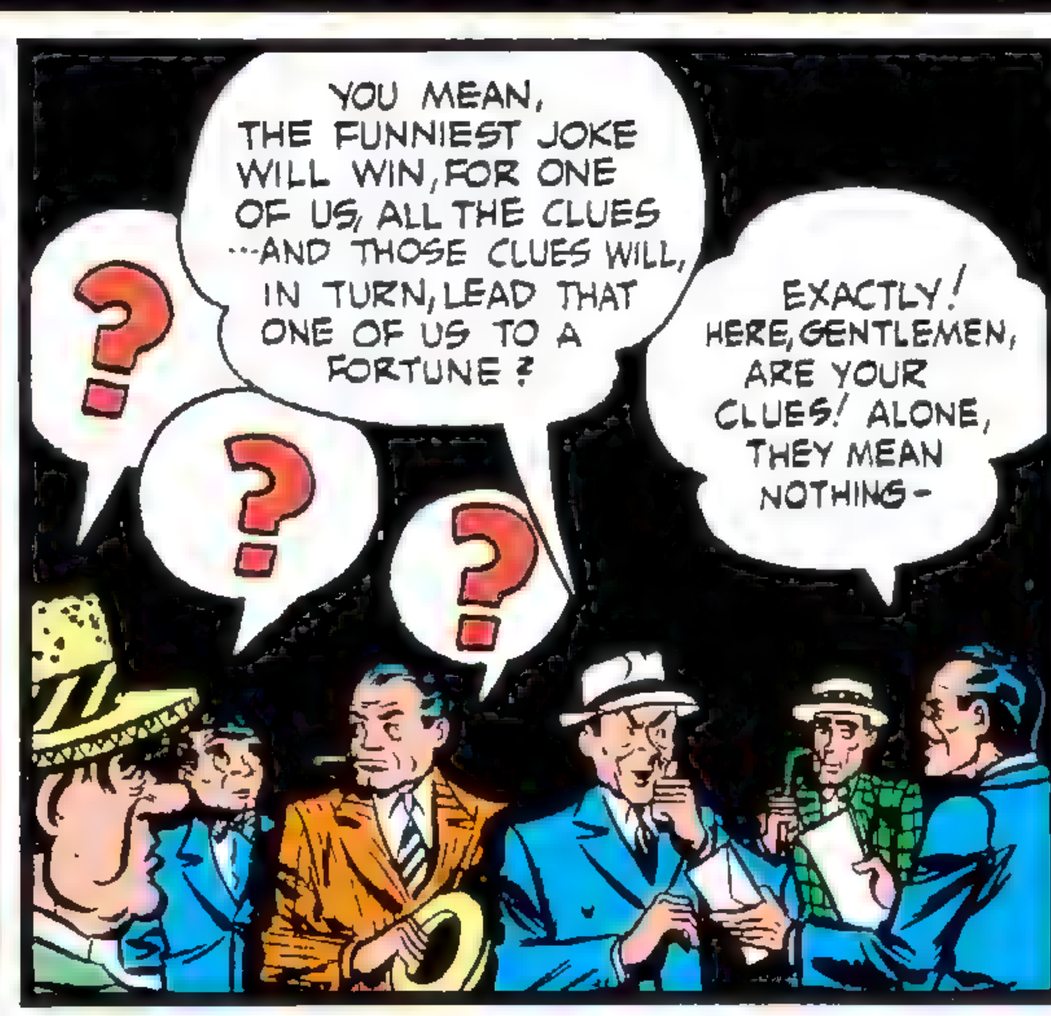
WHY DON'T YOU LAUGH---APPLAUD? I'VE A GOOD ACT TONIGHT---TOO BAD I CAN'T COME BACK FOR A COUPLE OF BOWS--- LATER---AHHHHH...

THE CURTAIN OF EVERLASTING DARKNESS COMES DOWN ON HAPPY HANSON'S LAST PERFORMANCE!
POOR MAN! WHY WAS HE SO ANXIOUS ABOUT HIS WILL?
BECAUSE THERE'S NEVER BEEN A WILL LIKE IT BEFORE! IT'S AN ODD WILL-- TOO ODD FOR COMFORT!

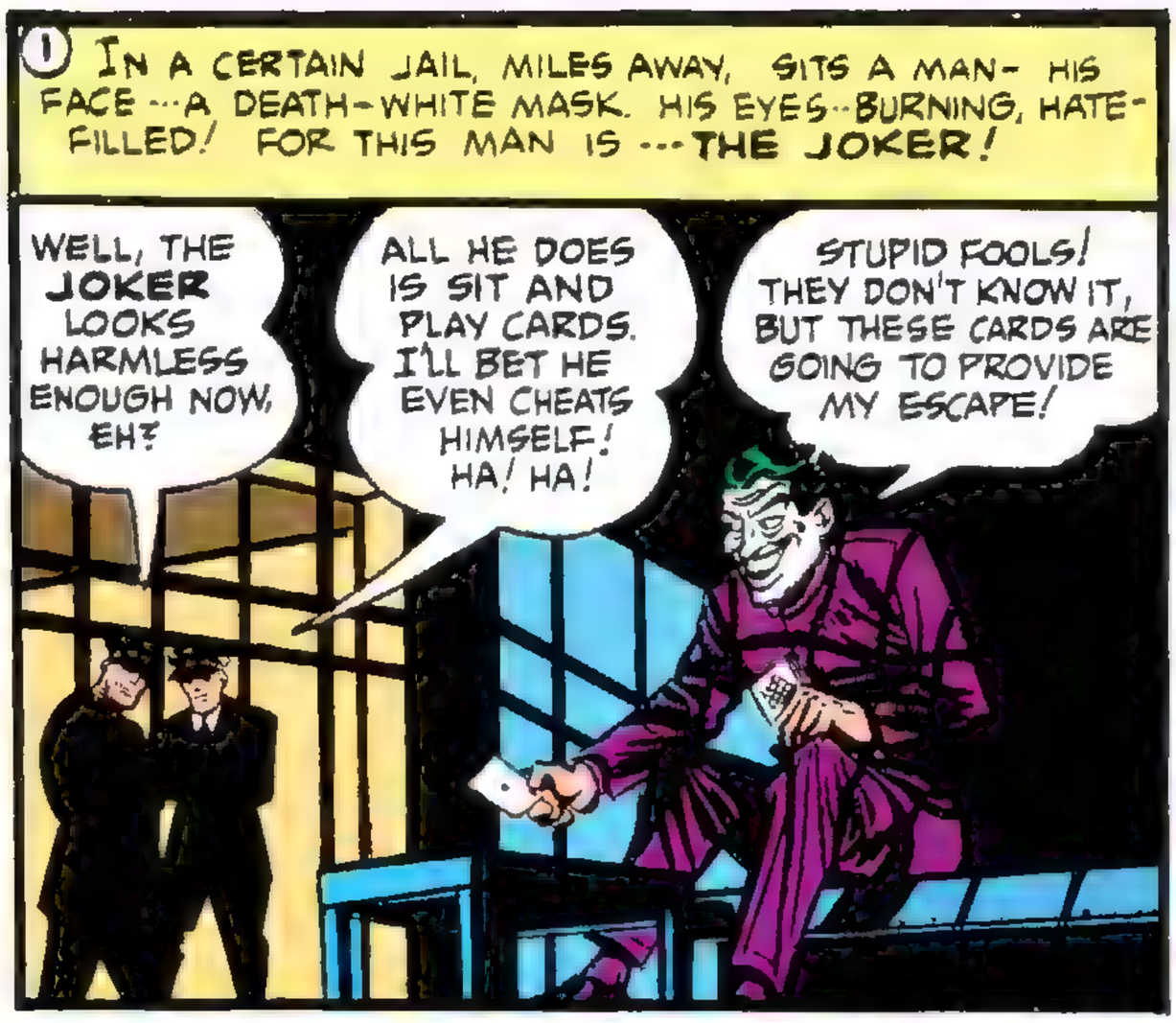

THE NEXT DAY, THE NATION'S FIVE FAVORITE COMEDIANS COME TOGETHER AND SPEAK IN PUZZLED TONES---
WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR, AND HOW LONG MUST WE WAIT?
AH, YES! MY FINE-FEATHERED CHUM--HOW LONG INDEED? ARRUMPH!
(PUFF-PUFF) AND I HAVE A RADIO PROGRAM TO MAKE! FINE THING!
STILL SMOKING THOSE CHEAP CIGARS, EH, JACKSON?
QUIET-- QUIET, YOU GOONS!
GENTLEMEN, HAPPY HANSON'S LAST INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO BRING TOGETHER THE FOREMOST COMEDIANS OF THE NATION FOR A READING OF HIS WILL--
FREDDIE BANTER
CLAUDE S. TILLEY
DENNY JACKSON
TED ALLENBY
BUSTER PARKS

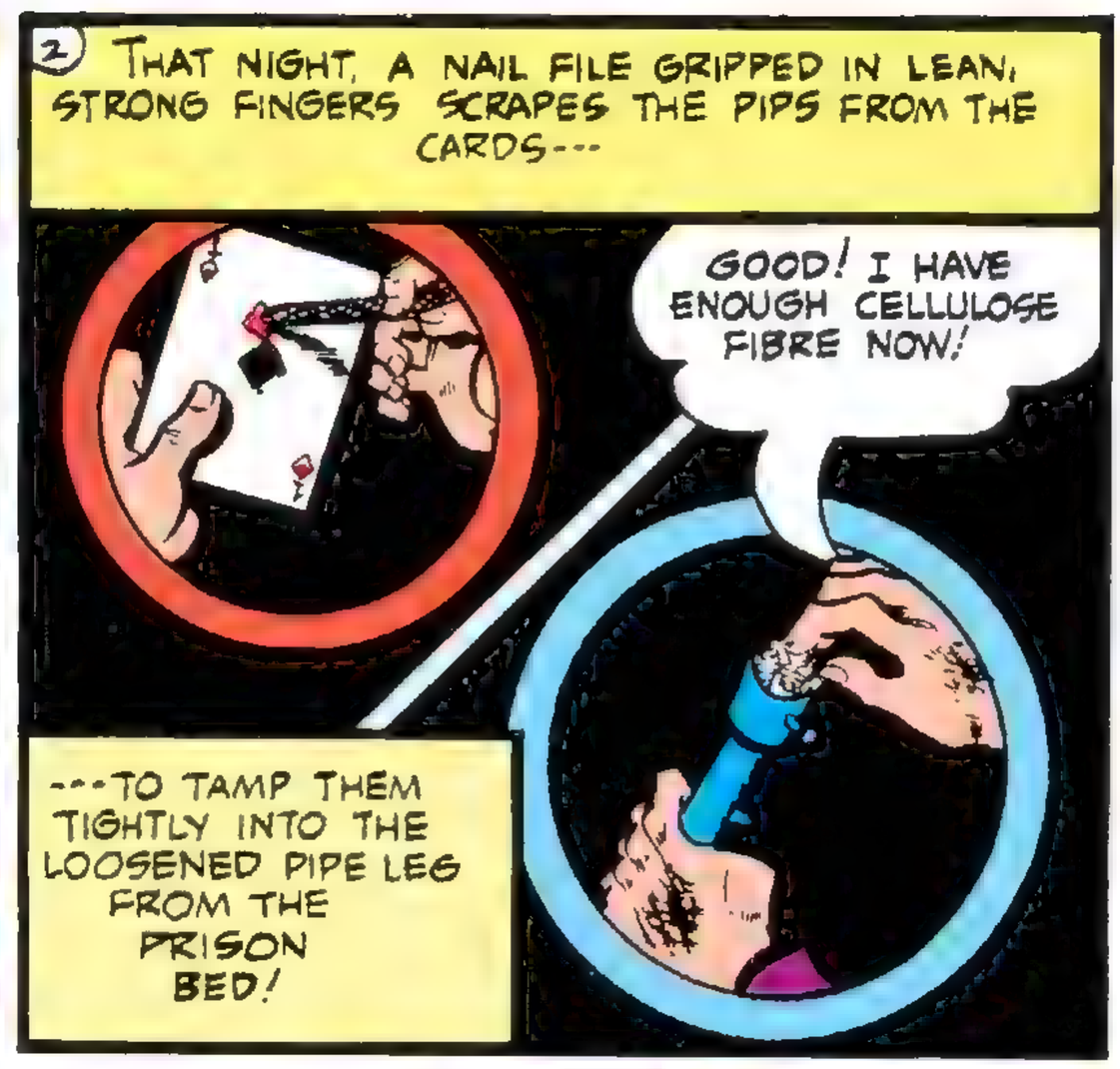

HE LEAVES BEHIND UNTOLD WEALTH- SECRET WEALTH--- SECRET EVEN TO ME! EACH OF YOU IS TO BE GIVEN A CLUE TO ITS CACHE. PUT TOGETHER, THE CLUES GIVE THE LOCATION OF ITS WHERE-ABOUTS!

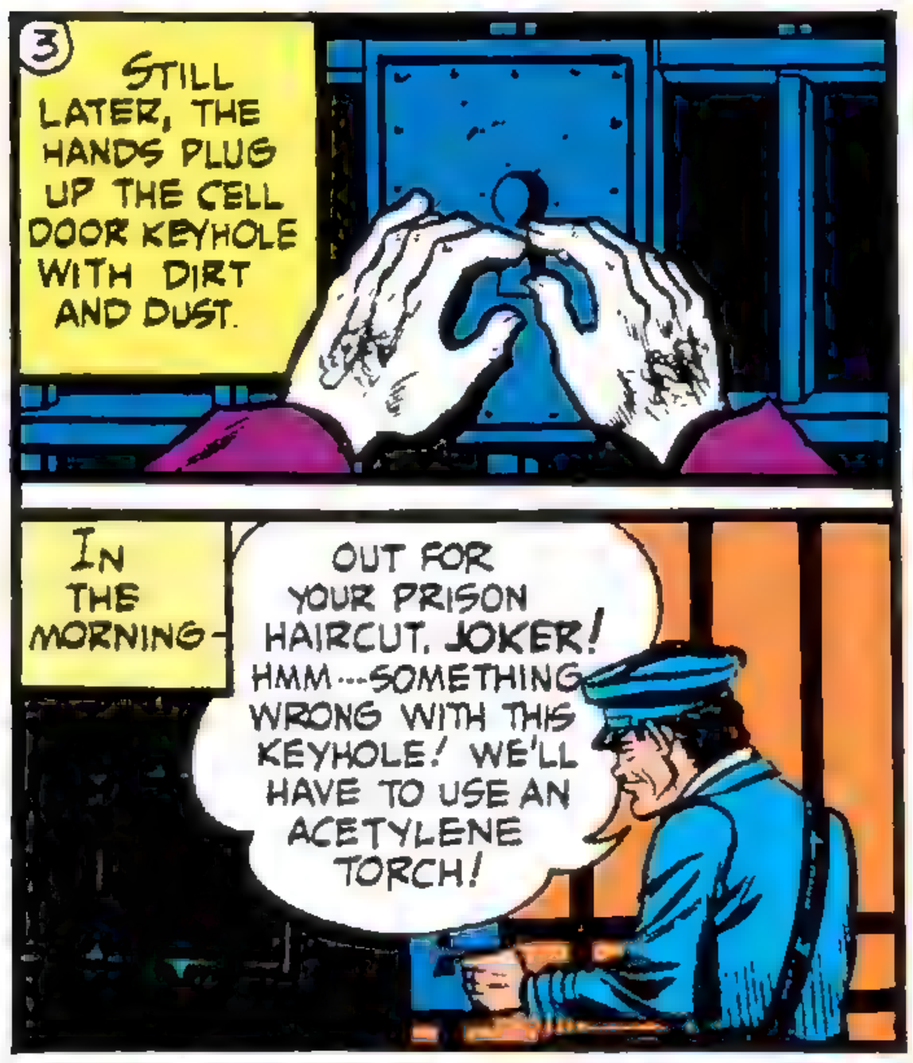

BUT--ONLY ONE OF YOU MAY OWN THIS WEALTH! THIS IS TO BE DECIDED BY A CONTEST! THE MAN WHO TELLS THE FUNNIEST JOKE AT THE END OF THE MONTH WILL WIN ALL THE CLUES!
COUGH! COUGH! HURUMPHH---


YOU MEAN, THE FUNNIEST JOKE WILL WIN, FOR ONE OF US, ALL THE CLUES ---AND THOSE CLUES WILL, IN TURN, LEAD THAT ONE OF US TO A FORTUNE?
EXACTLY! HERE, GENTLEMEN, ARE YOUR CLUES! ALONE, THEY MEAN NOTHING-
?
?
?

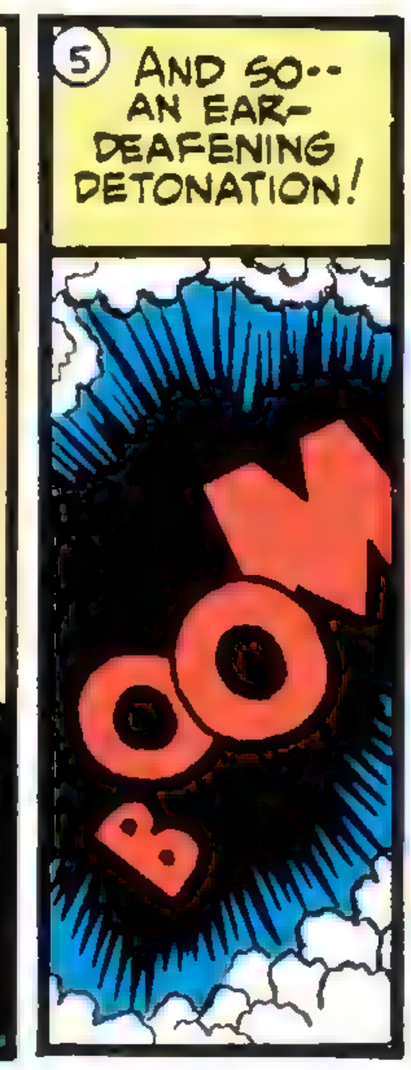
--TOGETHER, TO THE WINNER, THEY MEAN A FORTUNE! THIS IS HAPPY HANSON'S WILL! GOOD LUCK, GENTLEMEN!


1 IN A CERTAIN JAIL, MILES AWAY, SITS A MAN- HIS FACE ---A DEATH-WHITE MASK. HIS EYES--BURNING, HATE-FILLED! FOR THIS MAN IS ---THE JOKER!
WELL, THE JOKER LOOKS HARMLESS ENOUGH NOW, EH?
ALL HE DOES IS SIT AND PLAY CARDS. I'LL BET HE EVEN CHEATS HIMSELF! HA! HA!
STUPID FOOLS! THEY DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THESE CARDS ARE GOING TO PROVIDE MY ESCAPE!


2 THAT NIGHT, A NAIL FILE GRIPPED IN LEAN, STRONG FINGERS SCRAPES THE PIPS FROM THE CARDS---
GOOD! I HAVE ENOUGH CELLULOSE FIBRE NOW!
---TO TAMP THEM TIGHTLY INTO THE LOOSENED PIPE LEG FROM THE PRISON BED!


3 STILL LATER, THE HANDS PLUG UP THE CELL DOOR KEYHOLE WITH DIRT AND DUST.
IN THE MORNING-
OUT FOR YOUR PRISON HAIRCUT, JOKER! HMM---SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS KEYHOLE! WE'LL HAVE TO USE AN ACETYLENE TORCH!

4 AN ACETYLENE TORCH PLAYS ITS TERRIBLE HEAT ON THE SIDE OF THE DOOR--- BUT, UNSEEN, FASTENED TO THE OTHER SIDE---
FOOLS! THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT CELLULOSE, WHEN HEATED, FORMS NITRO-CELLULOSE-- AN EXPLOSIVE!
WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A SECOND, JOKER!


5 AND SO-- AN EAR-DEAFENING DETONATION!
BOOM

6
"JUST A HARMLESS MAN PLAYING CARDS!" HA! HA!
3

SOON, ELECTRIFYING NEWS IS FLASHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY--
DICK, I SEE PLENTY OF TROUBLE AHEAD!

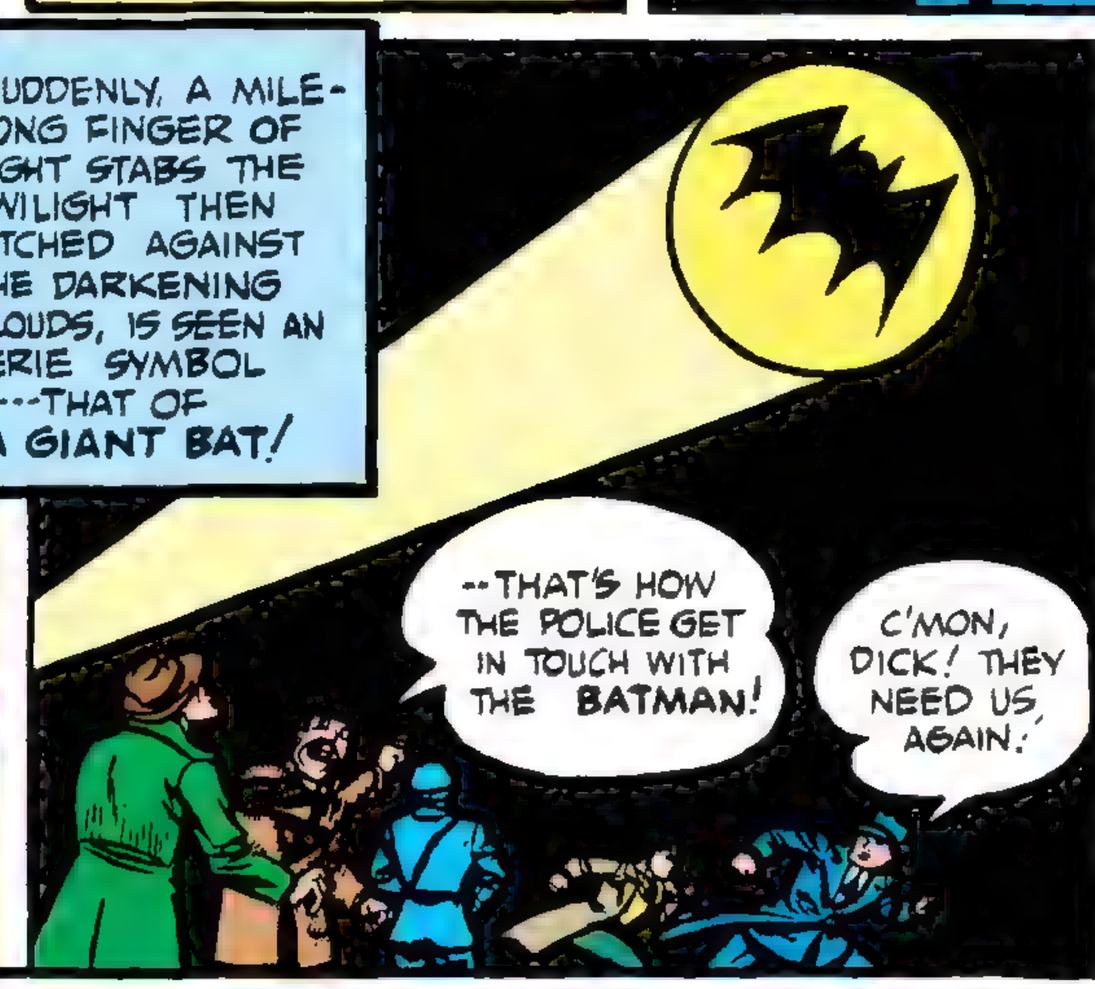
BUT OTHER NEWS COMPETES WITH THE BAD TIDINGS--
DAIL
HANSON WILL LEAVE FORTUN KING O COMEDIA
WINNER TO BE ACCLAIMED KIN OF JESTERS

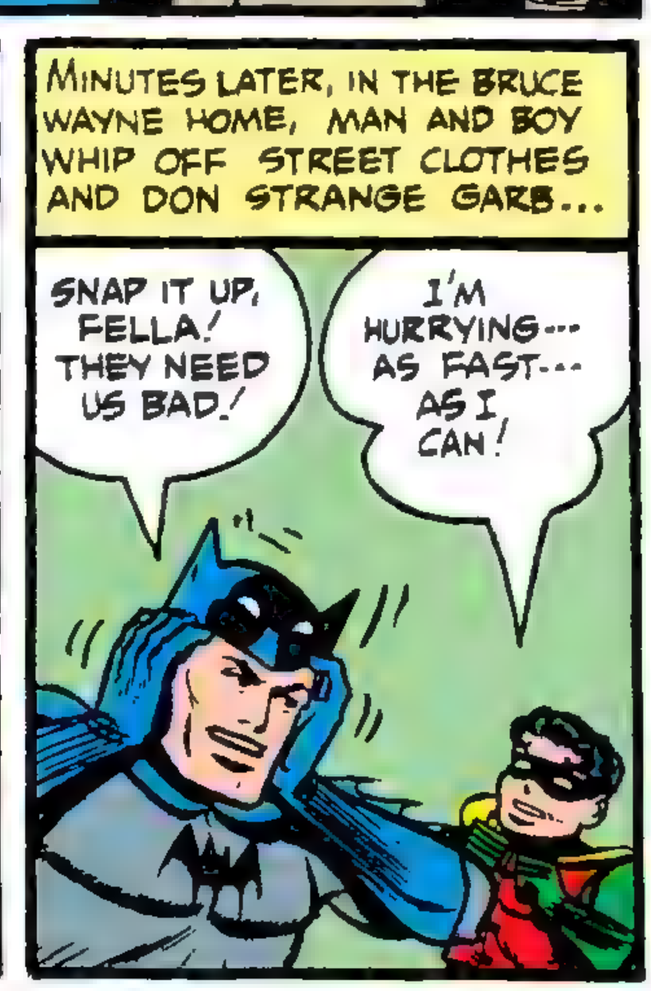
AND SOON, THE MAN WHO MADE THE FIRST NEWS READS THE LATER NEWS!
"KING OF JESTERS" HOW DARE THEY? I--I AM THE KING OF ALL JESTERS---I--- THE JOKER, HIMSELF!

AND THEY DARE HOLD A CONTEST OF THIS NATURE WITHOUT INVITING ME! HAH! I'LL INVITE MYSELF! HA! HA! HA!
A SARDONIC, JEERING LAUGH-THE MIRTHLESS LAUGH OF THE JOKER!

AND EVEN AT THAT MOMENT, A PROMINENT COMEDIAN PUZZLES THE DEAD HAPPY HANSON'S CRYPTIC WORDS---
?
YOUR CLUE CHECKED PACKAGE FOR
---AND DOESN'T REALIZE THAT HE, TOO, WILL SOON BE--- A DEAD MAN!

THE NEXT NIGHT, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON WALK THE STREETS OF DOWNTOWN GOTHAM CITY-
DICK, I'M WORRIED! THIS SILENCE FROM THE JOKER--- DON'T LIKE IT!
I KNOW! HE-- LOOK!


SUDDENLY, A MILE-LONG FINGER OF LIGHT STABS THE TWILIGHT THEN ETCHED AGAINST THE DARKENING CLOUDS, IS SEEN AN EERIE SYMBOL ---THAT OF A GIANT BAT!
--THAT'S HOW THE POLICE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE BATMAN!
C'MON, DICK! THEY NEED US AGAIN!


MINUTES LATER, IN THE BRUCE WAYNE HOME, MAN AND BOY WHIP OFF STREET CLOTHES AND DON STRANGE GARB...
SNAP IT UP, FELLA! THEY NEED US BAD!
I'M HURRYING--- AS FAST--- AS I CAN!

--- TO BECOME BATMAN AND ROBIN!
I'VE SWITCHED ON THE POLICE CALLS-- LISTEN!
CALLING THE BATMAN- PROCEED TO THE HOME OF FREDDIE BANTER-

COMMISSIONER GORDON IS THE FIRST TO GREET THE ACE CRIME-CRUSHER--
GORDON, YOU LOOK WORRIED! WHAT'S WRONG?
MURDER--- AND THAT BLASTED JOKER! LOOK IN THERE!

HANGED--- WITH A PAIR OF SUSPENDERS!
YES-- AND NOW, READ THIS BOOK!

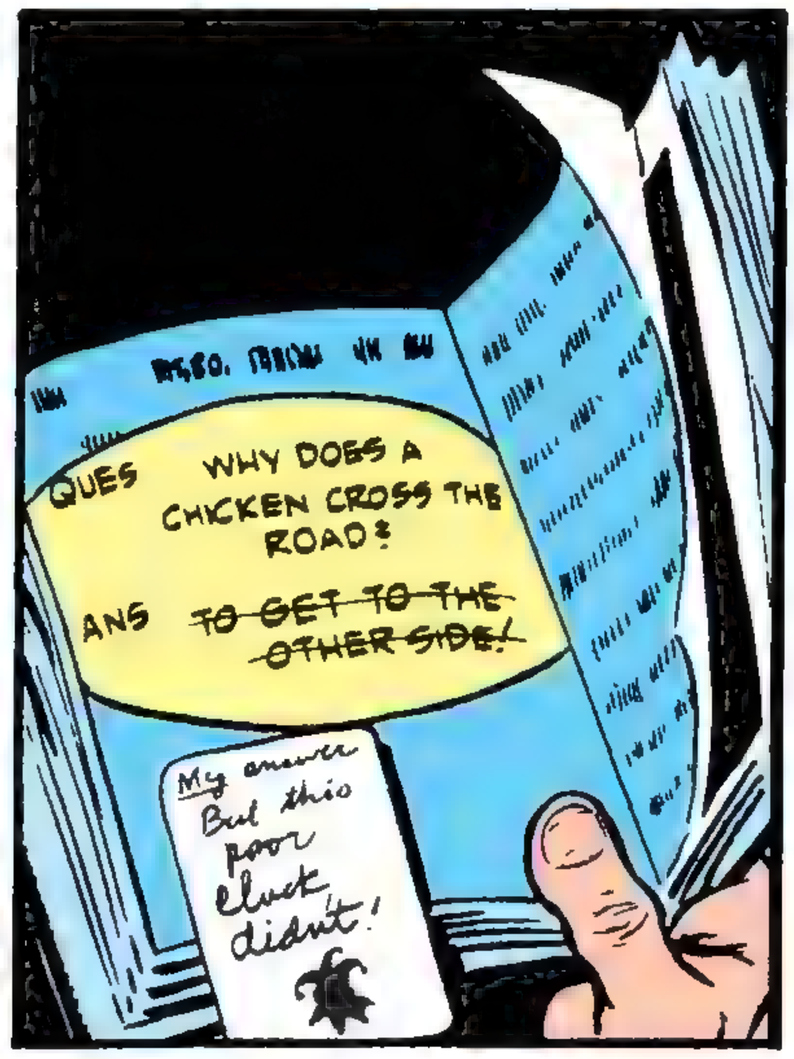
JOE MILLER'S JOKE BOOK
QUES: WHY DOES A FIREMAN WEAR RED SUSPENDERS?
ANS: TO HOLD HIS PANTS UP!
My Ans: To hang this fool up! Ha! Ha!
JOKER
Turn my card over

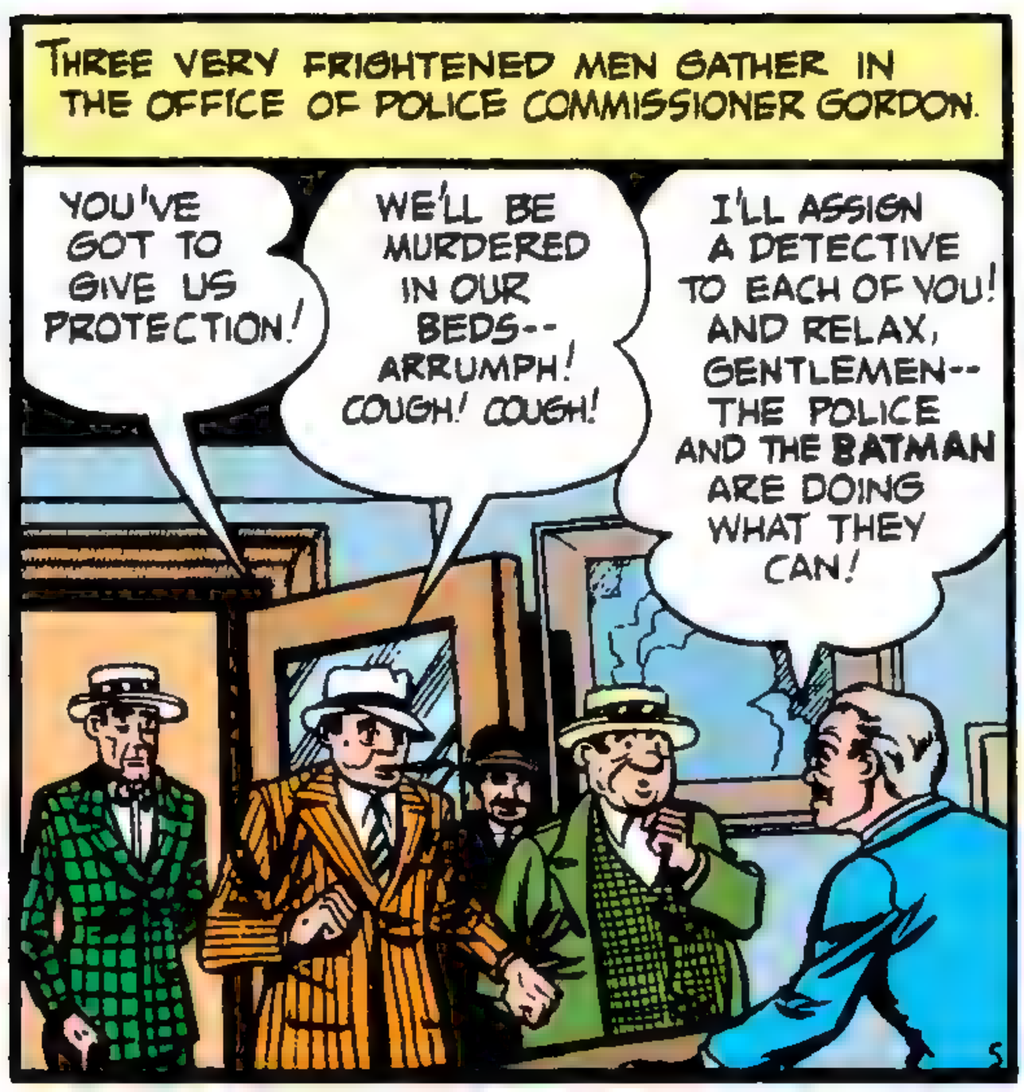
As you can see, I have entered the contest with my own jokes! A new variation on the old! HA! HA! HA! I have also stolen Freddie Banter's club. I shall take the others, too! HA! HA! HA!

YOU SEE THE IRONY OF IT? HE KILLS THE MAN ACCORDING TO THE JOKE! IT'S---IT'S--
IT'S AN EXAMPLE OF THE JOKER'S PERVERTED SENSE OF HUMOR! A DEADLY HUMOR! I'M AFRAID I DON'T APPRECIATE IT!
JOE MILLER

BATMAN, YOU'RE AN HONORARY MEMBER OF OUR POLICE FORCE! THE JOKER IS AT LARGE-- BRING HIM IN!
YES, SIR! I'M HOPING FOR THE BEST--BUT SOMEHOW EXPECT THE WORST!

THE BATMAN'S UNEASINESS IS WELL-FOUNDED--FOR ON THE NEXT DAY--
IT'S TED ALLENBY, THE COMEDIAN! HE'S BEEN RUN OVER!
WHAT'S THIS BOOK LYING HERE?

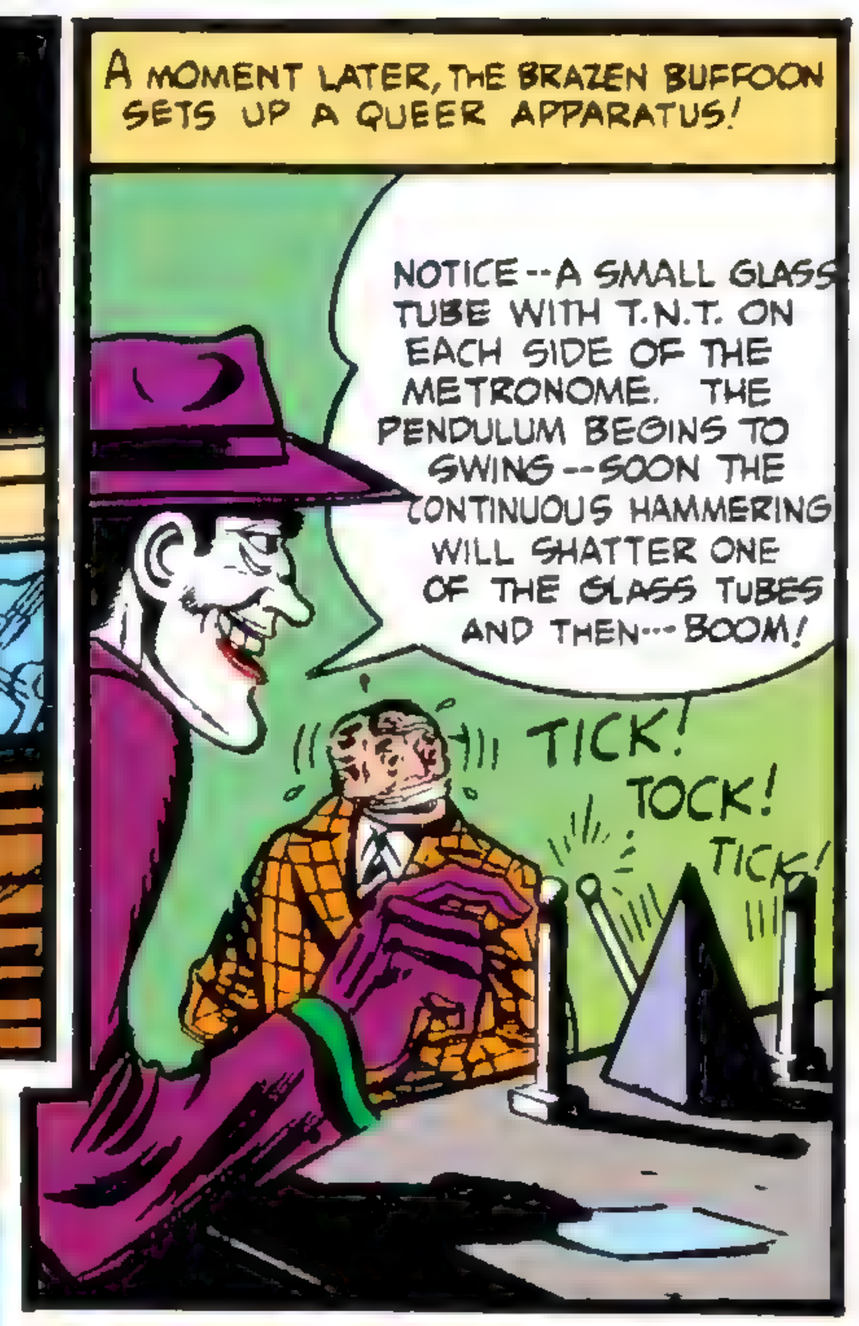

QUES WHY DOES A CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?
ANS TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE!
My answer But this poor chuck didn't!

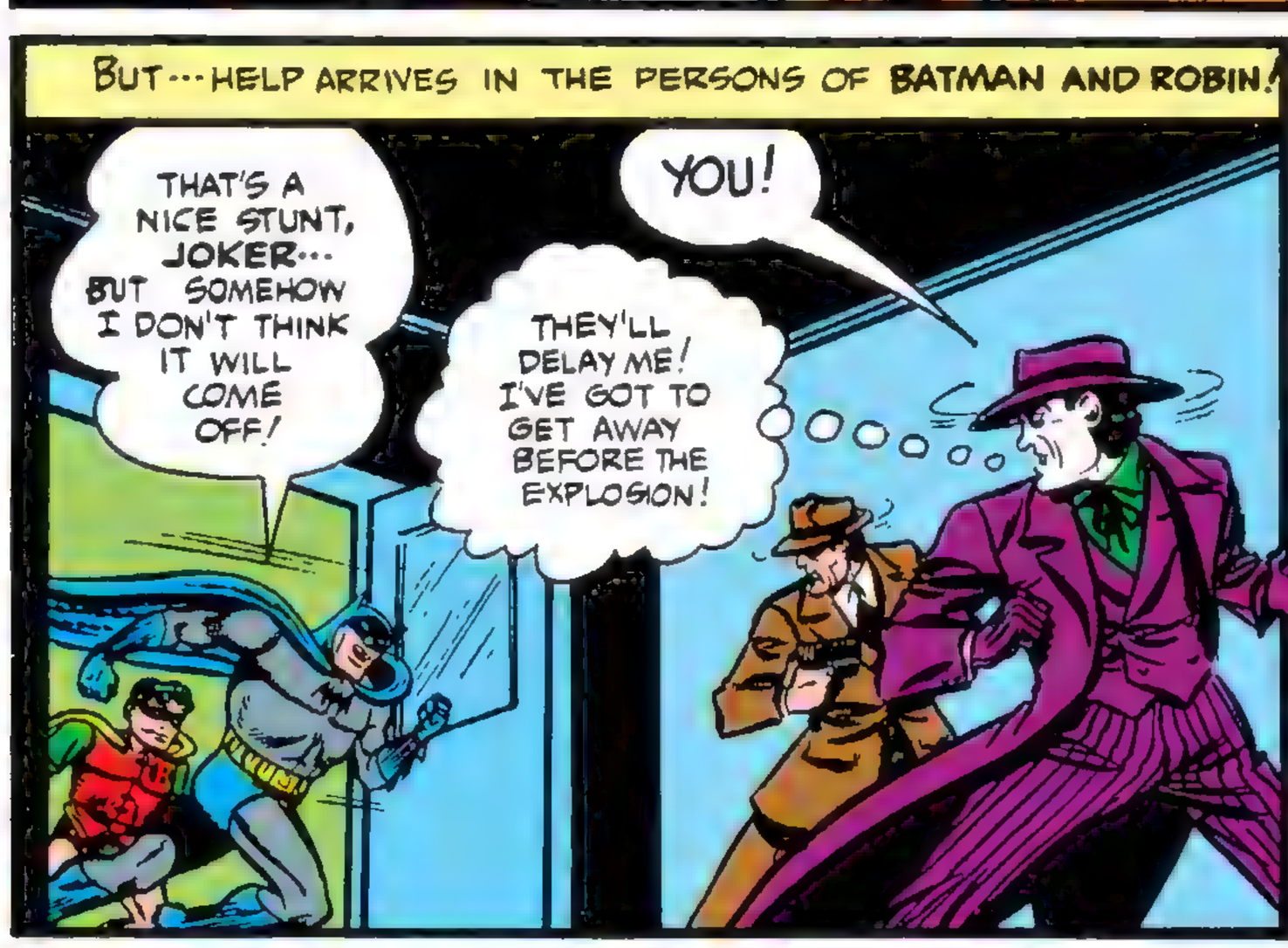

THREE VERY FRIGHTENED MEN GATHER IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON.
YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE US PROTECTION!
WE'LL BE MURDERED IN OUR BEDS-- ARRUMPH! COUGH! COUGH!
I'LL ASSIGN A DETECTIVE TO EACH OF YOU! AND RELAX, GENTLEMEN-- THE POLICE AND THE BATMAN ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN!

THAT NIGHT, THE BATMAN'S INVESTIGATION TAKES HIM TO THE DENNY JACKSON HOME--AS HE SPEAKS TO THE BUTLER--
OH--THE PHONE-- JUST A MOMENT, SIR!
NO, SIR-- MR. JACKSON HAS GONE TO THE SWEET-TONE MUSIC SHOP FOR A VIOLIN-- GOODBYE, SIR...

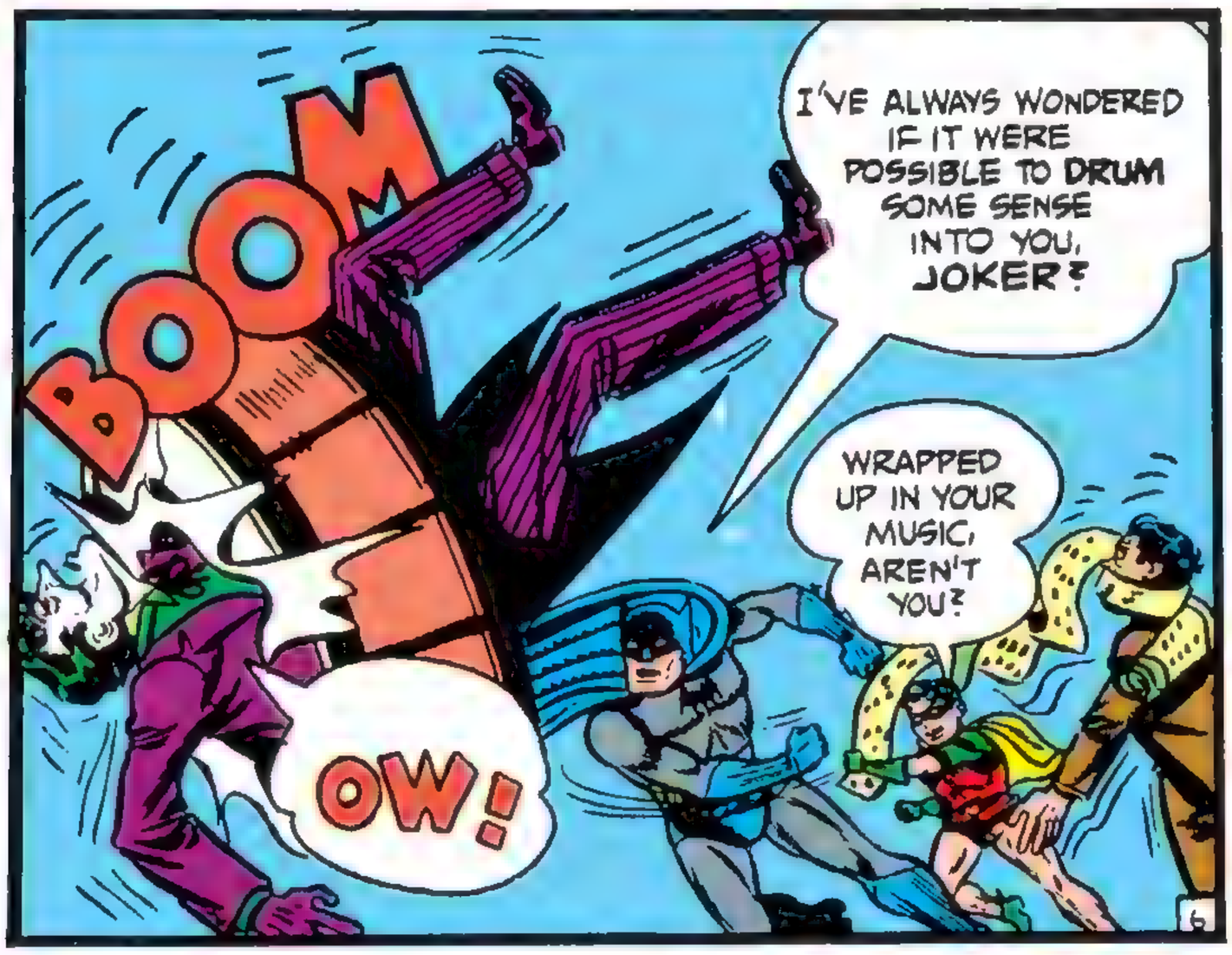
UGH! WHAT A COLD, SHIVERY VOICE THAT MAN HAD!
A COLD, SHIVERY VOICE ASKING ABOUT JACKSON? THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE JOKER!

THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE AND HIS HIRED HENCHMEN STRIKE WITHOUT WARNING!
HOLD THAT POSE, GENTLEMEN!


A MOMENT LATER, THE BRAZEN BUFFOON SETS UP A QUEER APPARATUS!
NOTICE--A SMALL GLASS TUBE WITH T.N.T. ON EACH SIDE OF THE METRONOME. THE PENDULUM BEGINS TO SWING--SOON THE CONTINUOUS HAMMERING WILL SHATTER ONE OF THE GLASS TUBES AND THEN---BOOM!
TICK!
TOCK!
TICK!


BUT---HELP ARRIVES IN THE PERSONS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
THAT'S A NICE STUNT, JOKER--- BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK IT WILL COME OFF!
YOU!
THEY'LL DELAY ME! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE THE EXPLOSION!

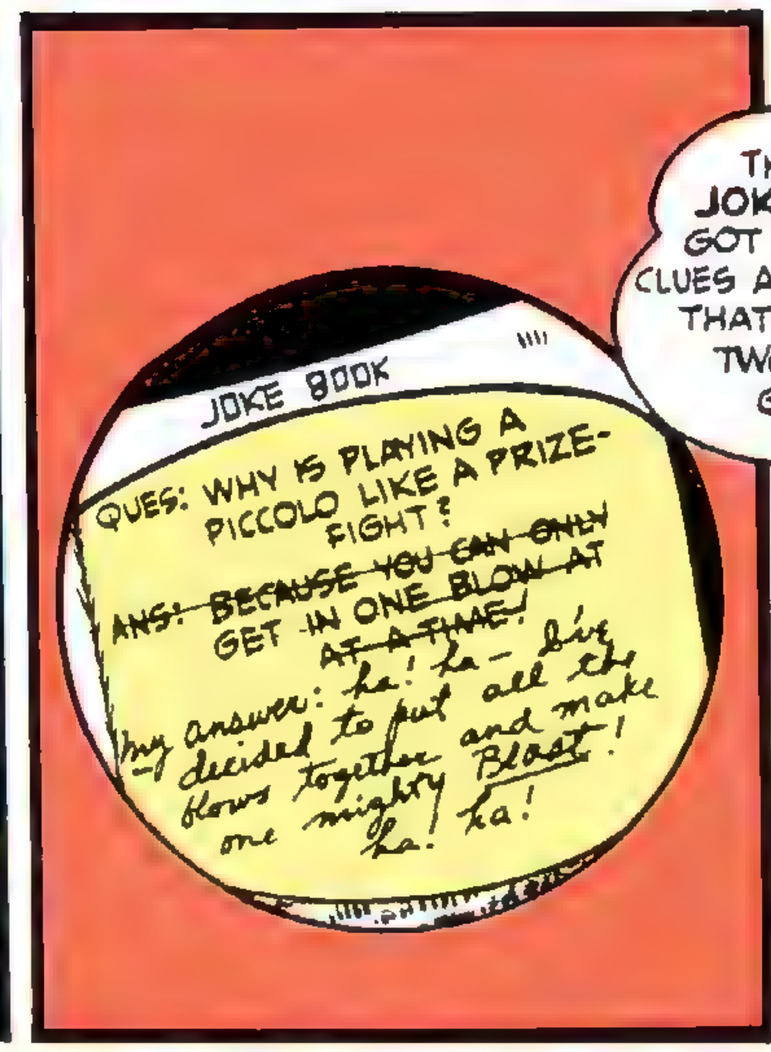
MASTER RECORD — I MAKE A HIT WITH YOU
HERE--- TRY THESE ON YOUR OLD VICTROLA!


BOOM
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO DRUM SOME SENSE INTO YOU, JOKER?
WRAPPED UP IN YOUR MUSIC, AREN'T YOU?
OW!

MEANWHILE, TERRIBLE AS A MARCH OF DOOM, THE MEASURED BEAT OF THE METRONOME TICKS ON RELENTLESSLY---
LET ME GO! THIS PLACE WILL BLOW UP ANY SECOND, AND WE'LL GO WITH IT!
WHY, JOKER-- YOU'RE ACTUALLY WORRIED! BUT THERE'S REALLY NO NEED!
TICK!
TOCK!
TICK!

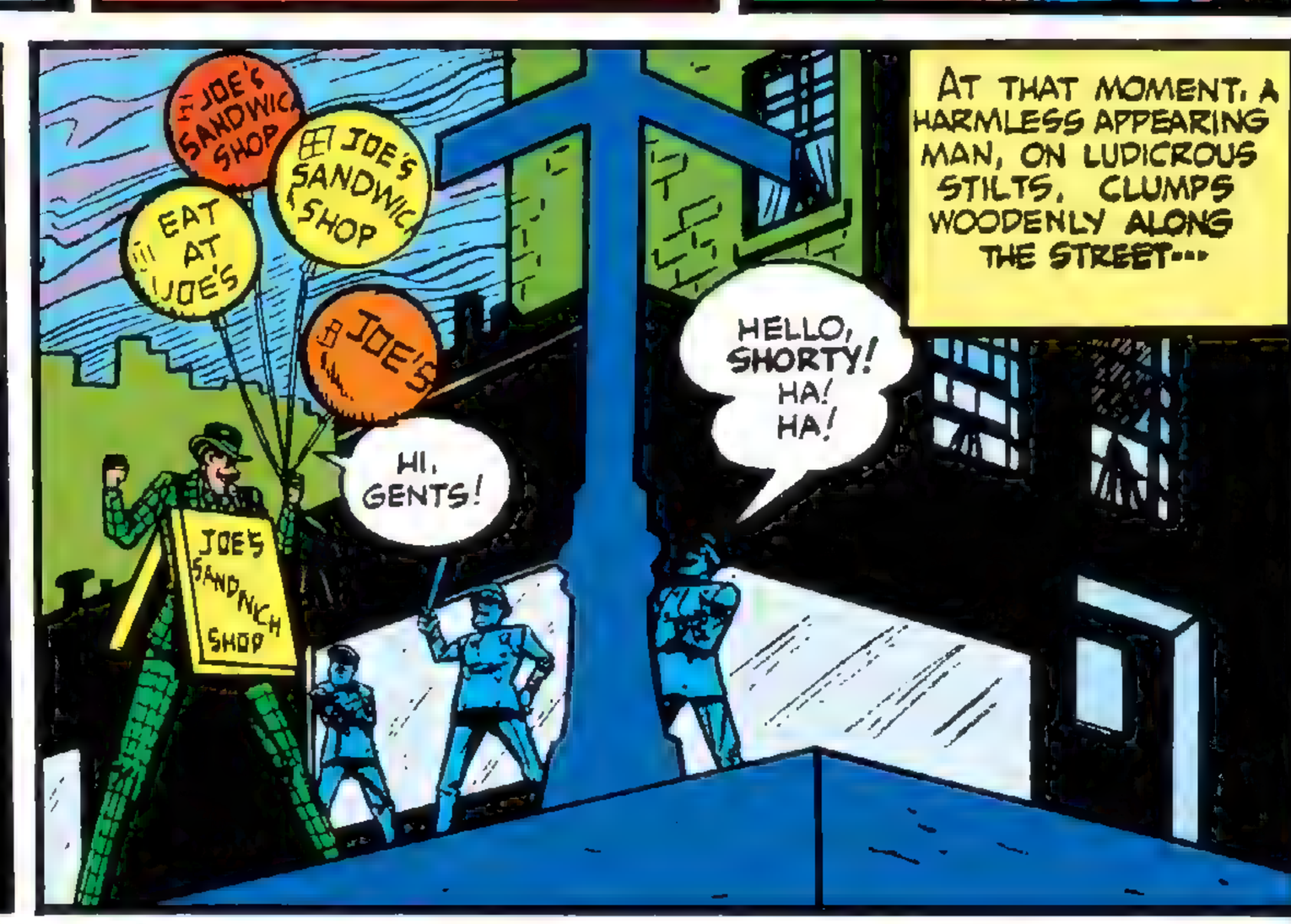
EACH WITHOUT THE OTHER'S KNOWLEDGE, TWO FIGURES CATAPULT FORWARD SIMULTANEOUSLY AT THE FATAL METRONOME--
YOU, TOO?
SO IT SEEMS!

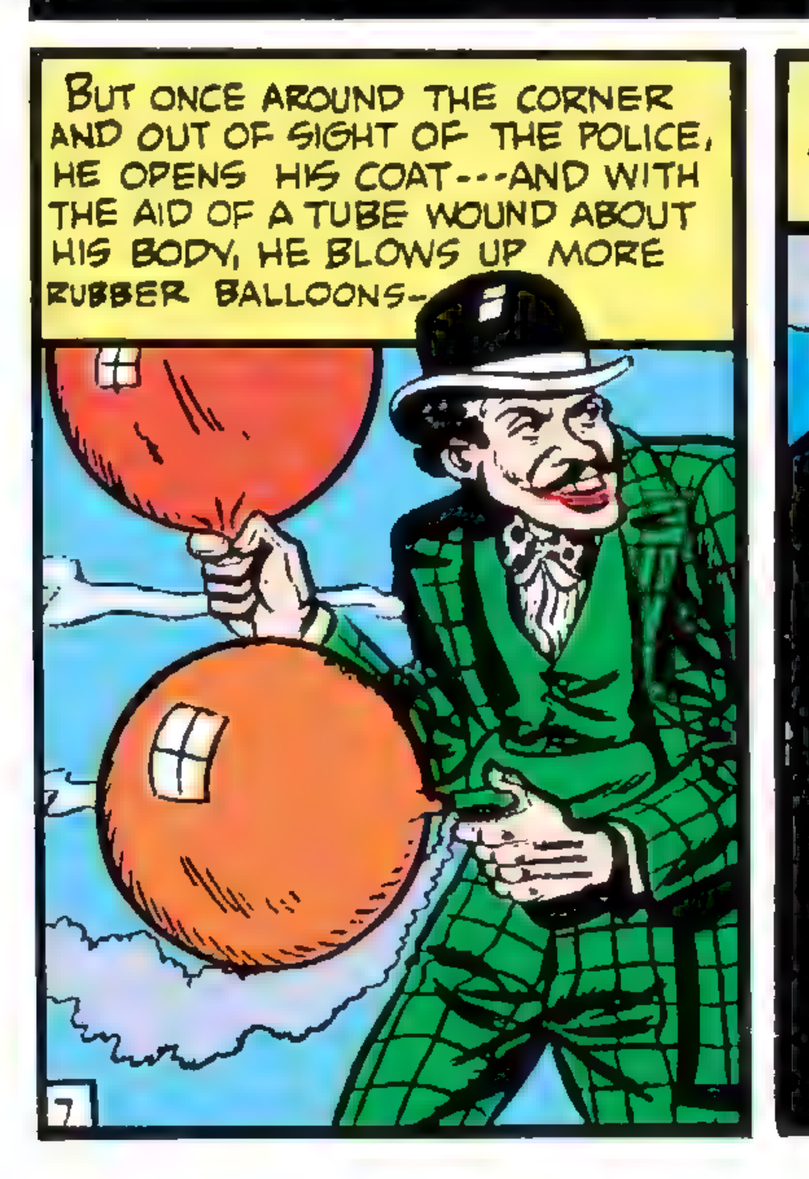
TWO ANXIOUS HANDS HALT THE RELENTLESS PENDULUM AS IT SWINGS FORWARD LIKE THE REAPER'S SCYTHE!
WE MADE IT!
AND WHILE WE DID, THE JOKER'S ESCAPED AND HE'S TAKEN JACKSON'S CLUE! WONDER WHAT HIS JOKE WAS THIS TIME?


JOKE BOOK
QUES: WHY IS PLAYING A PICCOLO LIKE A PRIZE-FIGHT?
ANS: ~~BECAUSE YOU CAN ONLY GET IN ONE BLOW AT A TIME!~~
My answer: ha! ha! I've decided to put all the blows together and make one mighty Blast! ha! ha!
THE JOKER'S GOT THREE CLUES ALREADY! THAT LEAVES TWO TO GO!

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS-
I SUGGEST THAT YOU HAVE YOUR POLICE GUARD CLAUDE TILLEY WHILE ROBIN AND MYSELF GUARD BUSTER PARKS!
SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE! IT SHOULD STOP THE JOKER... WE HOPE!

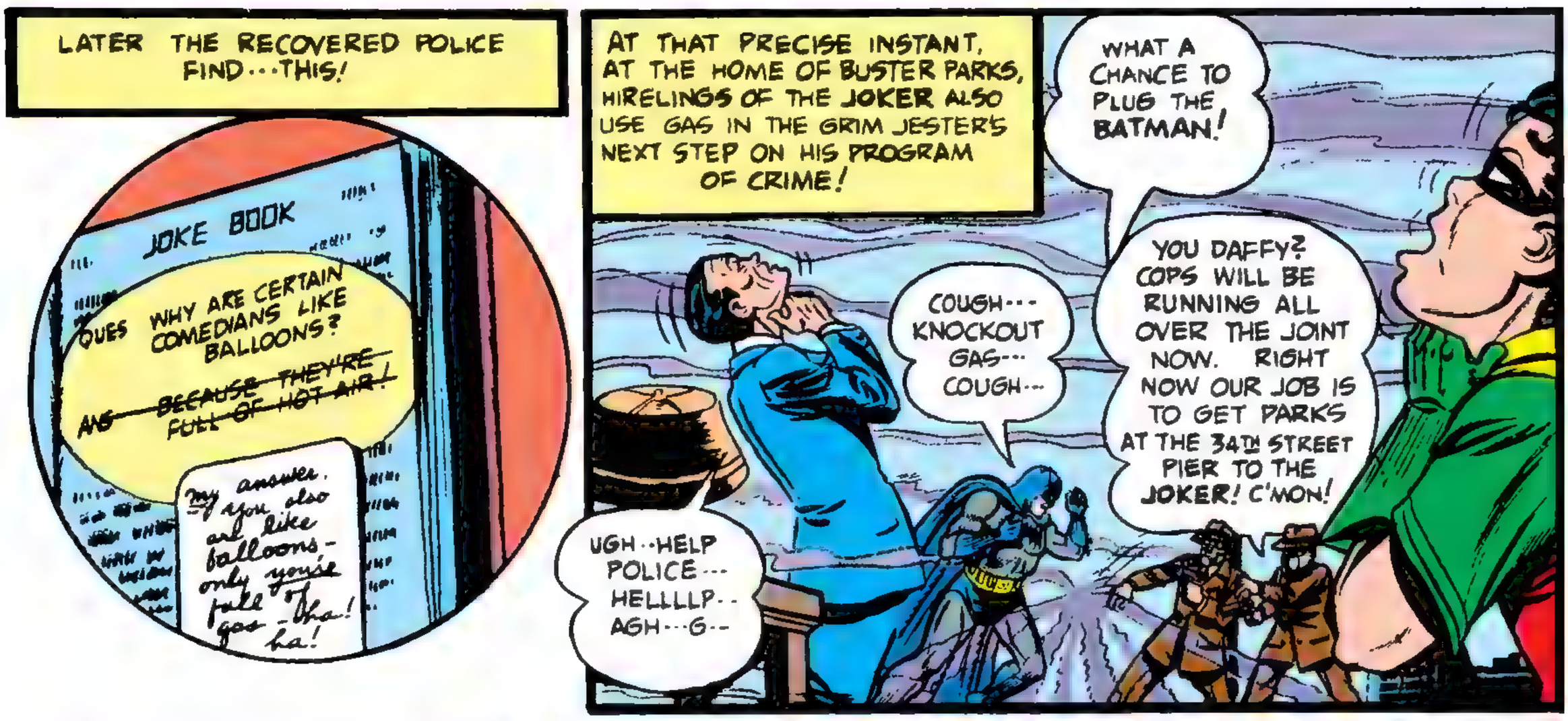
THE NEXT DAY ...AT THE FIRST-FLOOR HOME OF CLAUDE S. TILLEY...
DO--DO YOU BELIEVE THE JOKER WILL DARE APPEAR AT MY ...ARRUMPH... DOMICILE?
IF YOU MEAN YOUR HOME, I CAN'T SAY. YOU NEVER CAN TELL ABOUT THE JOKER!

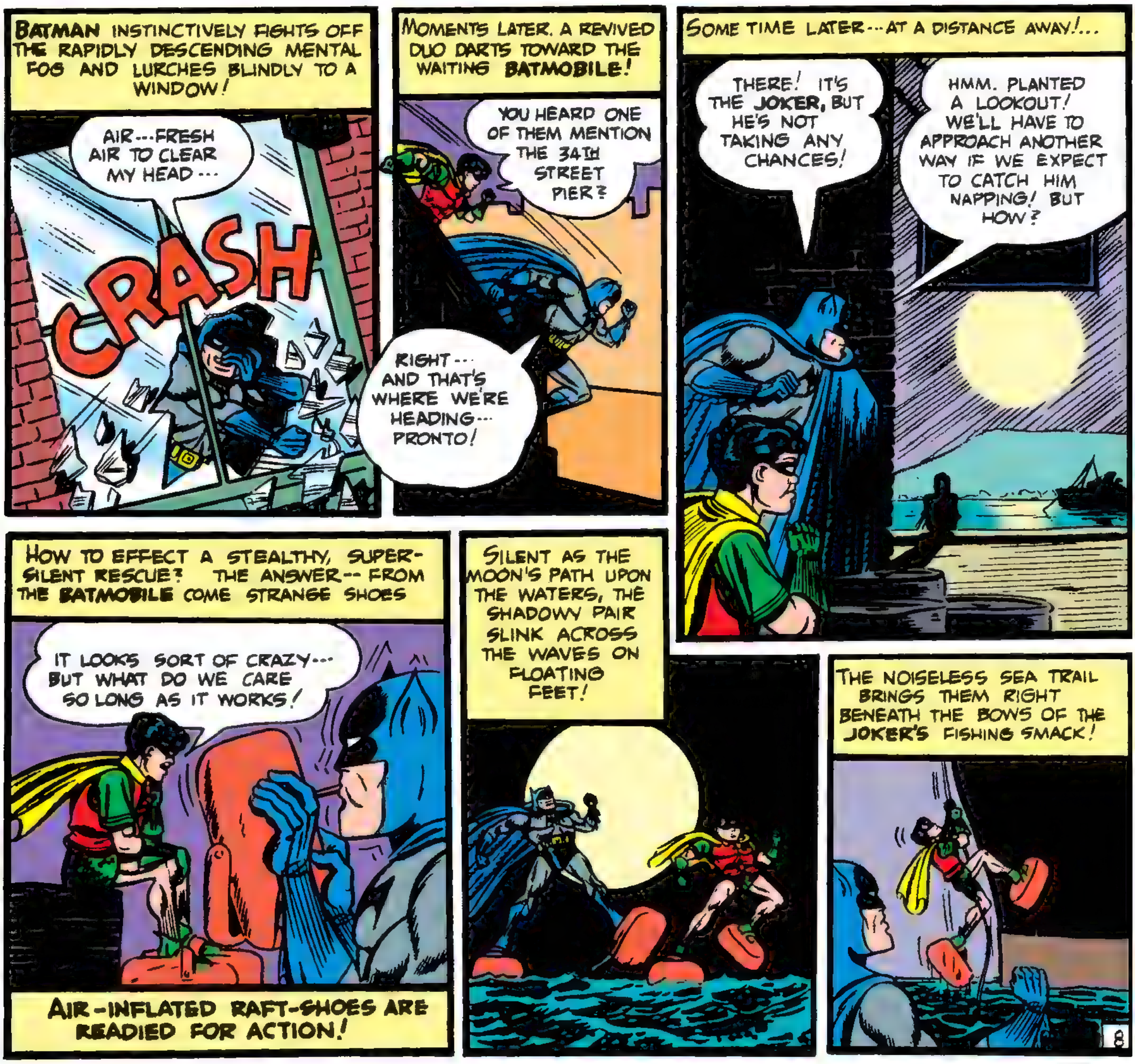

JOE'S SANDWICH SHOP
EAT AT JOE'S
JOE'S SANDWICH SHOP
JOE'S
JOE'S SANDWICH SHOP
HI, GENTS!
HELLO, SHORTY! HA! HA!
AT THAT MOMENT, A HARMLESS APPEARING MAN, ON LUDICROUS STILTS, CLUMPS WOODENLY ALONG THE STREET...

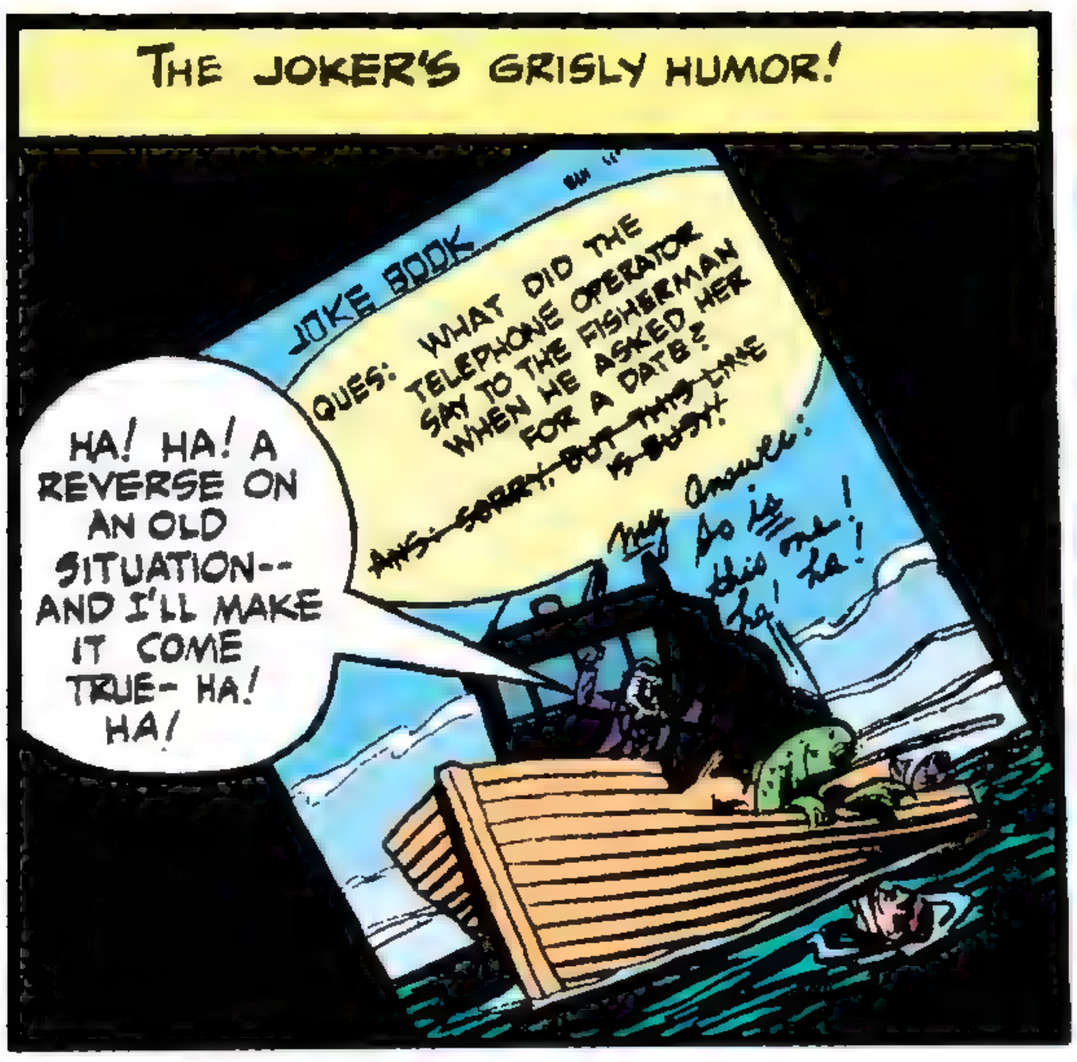

BUT ONCE AROUND THE CORNER AND OUT OF SIGHT OF THE POLICE, HE OPENS HIS COAT---AND WITH THE AID OF A TUBE WOUND ABOUT HIS BODY, HE BLOWS UP MORE RUBBER BALLOONS-
7

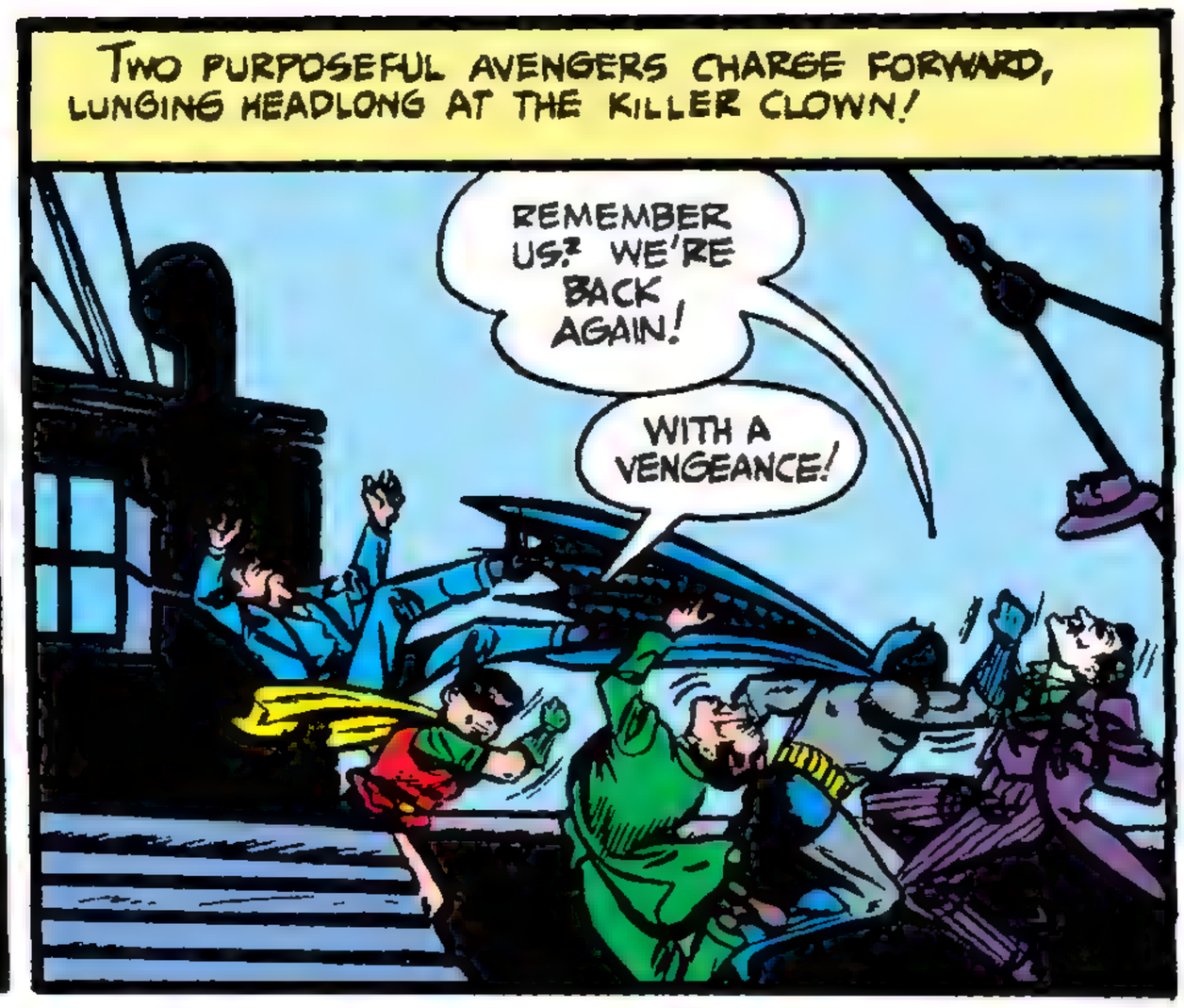
AS THE BALLOONS DRIFT INTO TILLEY'S ROOM, A GAS BEGINS TO SEEP OUT OF PUNCTURED CORKS IN THE BALLOON NECKS---
WHAT'S WRONG? HA! HA! I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING? HA! HA!
HO! HO! HO!
LAUGHING GAS!

CALMLY, ALMOST LAZILY, THE MAN ON STILTS REACHES IN AND PICKS THE VALUABLE CLUE FROM THE HELPLESS COMEDIAN'S POCKET!
I'M GLAD YOU THINK IT'S SO FUNNY NOW. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU WILL LATER ON, THOUGH! HA! HA!
YOU GUESSED IT! THE MAN IS....THE JOKER!


LATER THE RECOVERED POLICE FIND···THIS!
JOKE BOOK
QUES WHY ARE CERTAIN COMEDIANS LIKE BALLOONS?
ANS BECAUSE THEY'RE FULL OF HOT AIR!
My answer. If you also are like balloons - only you're full of gas - ha! ha!
AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, AT THE HOME OF BUSTER PARKS, HIRELINGS OF THE JOKER ALSO USE GAS IN THE GRIM JESTER'S NEXT STEP ON HIS PROGRAM OF CRIME!
WHAT A CHANCE TO PLUG THE BATMAN!
YOU DAFFY? COPS WILL BE RUNNING ALL OVER THE JOINT NOW. RIGHT NOW OUR JOB IS TO GET PARKS AT THE 34TH STREET PIER TO THE JOKER! C'MON!
COUGH··· KNOCKOUT GAS··· COUGH···
UGH··HELP POLICE··· HELLLLP·· AGH···G··

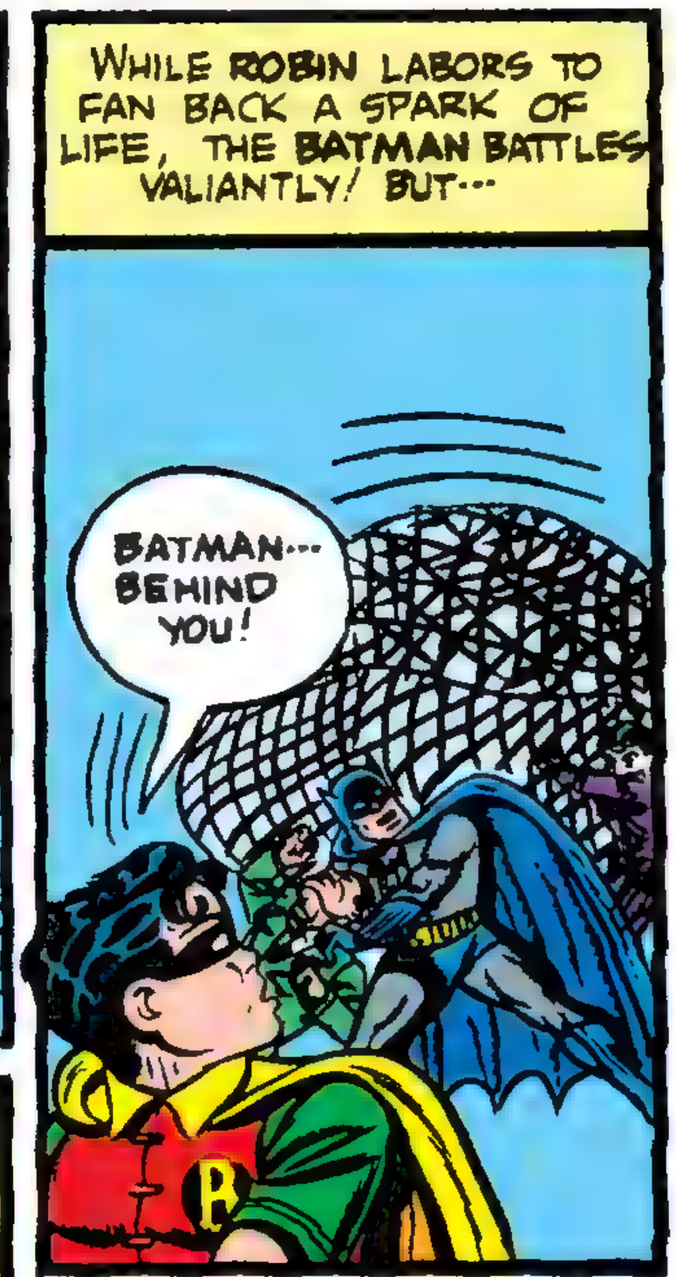

BATMAN INSTINCTIVELY FIGHTS OFF THE RAPIDLY DESCENDING MENTAL FOG AND LURCHES BLINDLY TO A WINDOW!
AIR···FRESH AIR TO CLEAR MY HEAD···
CRASH
MOMENTS LATER, A REVIVED DUO DARTS TOWARD THE WAITING BATMOBILE!
YOU HEARD ONE OF THEM MENTION THE 34TH STREET PIER?
RIGHT··· AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADING··· PRONTO!
SOME TIME LATER···AT A DISTANCE AWAY!...
THERE! IT'S THE JOKER, BUT HE'S NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES!
HMM. PLANTED A LOOKOUT! WE'LL HAVE TO APPROACH ANOTHER WAY IF WE EXPECT TO CATCH HIM NAPPING! BUT HOW?
HOW TO EFFECT A STEALTHY, SUPER-SILENT RESCUE? THE ANSWER-- FROM THE BATMOBILE COME STRANGE SHOES
IT LOOKS SORT OF CRAZY··· BUT WHAT DO WE CARE SO LONG AS IT WORKS!
AIR-INFLATED RAFT-SHOES ARE READIED FOR ACTION!
SILENT AS THE MOON'S PATH UPON THE WATERS, THE SHADOWY PAIR SLINK ACROSS THE WAVES ON FLOATING FEET!
THE NOISELESS SEA TRAIL BRINGS THEM RIGHT BENEATH THE BOWS OF THE JOKER'S FISHING SMACK!
8


THE JOKER'S GRISLY HUMOR!
JOKE BOOK
QUES: WHAT DID THE TELEPHONE OPERATOR SAY TO THE FISHERMAN WHEN HE ASKED HER FOR A DATE?
ANS: SORRY, BUT THIS LINE IS BUSY!
HA! HA! A REVERSE ON AN OLD SITUATION-- AND I'LL MAKE IT COME TRUE- HA! HA!

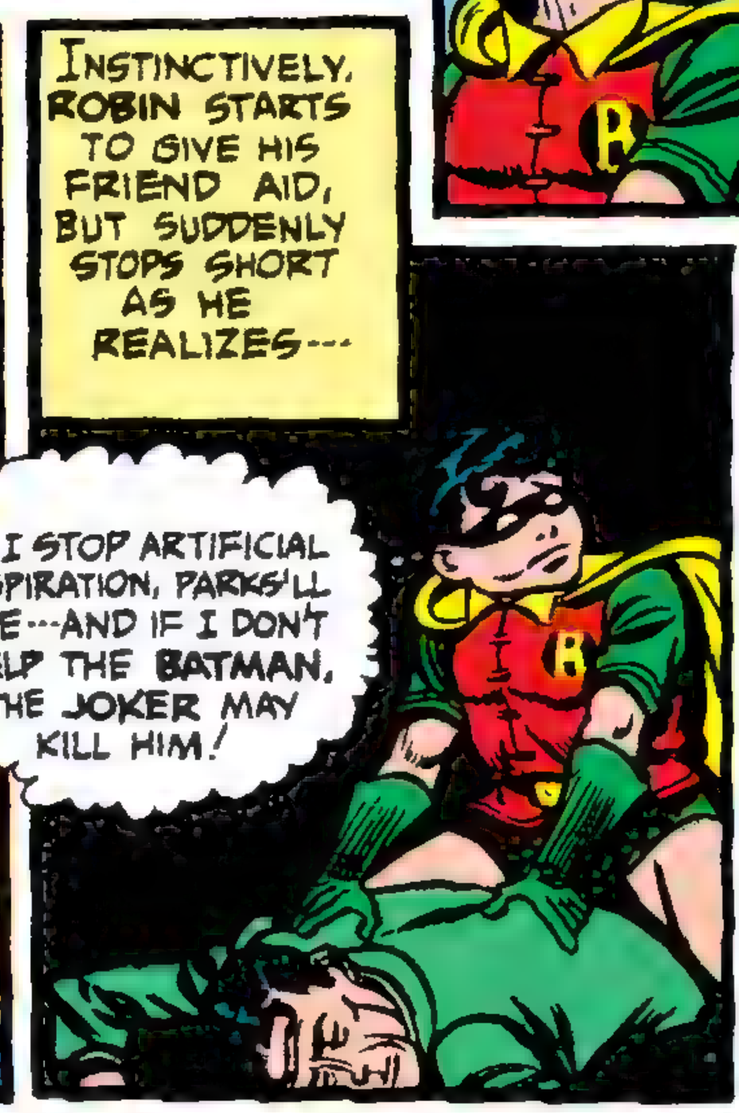

TWO PURPOSEFUL AVENGERS CHARGE FORWARD, LUNGING HEADLONG AT THE KILLER CLOWN!
REMEMBER US? WE'RE BACK AGAIN!
WITH A VENGEANCE!

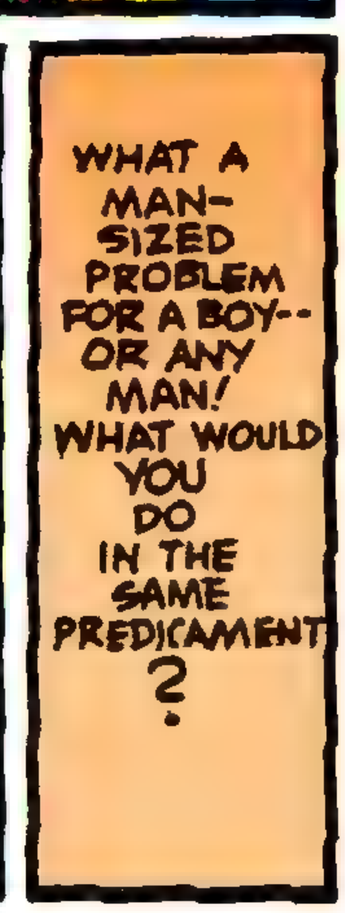
PERHAPS THIS WILL MAKE YOU FLOUNDER, YOU POOR FISH!
I HOPE THIS DOESN'T GIVE YOU TOO MUCH OF A HADDOCK!

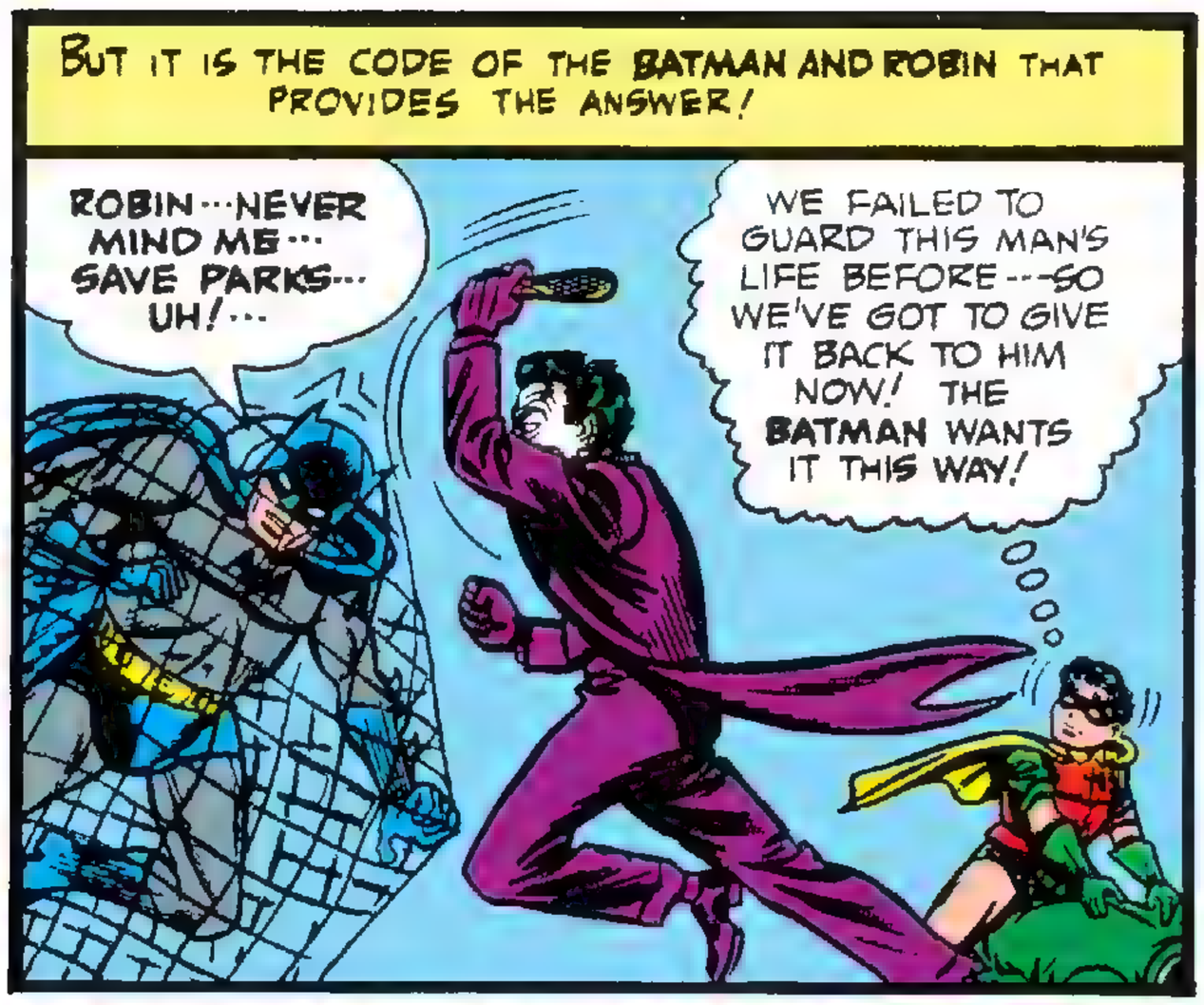
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE RATS. YOU SAVE PARKS!
I'VE GOT HIM···BUT HE NEEDS ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION! HE'S ALMOST A GONER!

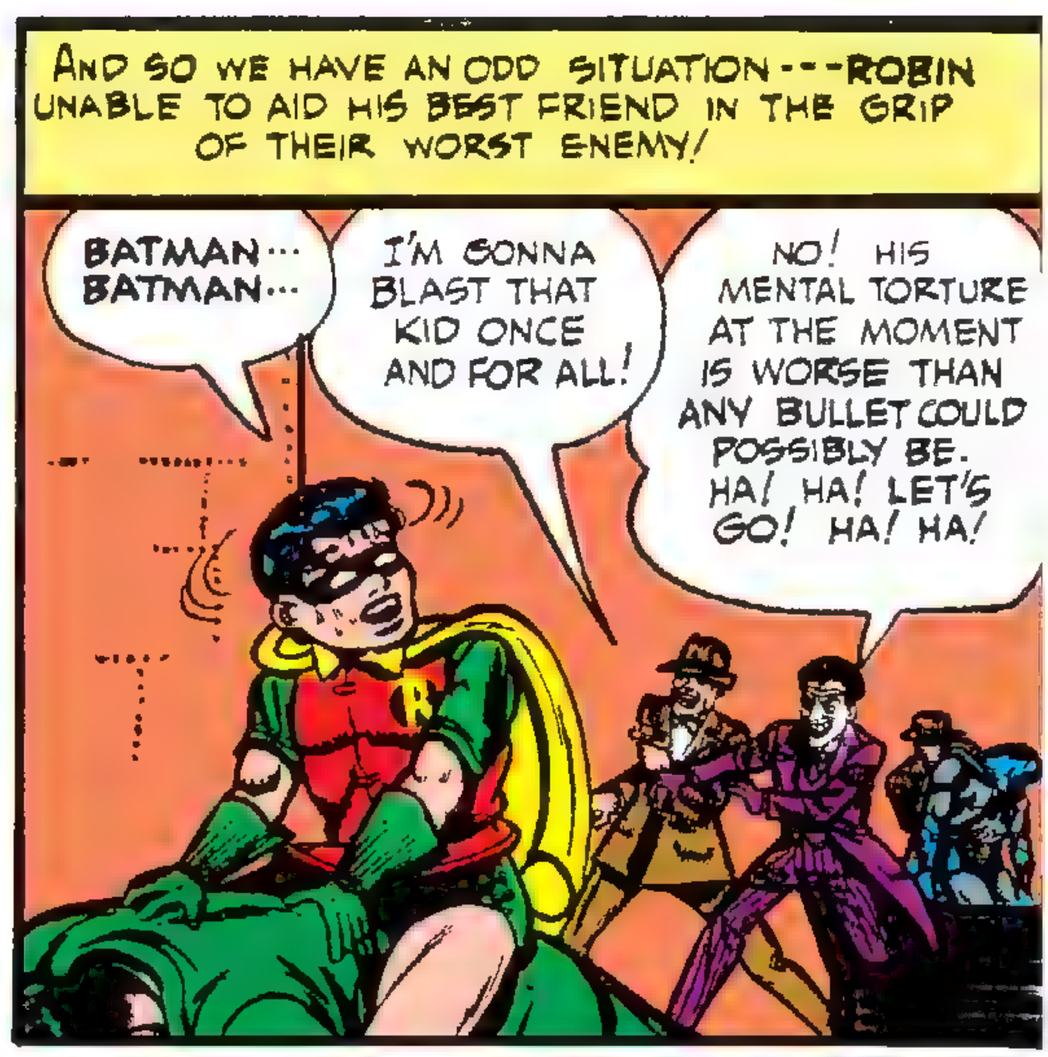

WHILE ROBIN LABORS TO FAN BACK A SPARK OF LIFE, THE BATMAN BATTLES VALIANTLY! BUT···
BATMAN··· BEHIND YOU!

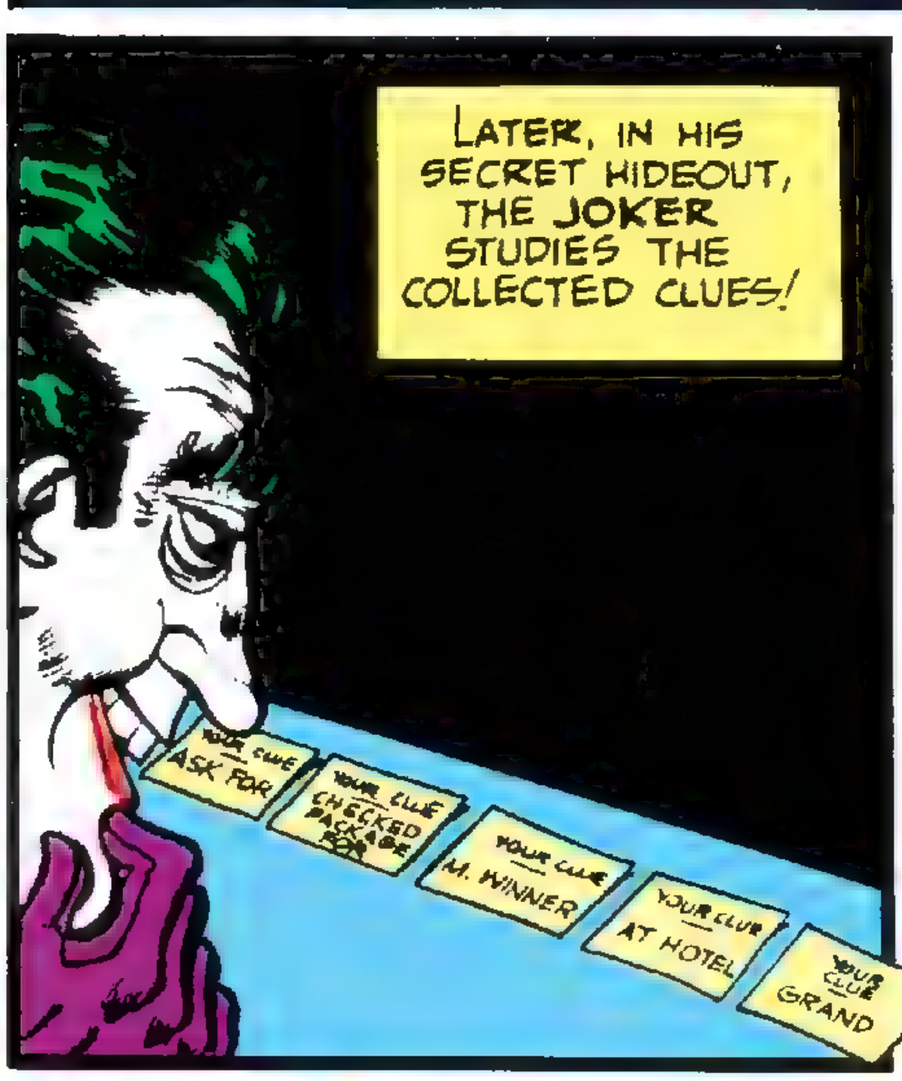
LIKE A FLY IN A WEB, EH, BATMAN? HA! HA!


INSTINCTIVELY, ROBIN STARTS TO GIVE HIS FRIEND AID, BUT SUDDENLY STOPS SHORT AS HE REALIZES···
IF I STOP ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION, PARKS'LL DIE···AND IF I DON'T HELP THE BATMAN, THE JOKER MAY KILL HIM!


WHAT A MAN-SIZED PROBLEM FOR A BOY-- OR ANY MAN! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THE SAME PREDICAMENT?


BUT IT IS THE CODE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THAT PROVIDES THE ANSWER!
ROBIN···NEVER MIND ME··· SAVE PARKS··· UH!···
WE FAILED TO GUARD THIS MAN'S LIFE BEFORE---SO WE'VE GOT TO GIVE IT BACK TO HIM NOW! THE BATMAN WANTS IT THIS WAY!

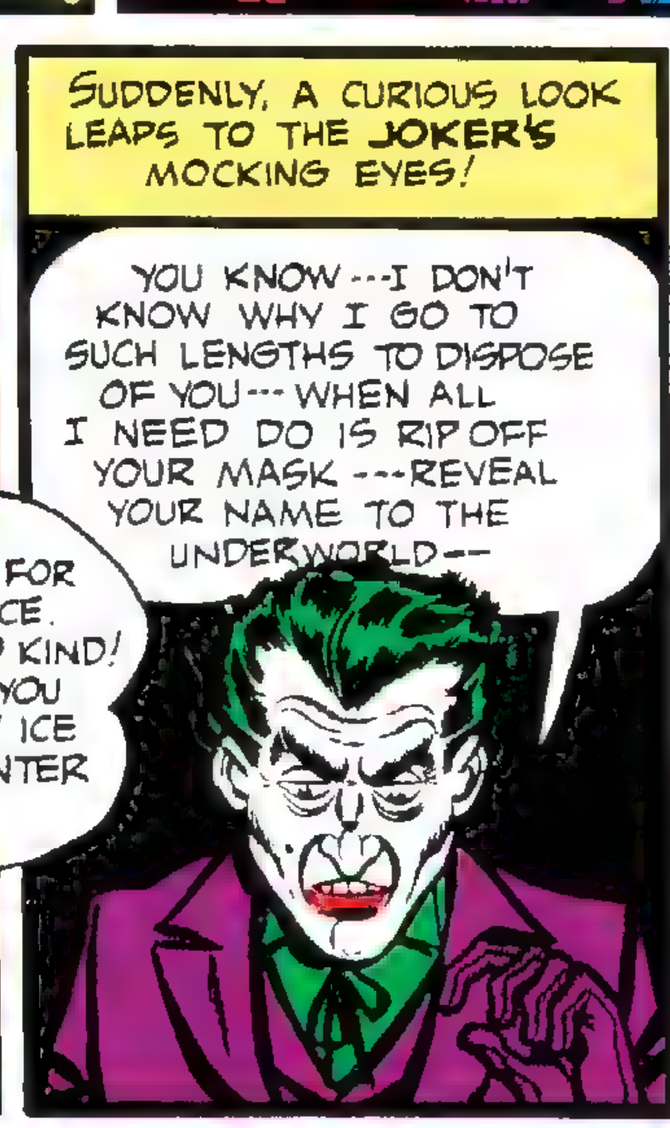

AND SO WE HAVE AN ODD SITUATION---ROBIN UNABLE TO AID HIS BEST FRIEND IN THE GRIP OF THEIR WORST ENEMY!
BATMAN··· BATMAN···
I'M GONNA BLAST THAT KID ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NO! HIS MENTAL TORTURE AT THE MOMENT IS WORSE THAN ANY BULLET COULD POSSIBLY BE. HA! HA! LET'S GO! HA! HA!


LATER, IN HIS SECRET HIDEOUT, THE JOKER STUDIES THE COLLECTED CLUES!
YOUR CLUE ASK FOR
YOUR CLUE CHECKED PACKAGE FOR
YOUR CLUE M. WINNER
YOUR CLUE AT HOTEL
YOUR CLUE GRAND

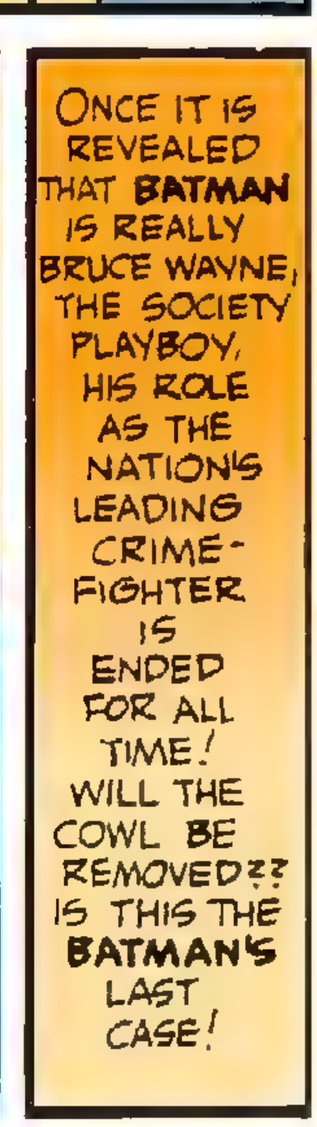
THE FORTUNE IS IN THE PACKAGE! HA! HA! AH, AWAKE, ARE YOU, BATMAN? HA! HA! IN SPITE OF YOU, I'VE WON, I'VE WON!

I'VE PREPARED FOR THIS DAY, BATMAN! LOOK! SEE THOSE TWO DOORS? ONE OF THEM LEADS TO SAFETY---

---THE OTHER LEADS TO YOUR DOOM! YOU HAVE YOUR CHOICE! CHOOSE WELL, BATMAN! IT'S WIN OR LOSE NOW.
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE. YOU'RE TOO KIND! I'LL BET YOU GIVE AWAY ICE IN THE WINTER TIME!
10

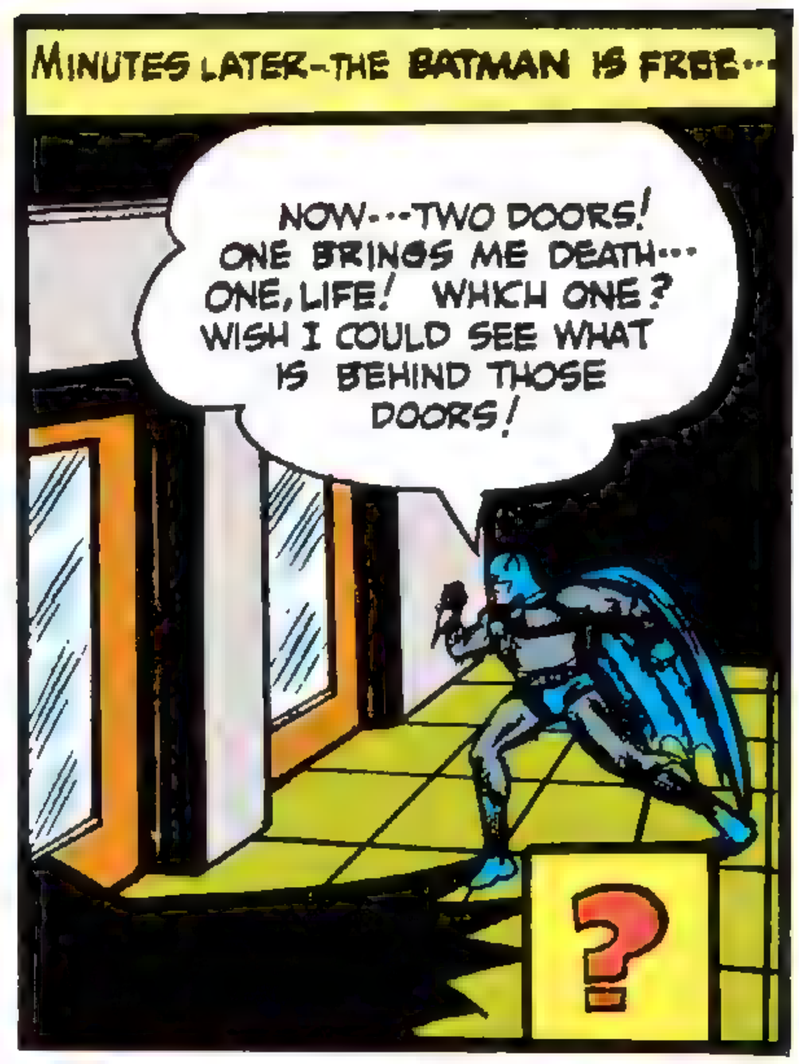

SUDDENLY, A CURIOUS LOOK LEAPS TO THE JOKER'S MOCKING EYES!
YOU KNOW---I DON'T KNOW WHY I GO TO SUCH LENGTHS TO DISPOSE OF YOU--- WHEN ALL I NEED DO IS RIP OFF YOUR MASK ---REVEAL YOUR NAME TO THE UNDERWORLD--

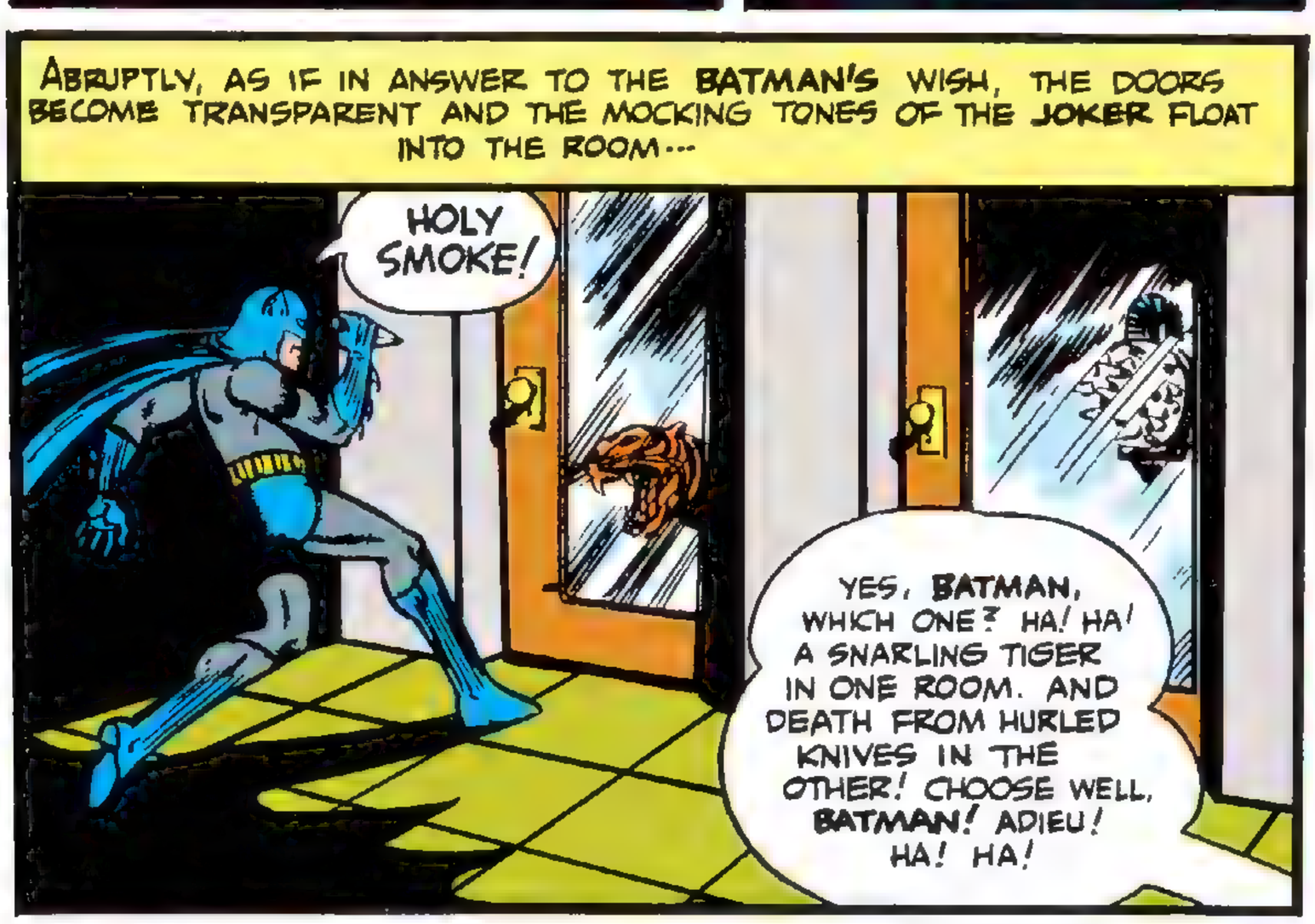
--AND END THE CAREER OF THE BATMAN FOREVER!


ONCE IT IS REVEALED THAT BATMAN IS REALLY BRUCE WAYNE, THE SOCIETY PLAYBOY, HIS ROLE AS THE NATION'S LEADING CRIME-FIGHTER IS ENDED FOR ALL TIME! WILL THE COWL BE REMOVED?? IS THIS THE BATMAN'S LAST CASE!

BUT THE UNPREDICTABLE JOKER SUDDENLY LAUGHS!
HA! HA! NO! IT'S TOO SIMPLE--UNWORTHY OF MY INTELLIGENCE! AND I LIKE THESE BATTLES OF WITS! THE HUNT...THE CHASE!---THAT'S THE BREATH OF LIFE TO ME! AND BESIDES---I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW YOU FARE NOW! HA! HA!

QUICKLY HURLING A GLEAMING KNIFE INTO THE FLOOR, THE JOKER SPRINGS BEHIND ANOTHER STEEL DOOR!
THERE--TO CUT YOUR BONDS! AND WHILE YOU PUZZLE ABOUT THE DOORS, I'LL PICK UP HAPPY HANSON'S FORTUNE! ONE THING---THE CLUE TO SAFETY IS IN THIS ROOM! GOOD LUCK BATMAN. YOU'LL NEED IT--- HA! HA!

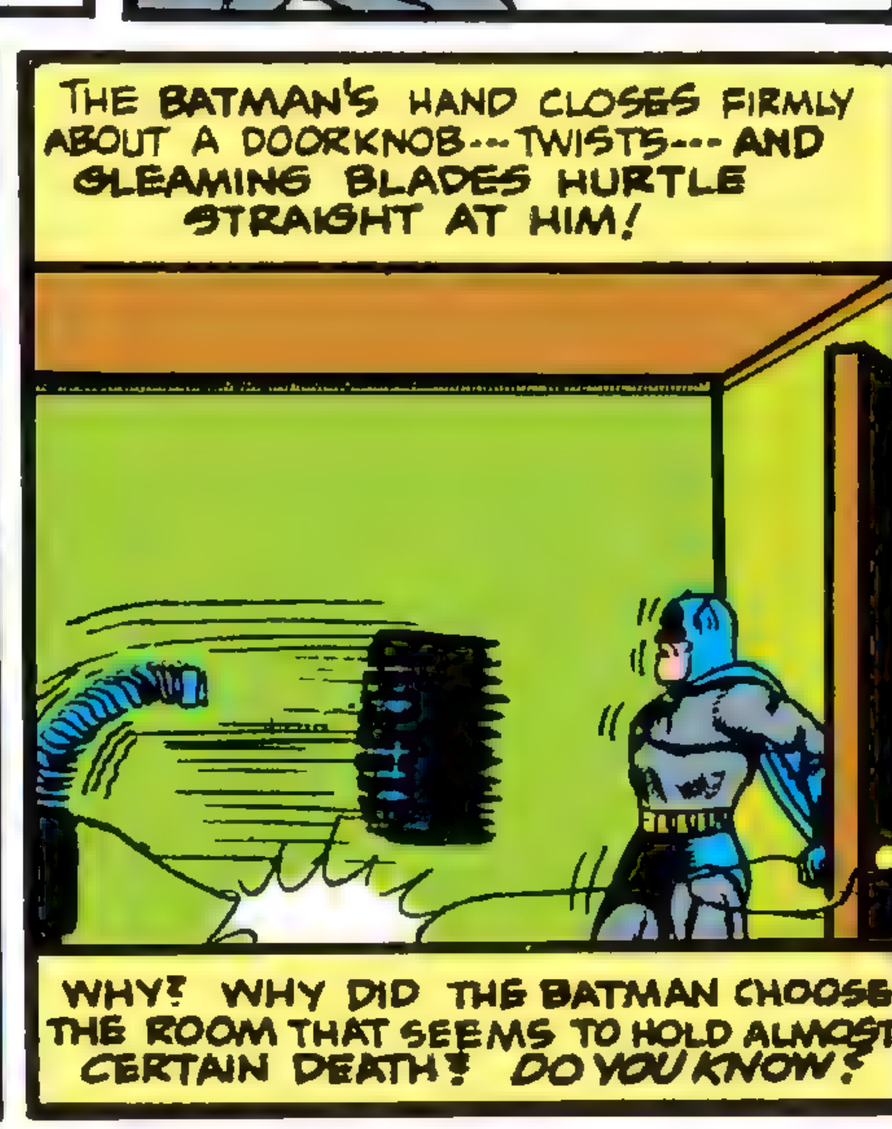

MINUTES LATER--THE BATMAN IS FREE---
NOW---TWO DOORS! ONE BRINGS ME DEATH--- ONE, LIFE! WHICH ONE? WISH I COULD SEE WHAT IS BEHIND THOSE DOORS!
?

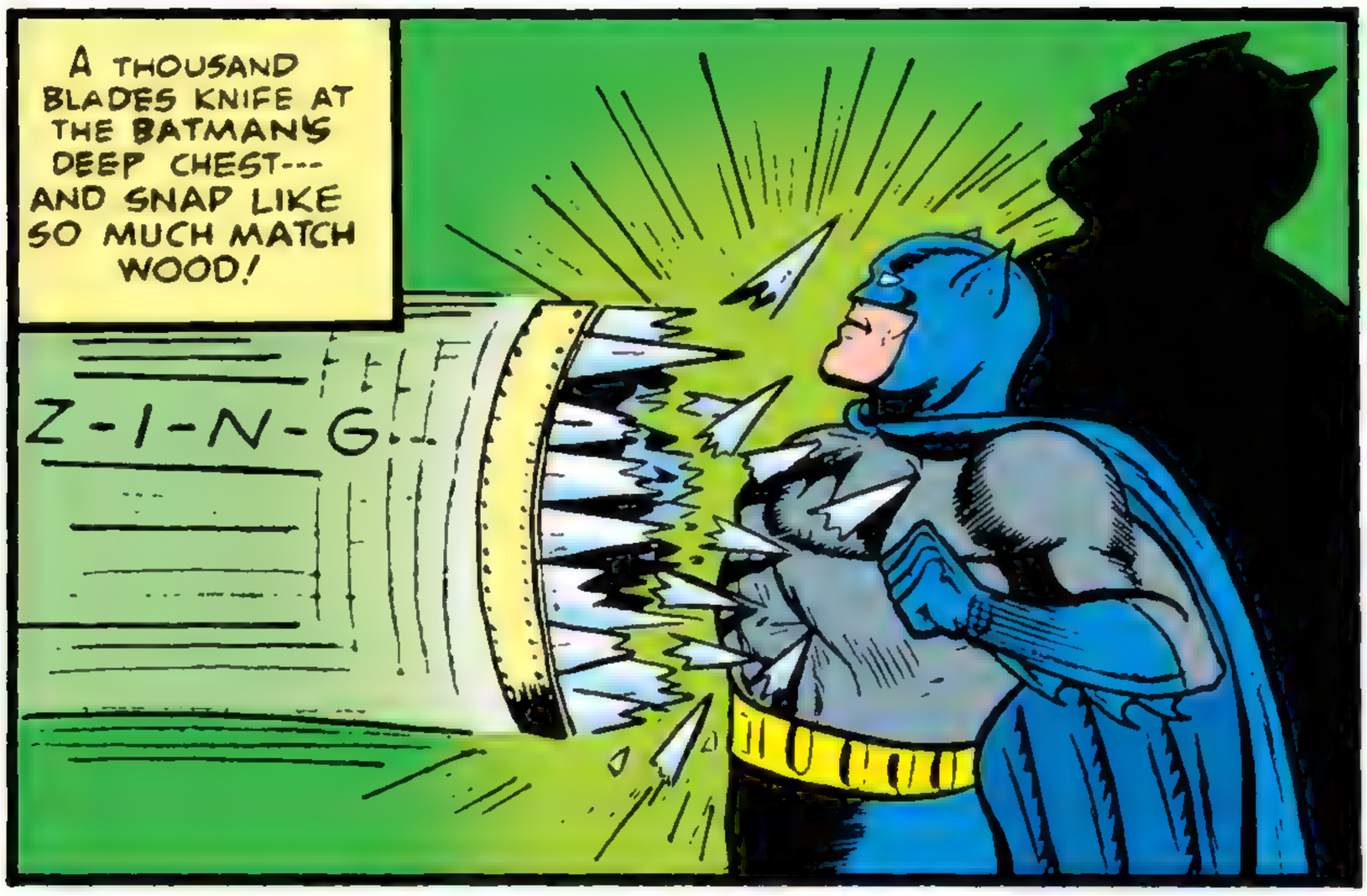

ABRUPTLY, AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE BATMAN'S WISH, THE DOORS BECOME TRANSPARENT AND THE MOCKING TONES OF THE JOKER FLOAT INTO THE ROOM---
HOLY SMOKE!
YES, BATMAN, WHICH ONE? HA! HA! A SNARLING TIGER IN ONE ROOM. AND DEATH FROM HURLED KNIVES IN THE OTHER! CHOOSE WELL, BATMAN! ADIEU! HA! HA!

WHA?.. GAS! THE JOKER IS FORCING ME TO CHOOSE FAST-- OR ELSE I DIE IN THIS ROOM FROM POISON GAS--

I COULD KILL THE TIGER WITH THE KNIFE---YET IT SEEMS TOO SIMPLE. PERHAPS THE JOKER WANTS ME TO CHOOSE THE TIGER--- HMM---

NORMALLY, A MAN WOULDN'T CHOOSE WHAT SEEMS LIKE SURE DEATH--- YET, MAYBE THE JOKER WANTS ME TO THINK THAT. HE SAID THE CLUE WAS OUTSIDE HERE! THOSE FLIES BUZZING 'ROUND THOSE BLADES---HMM---I THINK---I'VE MADE---MY CHOICE---

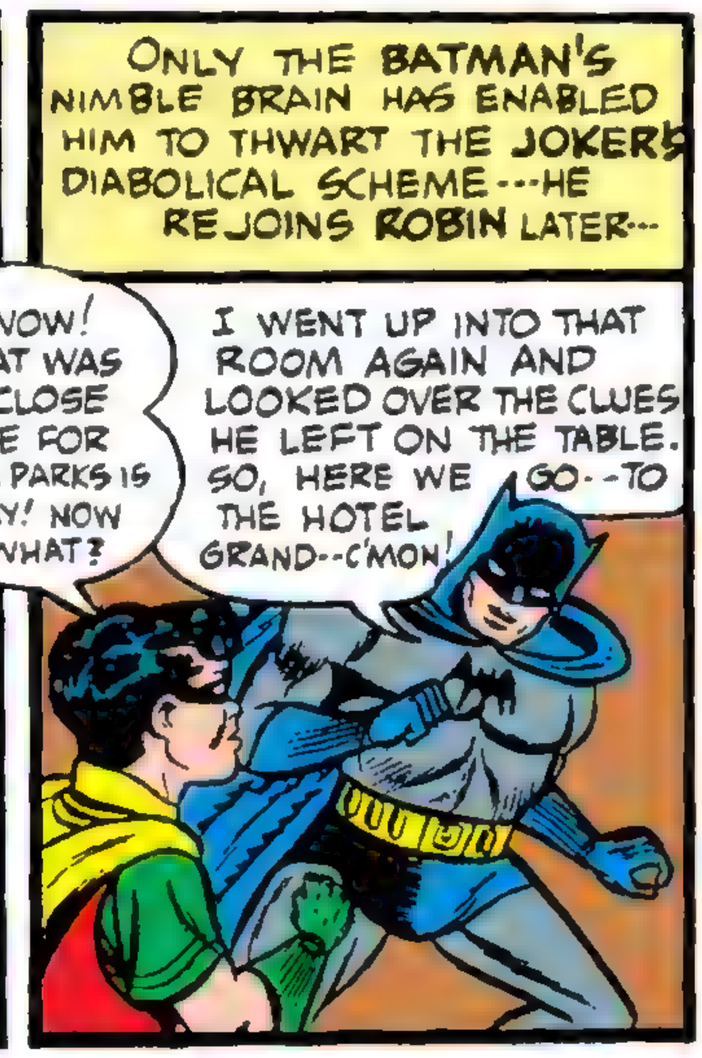

THE BATMAN'S HAND CLOSES FIRMLY ABOUT A DOORKNOB---TWISTS---AND GLEAMING BLADES HURTLE STRAIGHT AT HIM!
WHY? WHY DID THE BATMAN CHOOSE THE ROOM THAT SEEMS TO HOLD ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH? DO YOU KNOW?


A THOUSAND BLADES KNIFE AT THE BATMAN'S DEEP CHEST--- AND SNAP LIKE SO MUCH MATCH WOOD!
Z-I-N-G

JUST AS I SUSPECTED, THE BLADES WERE MADE OF CANDY--LIKE THE KNIVES VILLAINS USE IN THE MOVIES!

I WAS SUSPICIOUS WHEN I SAW THOSE FLIES BUZZING AROUND THE BLADES! FLIES ARE ATTRACTED TO SWEETS!

LATER---AFTER THE GAS DISSIPATES, THE BATMAN STEPS FROM THE "KNIFE ROOM" TO THE OTHER
THE JOKER EXPECTED ME TO KILL THE TIGER BUT THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FROM THIS ROOM---ONLY AN ESCAPE FROM THE OTHER! AND GAS, SEEPING THROUGH THIS NICHE, WOULD HAVE KILLED ME AS IT DID THE TIGER!


ONLY THE BATMAN'S NIMBLE BRAIN HAS ENABLED HIM TO THWART THE JOKER'S DIABOLICAL SCHEME---HE REJOINS ROBIN LATER---
WOW! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE FOR YOU. PARKS IS OKAY! NOW WHAT?
I WENT UP INTO THAT ROOM AGAIN AND LOOKED OVER THE CLUES HE LEFT ON THE TABLE. SO, HERE WE GO--TO THE HOTEL GRAND--C'MON!

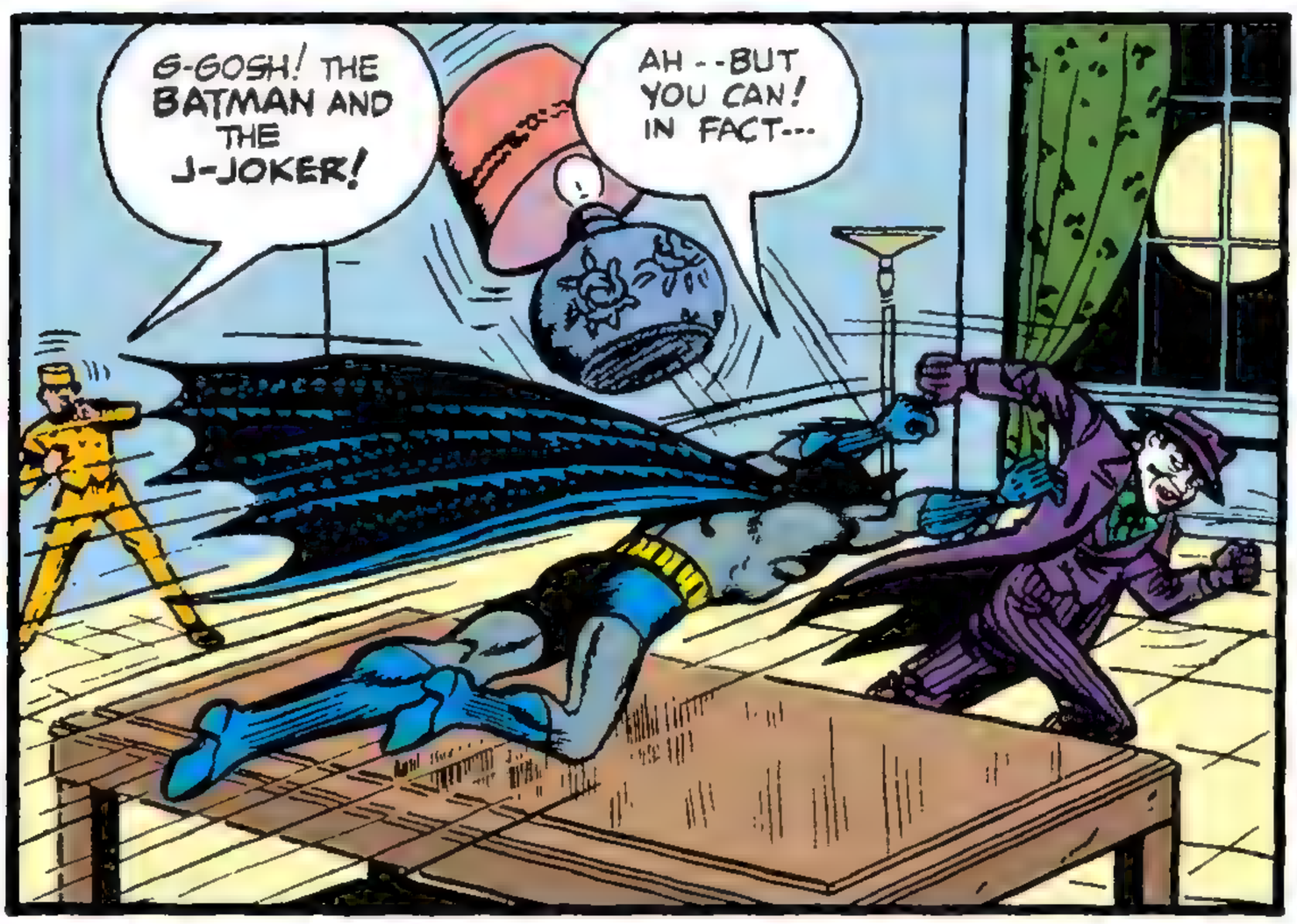
AT THE GRAND HOTEL
I BELIEVE I'LL TAKE THAT PACKAGE YOU HAVE CHECKED HERE FOR A "MR. WINNER"! HA! HA!

THE MYSTERY PACKAGE IS OPENED!
PEARLS---GIANT PEARLS WORTH A KING'S RANSOM!

SUDDENLY, THE JOKER HURLS THE PEARLS AWAY WITH A CRY OF DISGUST!
BAH! THEY'RE LUSTRELESS! THE PEARLS ARE DEAD. I'VE GONE THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR NOTHING!

HELLO, JOKER! YES--IT'S I-- BACK AGAIN! LIKE A BAD PENNY, I ALWAYS TURN UP!
YOU!

DID YOU REGISTER? I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT---TOO BAD I CAN'T STAY TO CONGRATULATE YOU!
GRAND REGISTER

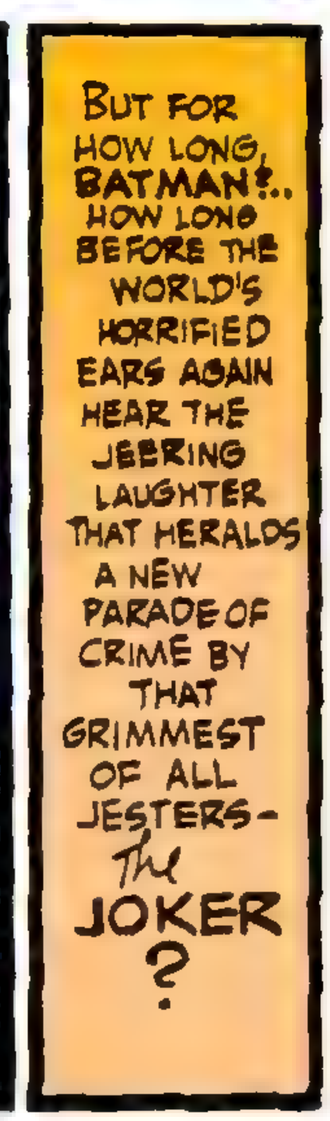

G-GOSH! THE BATMAN AND THE J-JOKER!
AH--BUT YOU CAN! IN FACT---

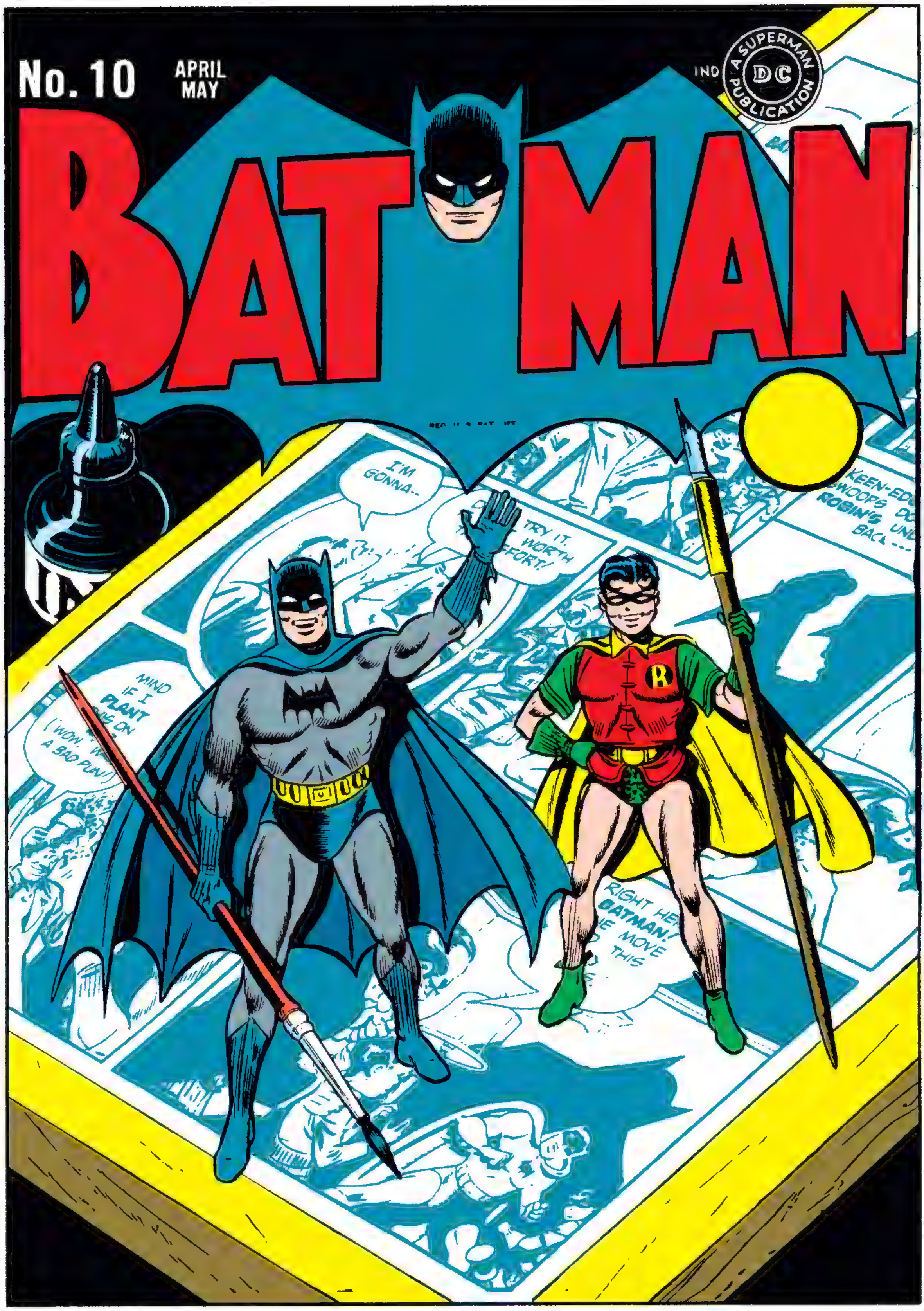
---I MAY EVEN FORCE YOU!

A BUNCHED FIST, SOLID AS A ROCK, THUDS HEAVILY AGAINST THE JOKER'S JAW!
AND THAT, MR. JOKER--- IS THAT!
13

BY THE WAY, JOKER, THESE PEARLS ARE NOT AS WORTHLESS AS YOU THINK! THEY ONLY SEEM LIFELESS, LUSTRELESS BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A HUMAN BODY FOR A GREAT LENGTH OF TIME!

YOU THREW AWAY A FORTUNE, JOKER! ANY JEWELER WILL TELL YOU THAT AS SOON AS THOSE PEARLS COME IN CONTACT WITH A HUMAN BODY AGAIN, THEY REGAIN THEIR "LIFE" AND LUSTRE! TOO BAD--- BUT THIS TIME THE LAUGH IS ON YOU—


BUT FOR HOW LONG, BATMAN?... HOW LONG BEFORE THE WORLD'S HORRIFIED EARS AGAIN HEAR THE JEERING LAUGHTER THAT HERALDS A NEW PARADE OF CRIME BY THAT GRIMMEST OF ALL JESTERS- The JOKER ?


No. 10
APRIL
MAY
BAT MAN
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
I'M GONNA--
TRY IT. WORTH EFFORT!
MIND IF I PLANT
(WOW. W
A BAD PUN!)
KEEN-EDG
WOOPS DO
ROBIN'S UND
BACK ---
RIGHT HE
BATMAN!
E MOVE
THIS

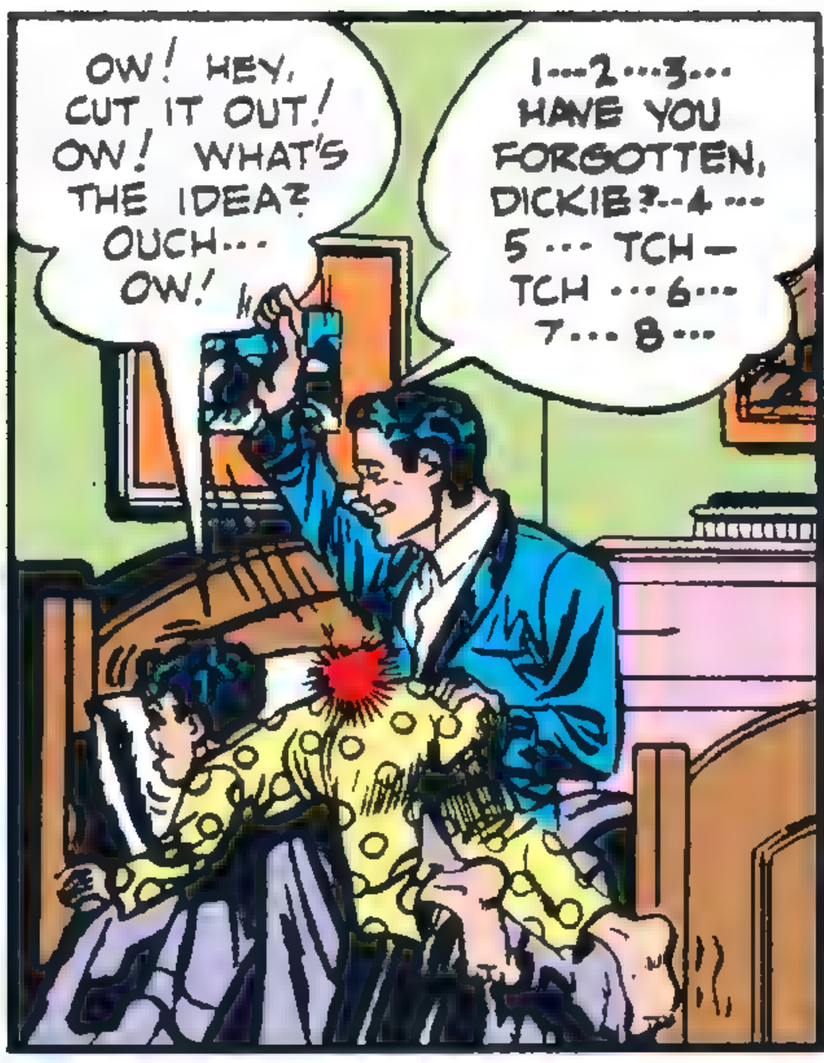
BATMAN WITH ROBIN

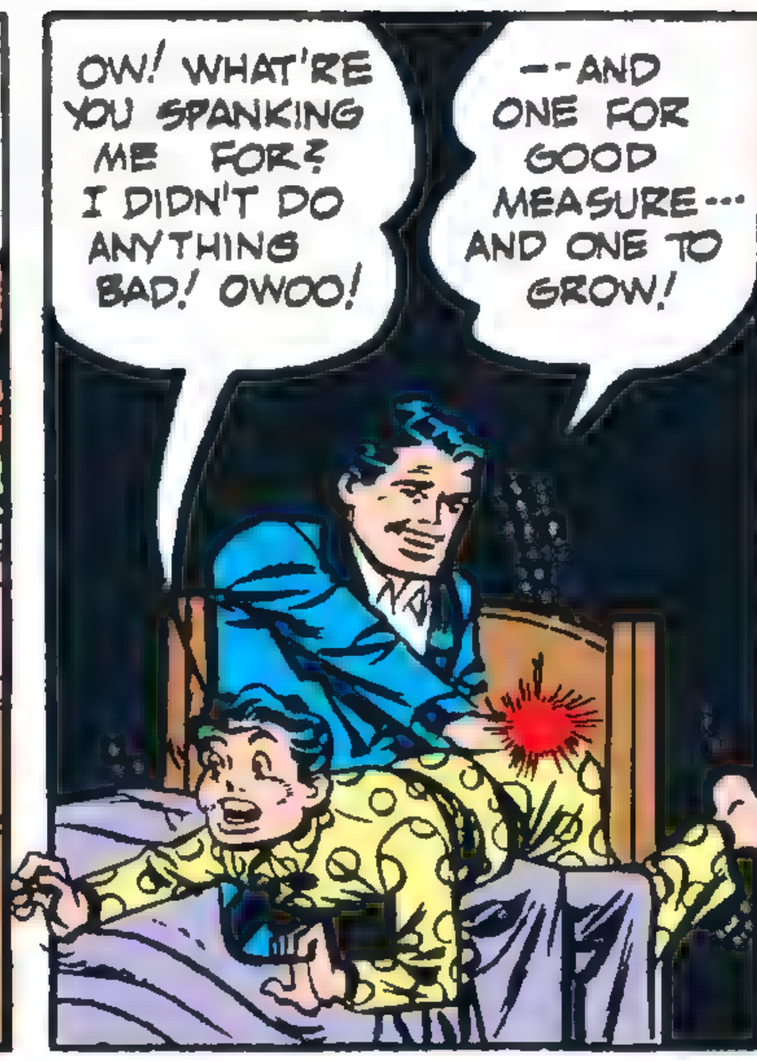
-THE BOY WONDER-

BOB KANE

UNCOUNTED MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THE GREAT DINOSAURS ROAMED THE EARTH, MASTERS OF THE WORLD! SO THE BOOKS SAY---BUT FATE CASTS UP **BATMAN AND ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER ON A LONELY DOT OF OCEAN-LAPPED LAND WHERE MAN MUST BATTLE BARE-HANDED THESE FEARSOME GIANTS OF THE FABLED PAST! FOR HERE IS AN OASIS OF ETERNITY WHICH TIME SEEMINGLY HAS MIRACULOUSLY LEFT UNTOUCHED... NOW COME WITH US ON A WHIRLWIND FANTASY!...BRAVE THE UNKNOWN PERILS OF MONSTER-HAUNTED JUNGLES...ON... "THE ISLE THAT TIME FORGOT!"

STEELY FINGERS CLAMP TIGHT ON THE BOY. A STRONG HAND RISES... FALLS--- SLAPS SHARPLY AGAINST YIELDING FLESH---

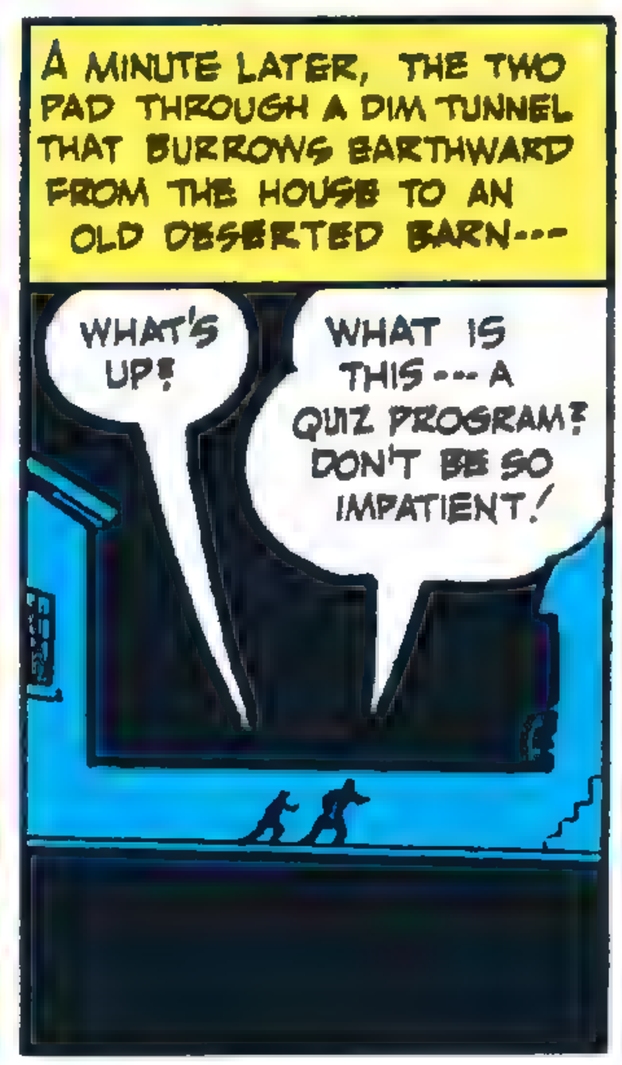

OW! HEY, CUT IT OUT! OW! WHAT'S THE IDEA? OUCH... OW!
1...2...3... HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, DICKIE?--4... 5... TCH— TCH...6... 7...8...

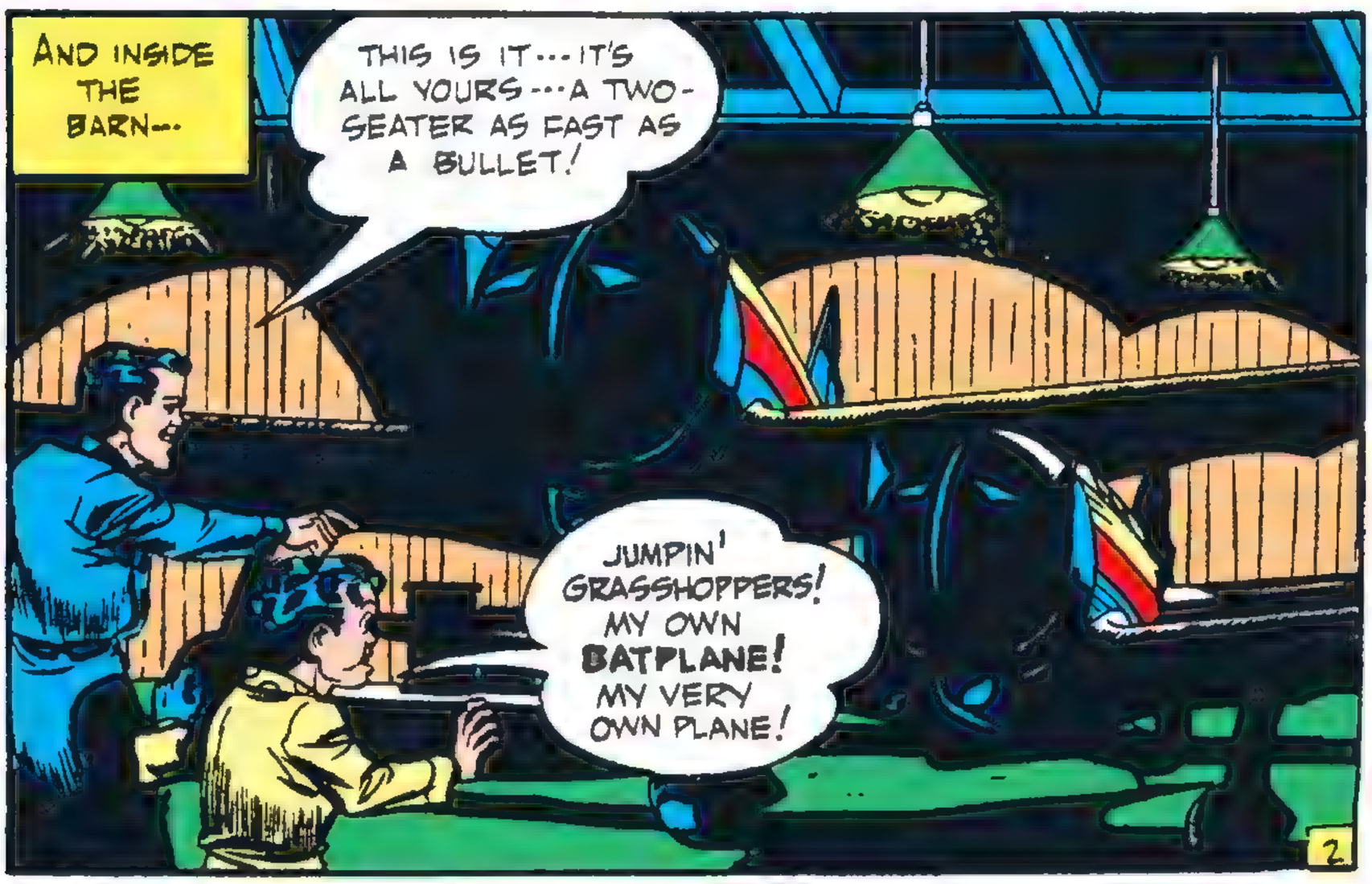

OW! WHAT'RE YOU SPANKING ME FOR? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD! OWOO!
--AND ONE FOR GOOD MEASURE... AND ONE TO GROW!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DICK!
HUH?

HAVE A PIECE OF YOUR OWN BIRTHDAY CAKE, DICK!
GOLLY... GOLLY!

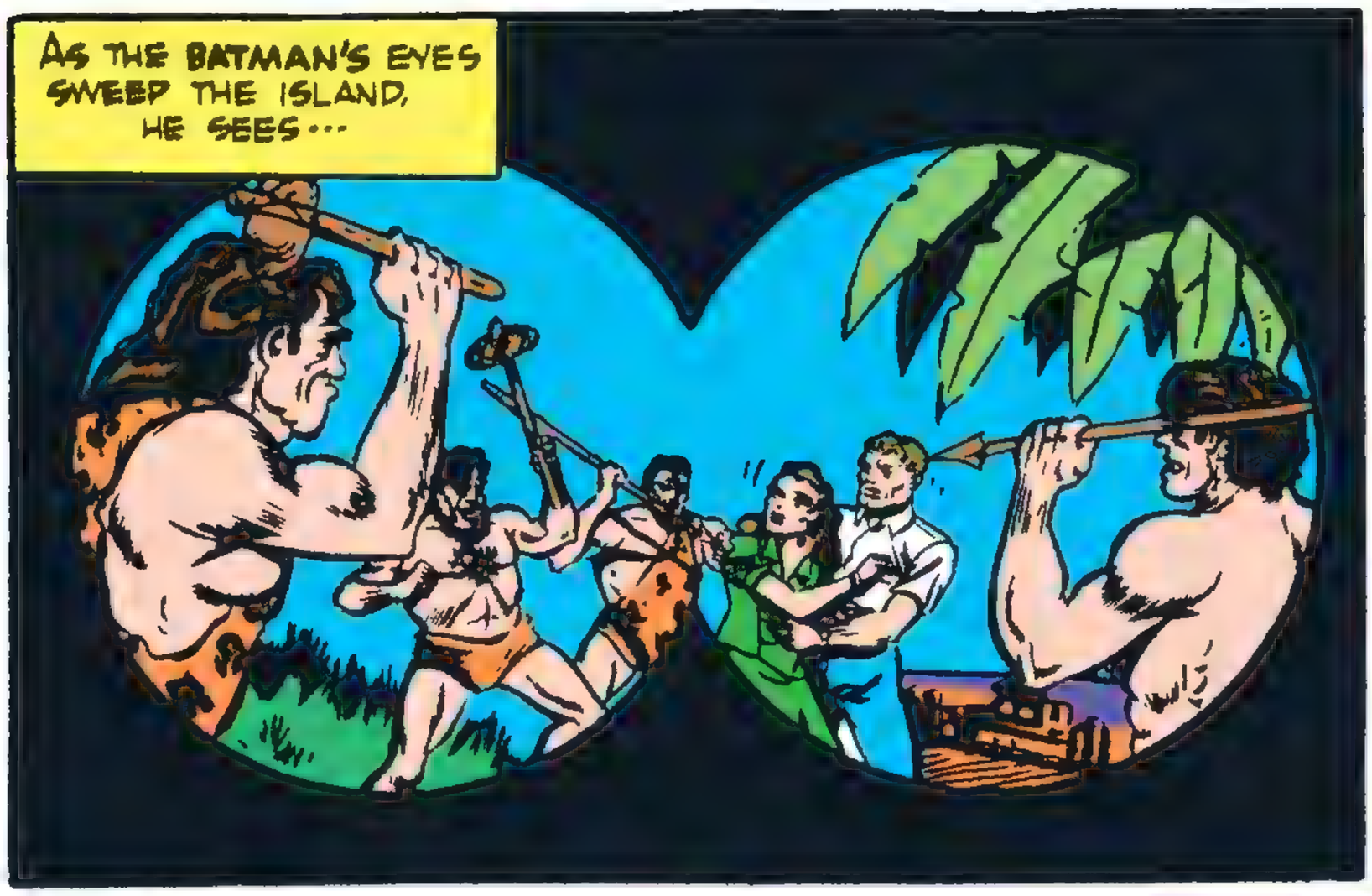
HMM! GOOD! YOU KNOW, BRUCE...I CERTAINLY WISH THAT PLANE ON THE CAKE WAS REAL!
DO YOU, NOW? WELL, THAT'S NOT TOO FAR-FETCHED A THOUGHT! COME ON!

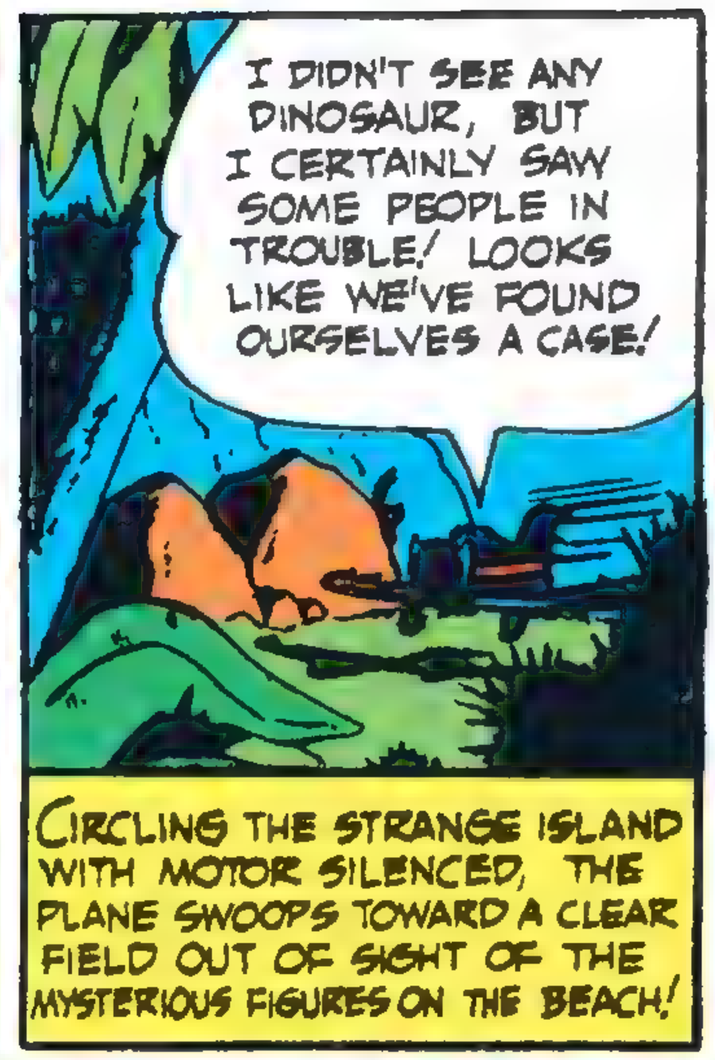

A MINUTE LATER, THE TWO PAD THROUGH A DIM TUNNEL THAT BURROWS EARTHWARD FROM THE HOUSE TO AN OLD DESERTED BARN...
WHAT'S UP?
WHAT IS THIS...A QUIZ PROGRAM? DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT!


AND INSIDE THE BARN...
THIS IS IT...IT'S ALL YOURS...A TWO-SEATER AS FAST AS A BULLET!
JUMPIN' GRASSHOPPERS! MY OWN BATPLANE! MY VERY OWN PLANE!
2

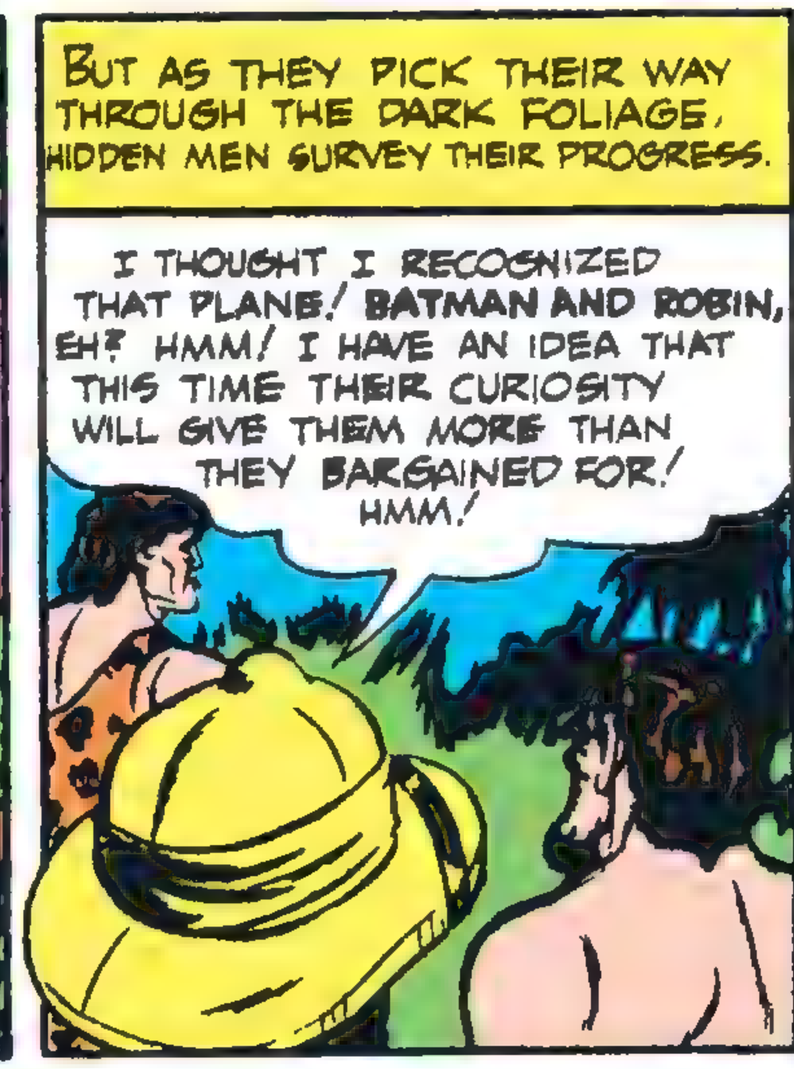
CAN WE TAKE IT UP FOR A TRIAL SPIN TONIGHT? CAN WE, HUH?
IT'S YOUR PLANE, DICK! YOU'RE THE BOSS!

THAT NIGHT...THE SMALL PLANE LIFTS ITS WINGS, EAGER AS A SMALL BIRD FOR ITS FIRST FLIGHT-
AND AT ITS CONTROLS ARE NOT JUST PLAIN BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON--
...FOR COLORFUL GARB HAS TRANSFORMED THEM INTO THAT CRIME-BUSTING TEAM- BATMAN AND ROBIN!
HOW DOES SHE HANDLE, ROBIN? (KID ISN'T EVEN LISTENING!)
BOYOBOY! MY OWN BATPLANE! GOLLY!
IN THE NEXT HOUR, ROBIN SUBJECTS THE PLANE TO A GRUELING TEST: POWER DIVES, TURNS, SPINS---
AND THEN...WITHOUT WARNING---
HUH? IT'S SHAKING LIKE A LEAF IN A WIND!
WIND IS RIGHT! AND WHAT A WIND! A HURRICANE HAS JUST BROKEN LOOSE--AND WE'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!
LIKE THE COLOSSAL HANDS OF A ROARING TITAN, THE RAGING STORM TOSSES THE TINY CRAFT THROUGH THE FROWNING SKY!
ALL NIGHT THEY BRAVE THE INVISIBLE TERROR OF THE BUFFETING WIND!
WE'RE CAUGHT! NO TELLING WHERE THIS STORM WILL BLOW US!
LUCKY WE FILLED THE RESERVE TANKS BEFORE WE TOOK OFF ON THIS JOYRIDE!
AND AT LAST THE SCARLET SUNRISE COMES--BREAKING THE STORM!
R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-
ROBIN, THIS PLANE CAN TAKE IT! NOT MANY COULD HAVE SURVIV--- HEY! AN ISLAND!
UNINHABITED, I'LL BET!
BATMAN, PINCH ME! I--- I THINK I SEE A DINOSAUR-- A DINOSAUR!
DON'T GET GAY! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO DINOSAURS LIVED MILLIONS YEARS AGO! GIVE ME THOSE GLASSES!


AS THE BATMAN'S EYES SWEEP THE ISLAND, HE SEES...

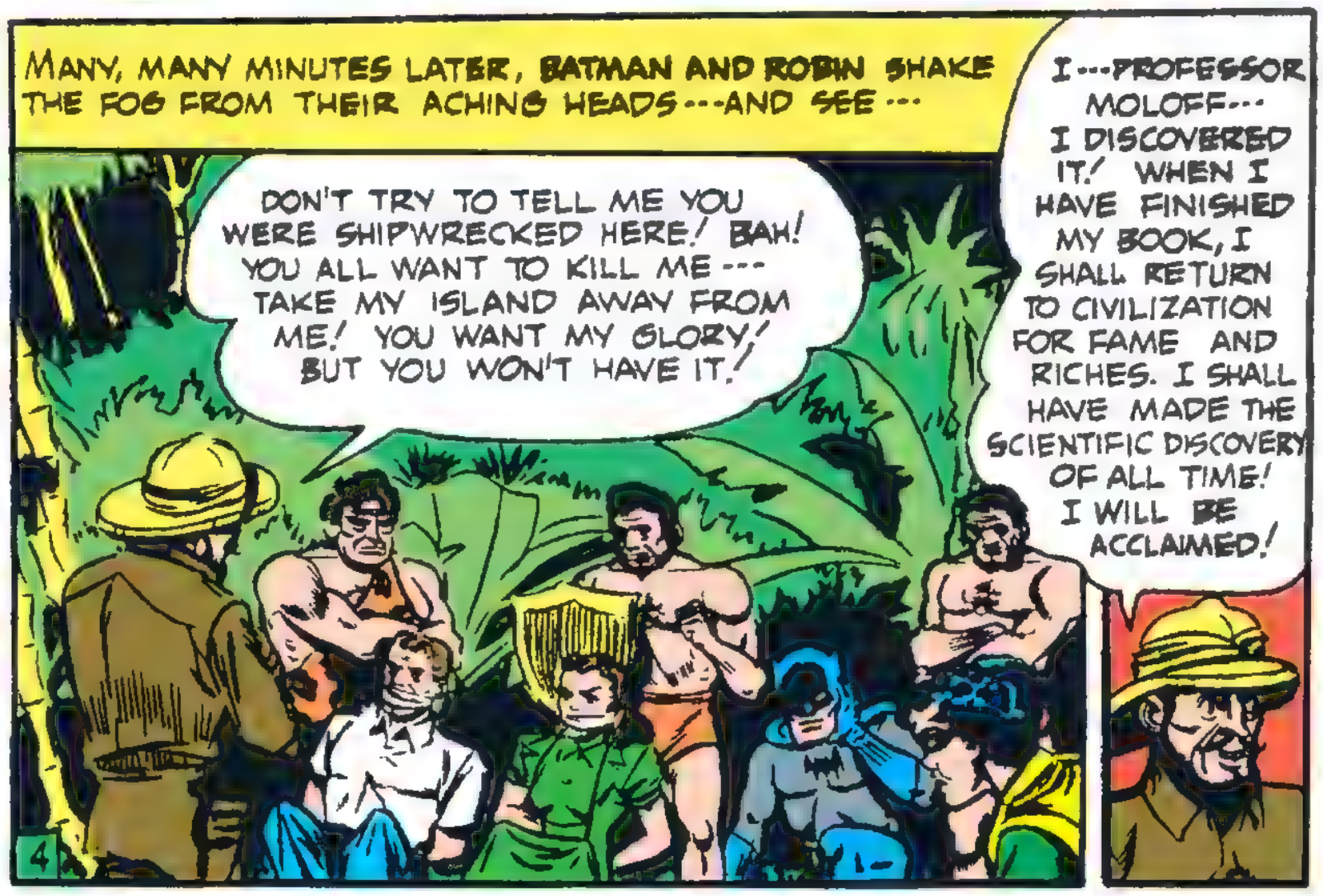

I DIDN'T SEE ANY DINOSAUR, BUT I CERTAINLY SAW SOME PEOPLE IN TROUBLE! LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND OURSELVES A CASE!
CIRCLING THE STRANGE ISLAND WITH MOTOR SILENCED, THE PLANE SWOOPS TOWARD A CLEAR FIELD OUT OF SIGHT OF THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURES ON THE BEACH!

I'M TELLING YOU I SAW A DINOSAUR! ...OOPS!
A DINOSAUR IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY! SEE WHAT YOU GET FOR TELLING LIES!

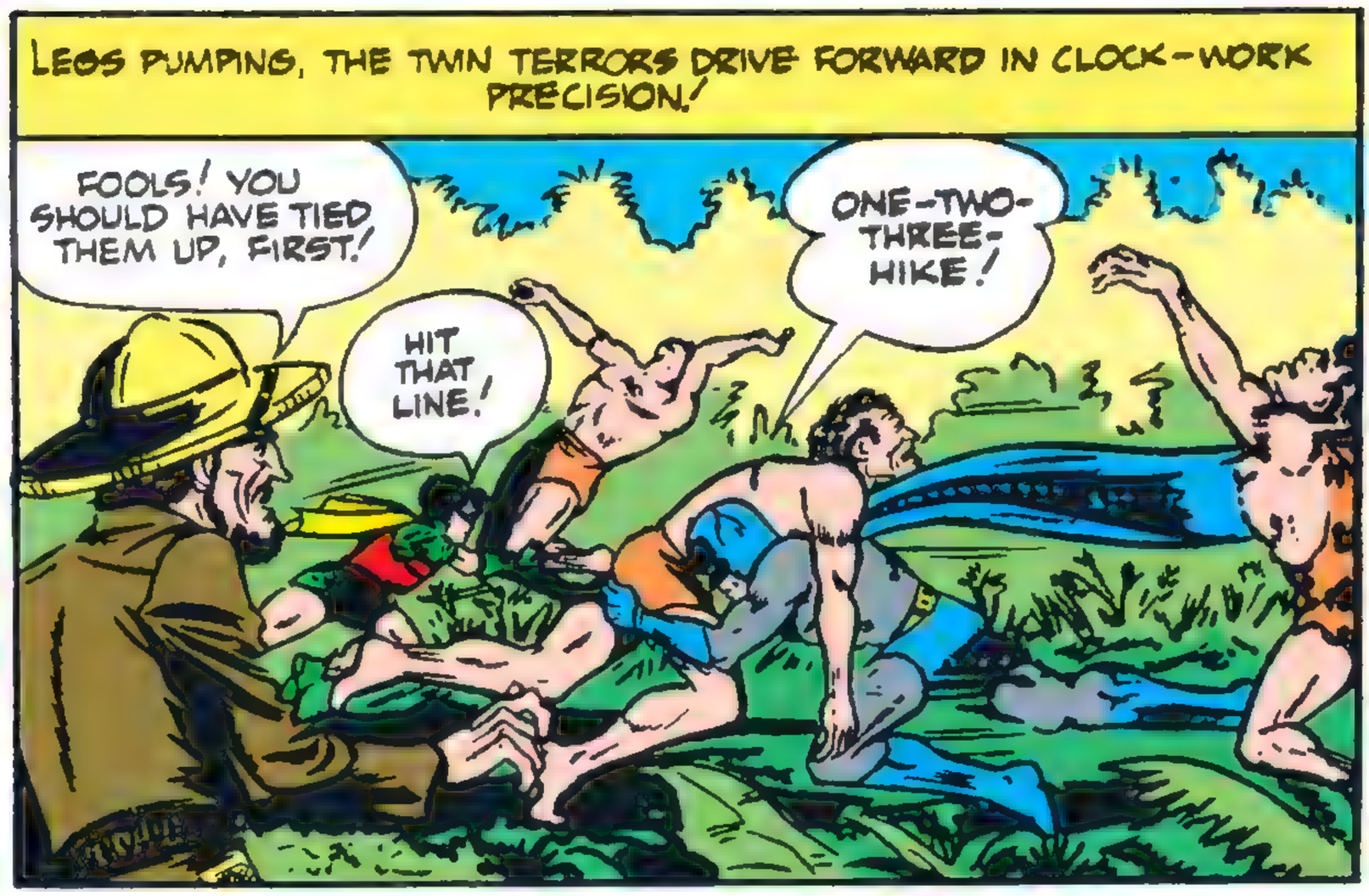

BUT AS THEY PICK THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DARK FOLIAGE, HIDDEN MEN SURVEY THEIR PROGRESS.
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED THAT PLANE! BATMAN AND ROBIN, EH? HMM! I HAVE AN IDEA THAT THIS TIME THEIR CURIOSITY WILL GIVE THEM MORE THAN THEY BARGAINED FOR! HMM!

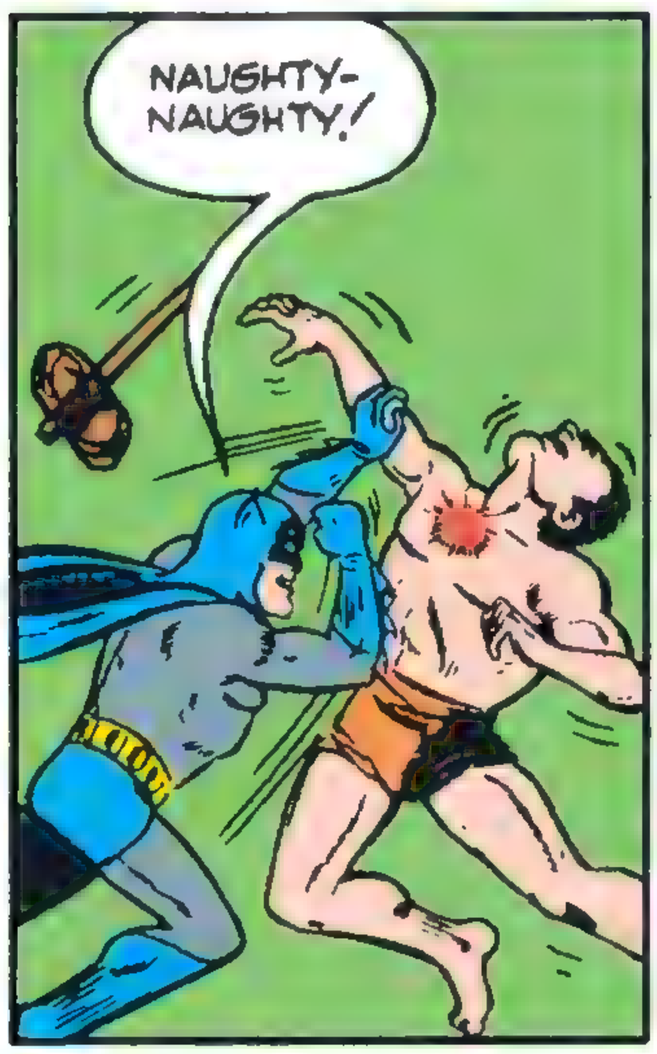
THIS IS TOUGH GOING, HOW MUCH MORE?
JUST A LITTLE WAY YET, I THINK!

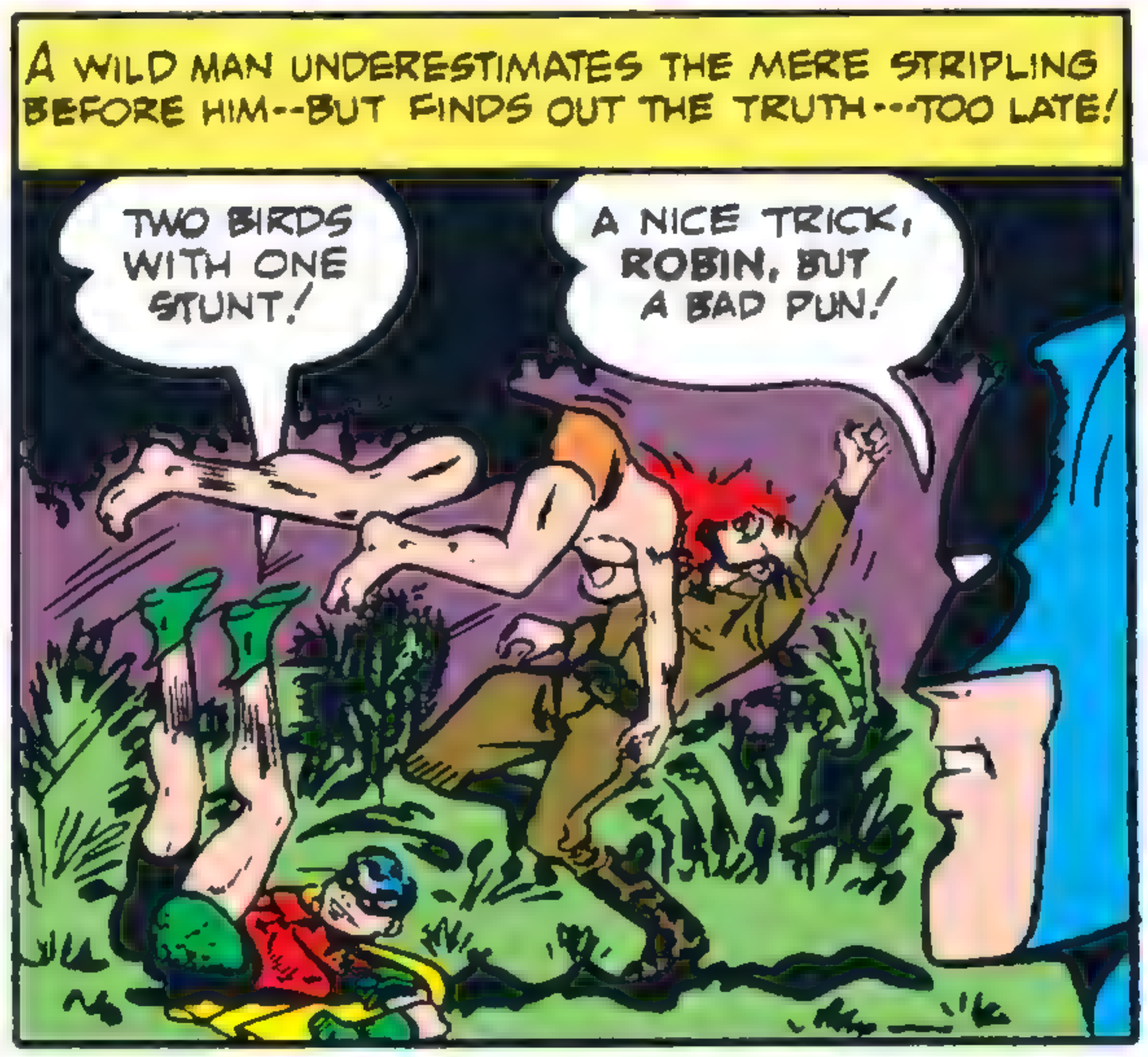
THAT DINOSAUR WAS RE... UH!


MANY, MANY MINUTES LATER, BATMAN AND ROBIN SHAKE THE FOG FROM THEIR ACHING HEADS...AND SEE...
DON'T TRY TO TELL ME YOU WERE SHIPWRECKED HERE! BAH! YOU ALL WANT TO KILL ME... TAKE MY ISLAND AWAY FROM ME! YOU WANT MY GLORY! BUT YOU WON'T HAVE IT!
I...PROFESSOR MOLOFF... I DISCOVERED IT! WHEN I HAVE FINISHED MY BOOK, I SHALL RETURN TO CIVILIZATION FOR FAME AND RICHES. I SHALL HAVE MADE THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF ALL TIME! I WILL BE ACCLAIMED!

HE'S RAVING MAD!
WELL-- WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

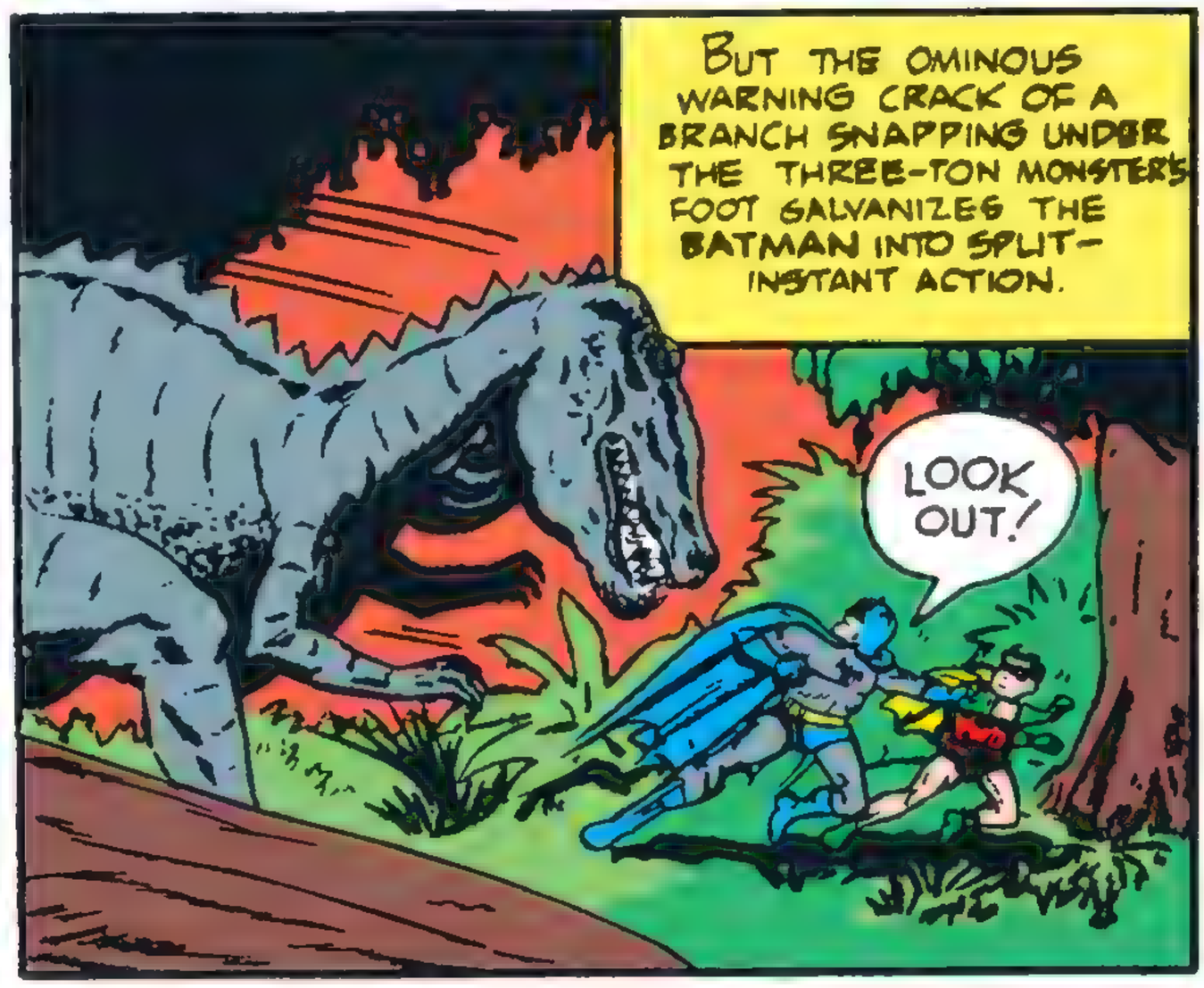

LEGS PUMPING, THE TWIN TERRORS DRIVE FORWARD IN CLOCK-WORK PRECISION!
FOOLS! YOU SHOULD HAVE TIED THEM UP, FIRST!
HIT THAT LINE!
ONE-TWO-THREE-HIKE!


NAUGHTY-NAUGHTY!


A WILD MAN UNDERESTIMATES THE MERE STRIPLING BEFORE HIM--BUT FINDS OUT THE TRUTH---TOO LATE!
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STUNT!
A NICE TRICK, ROBIN, BUT A BAD PUN!

SUDDENLY, TERROR IS ETCHED ON THE FACES OF THE WILD MEN WHO FLEE IN A PANIC--
RUN, RUN, YOU FOOLS!

NOW I WONDER... WHAT MADE THEM RUN LIKE THAT?
SHUCKS... MAYBE THEY WERE JUST SCARED OF US!

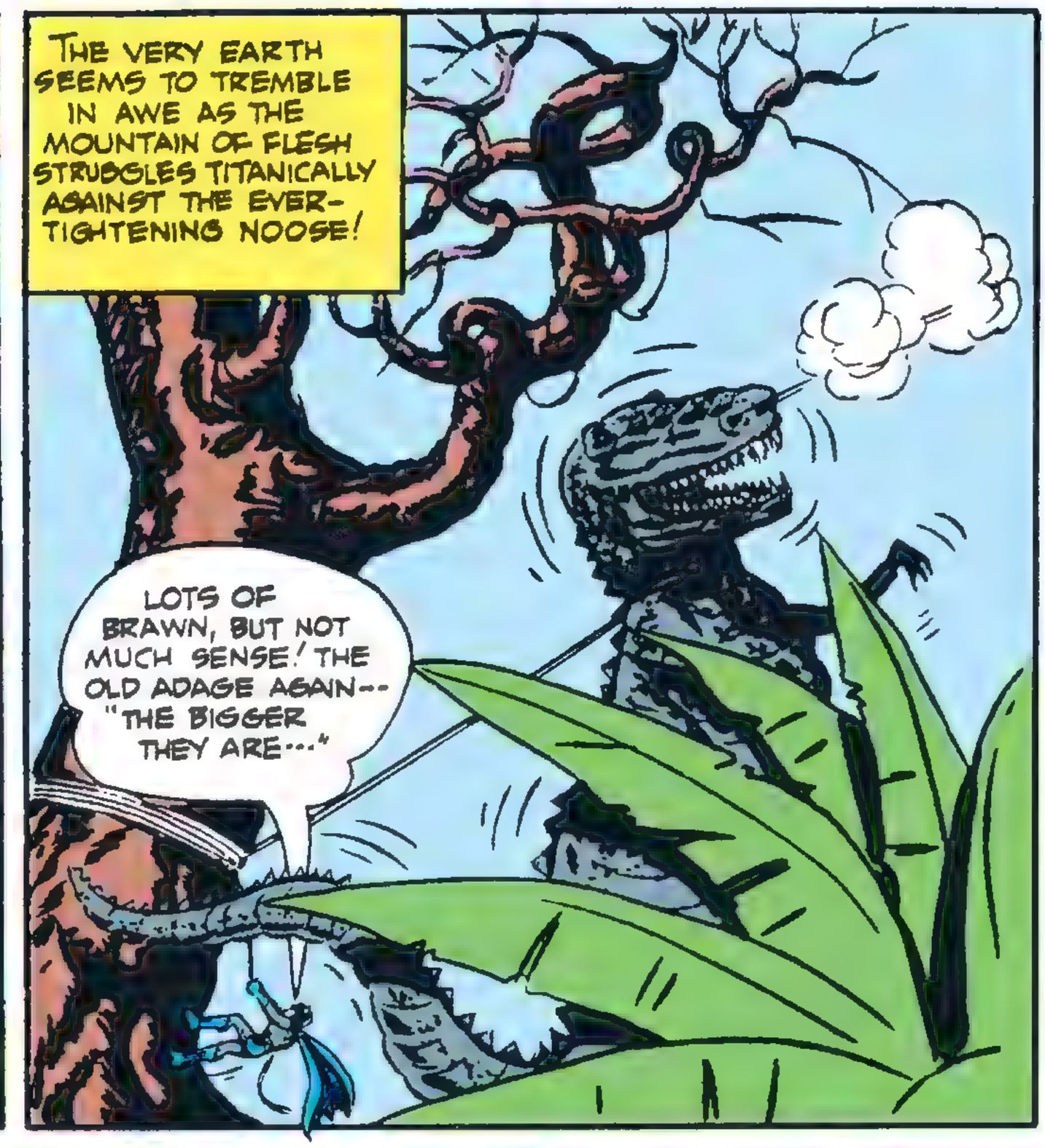

BUT THE OMINOUS WARNING CRACK OF A BRANCH SNAPPING UNDER THE THREE-TON MONSTER'S FOOT GALVANIZES THE BATMAN INTO SPLIT-INSTANT ACTION.
LOOK OUT!

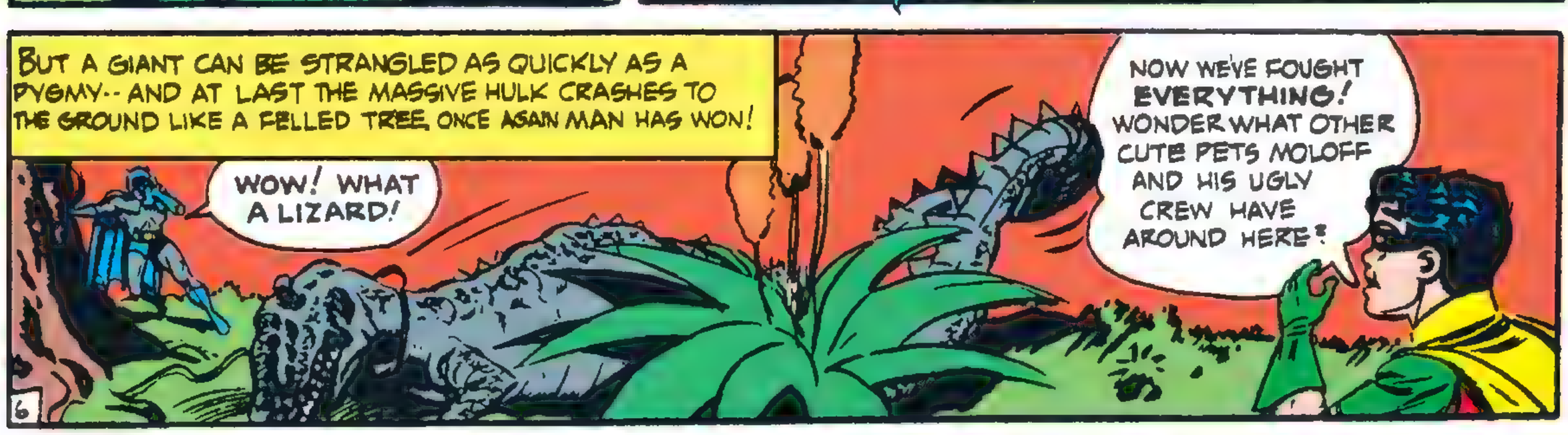
WOW! THE DINOSAUR! I WAS RIGHT!
I'LL MAKE MY APOLOGIES LATER! MEANWHILE, YOU DISTRACT JUMBO'S ATTENTION!

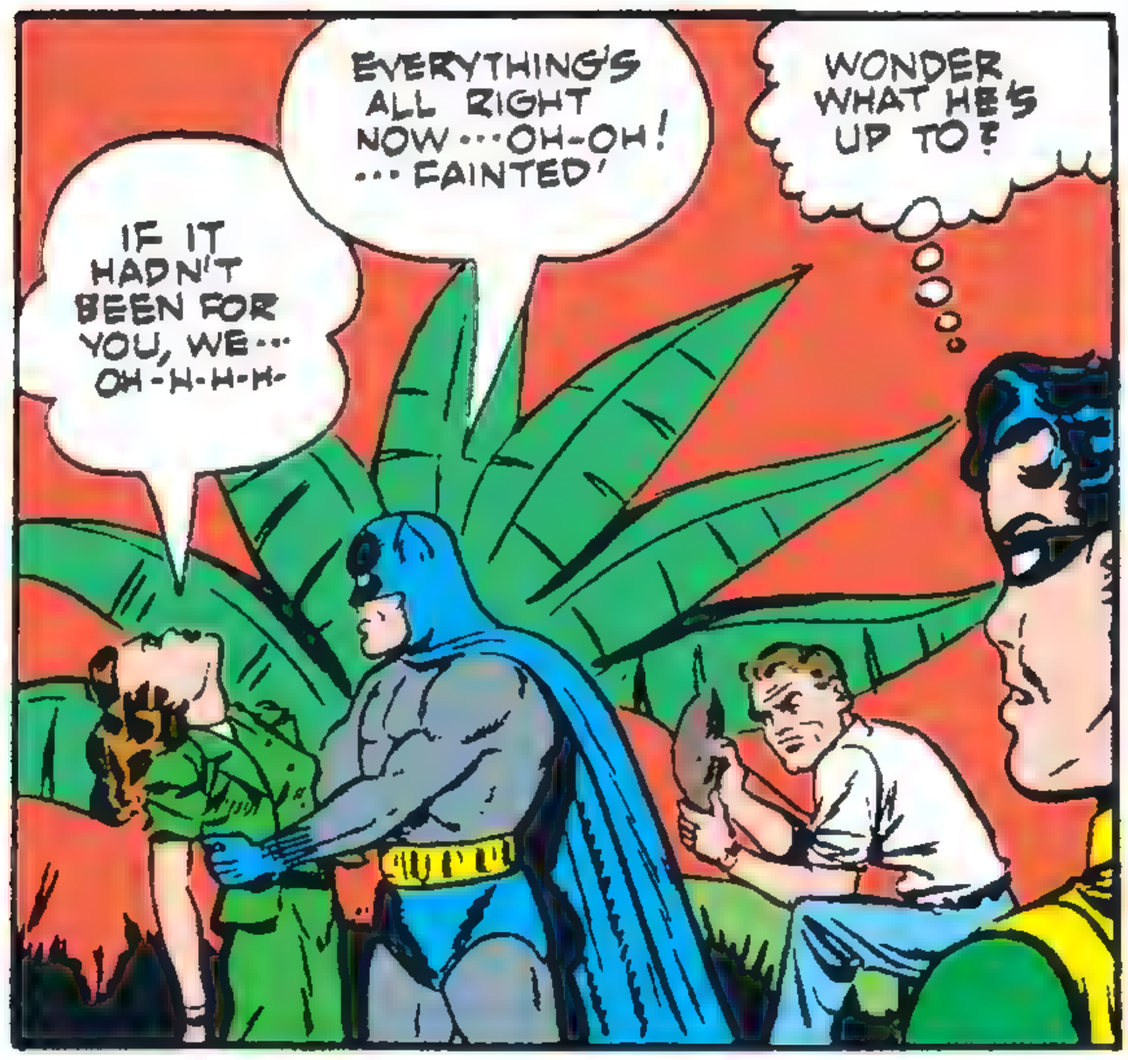
AS STRANGE A SIGHT AS THE FOREST HAS EVER SEEN··· A MERE BOY MAKING FACES AT TYRANNOSAURUS REX, MOST FEARSOME OF DINOSAURS.

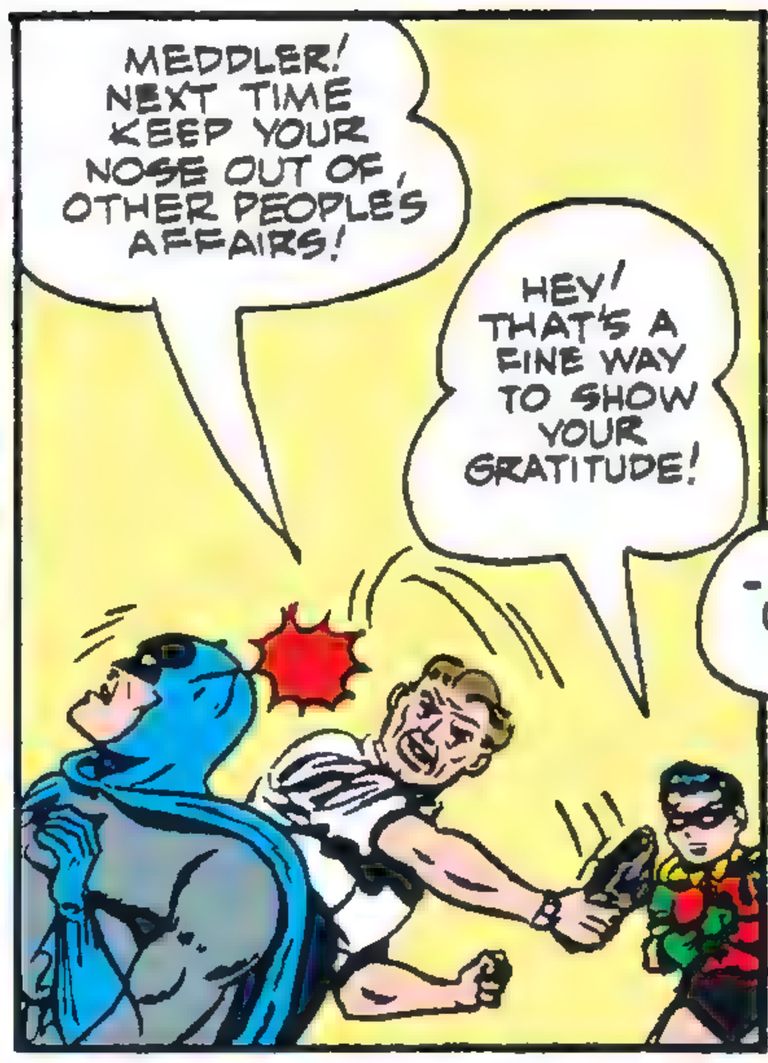
STRONG AS STEEL CABLE, A NOOSED, SILKEN ROPE DROPS OVER THE SCALY NECK!
AFTER THIS, ROPING DOGIES SHOULD BE NOTHING AT ALL!
YAH! YAH! G'WAN, YOU OVERGROWN LIZARD!

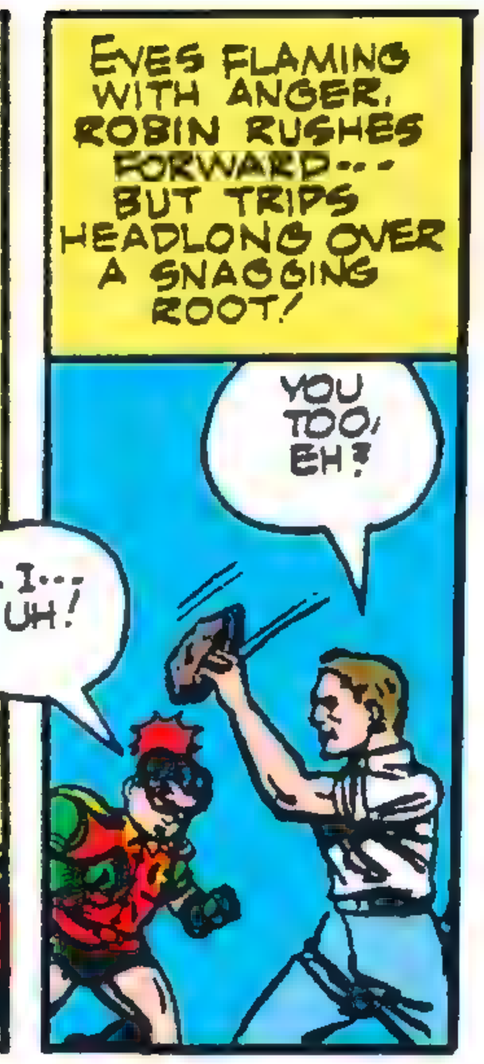
MAN AGAINST MONSTER! THE GREAT UNCHANGED STORY AS OLD AS TIME··· BUT WHO WILL WRITE THE FINAL CHAPTER NOW?
YANKING UP THIS TREE WILL BE A JOB, JUMBO··· IT'S AN OLD, TOUGH TREE WITH THICK, STRONG ROOTS!

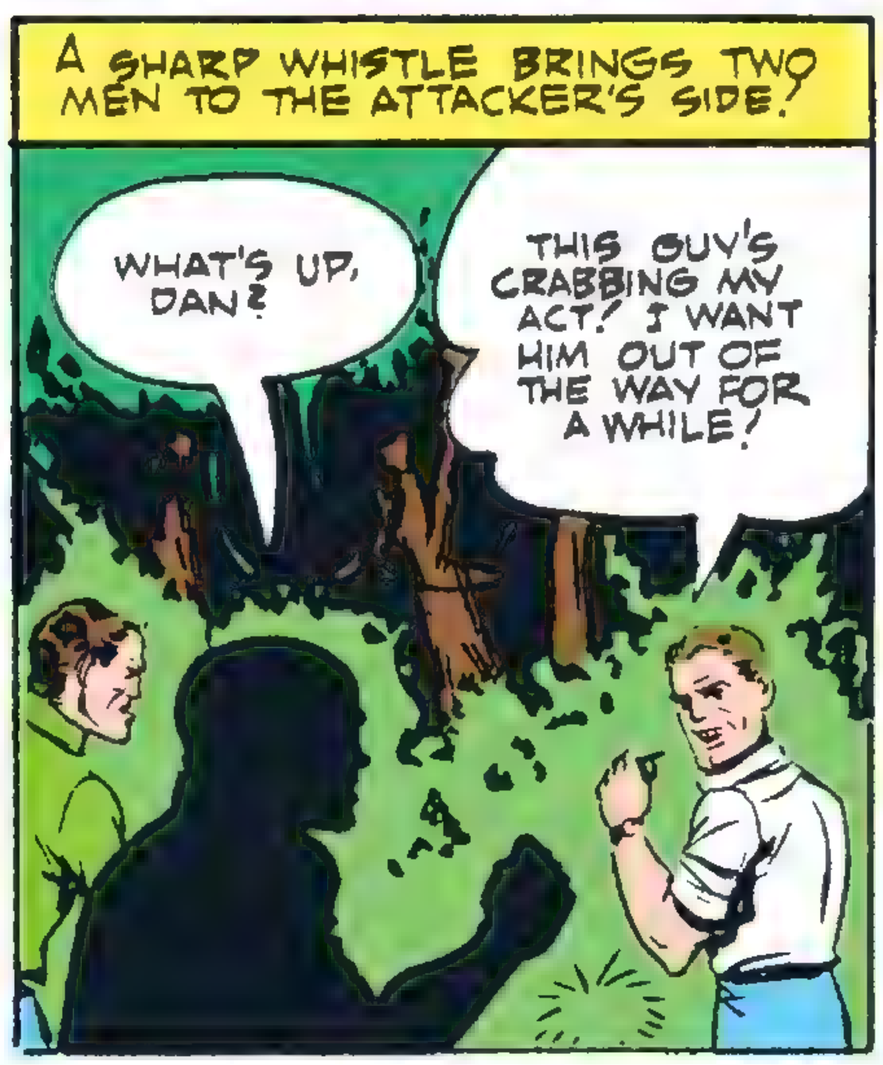

THE VERY EARTH SEEMS TO TREMBLE IN AWE AS THE MOUNTAIN OF FLESH STRUGGLES TITANICALLY AGAINST THE EVER-TIGHTENING NOOSE!
LOTS OF BRAWN, BUT NOT MUCH SENSE! THE OLD ADAGE AGAIN-- "THE BIGGER THEY ARE···"


BUT A GIANT CAN BE STRANGLED AS QUICKLY AS A PYGMY-- AND AT LAST THE MASSIVE HULK CRASHES TO THE GROUND LIKE A FELLED TREE, ONCE AGAIN MAN HAS WON!
WOW! WHAT A LIZARD!
NOW WE'VE FOUGHT EVERYTHING! WONDER WHAT OTHER CUTE PETS MOLOFF AND HIS UGLY CREW HAVE AROUND HERE?
6


EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW ... OH-OH! ... FAINTED!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU, WE ... OH-H-H-H-
WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO?

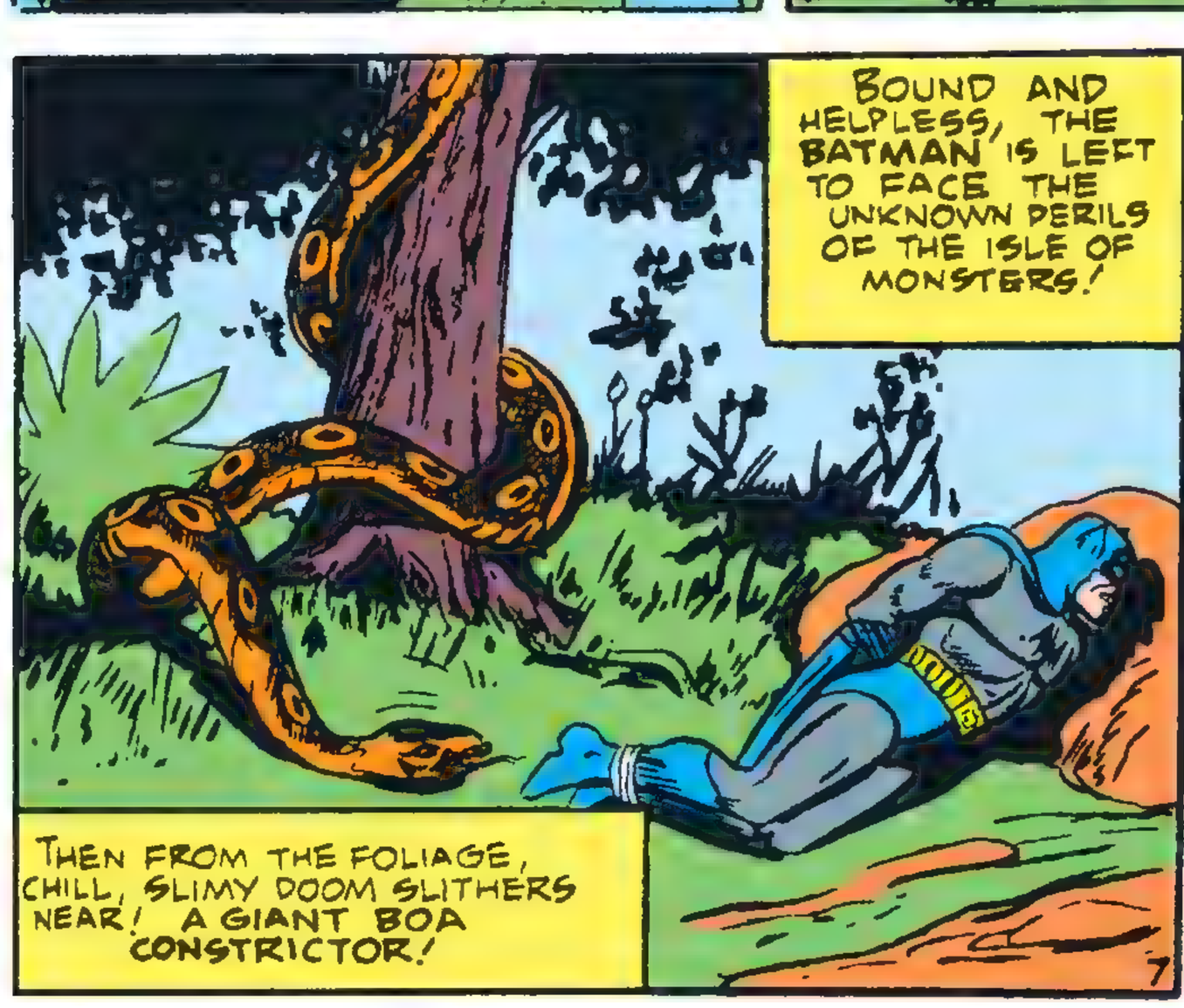

MEDDLER! NEXT TIME KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS!
HEY! THAT'S A FINE WAY TO SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE!
-I... UH!

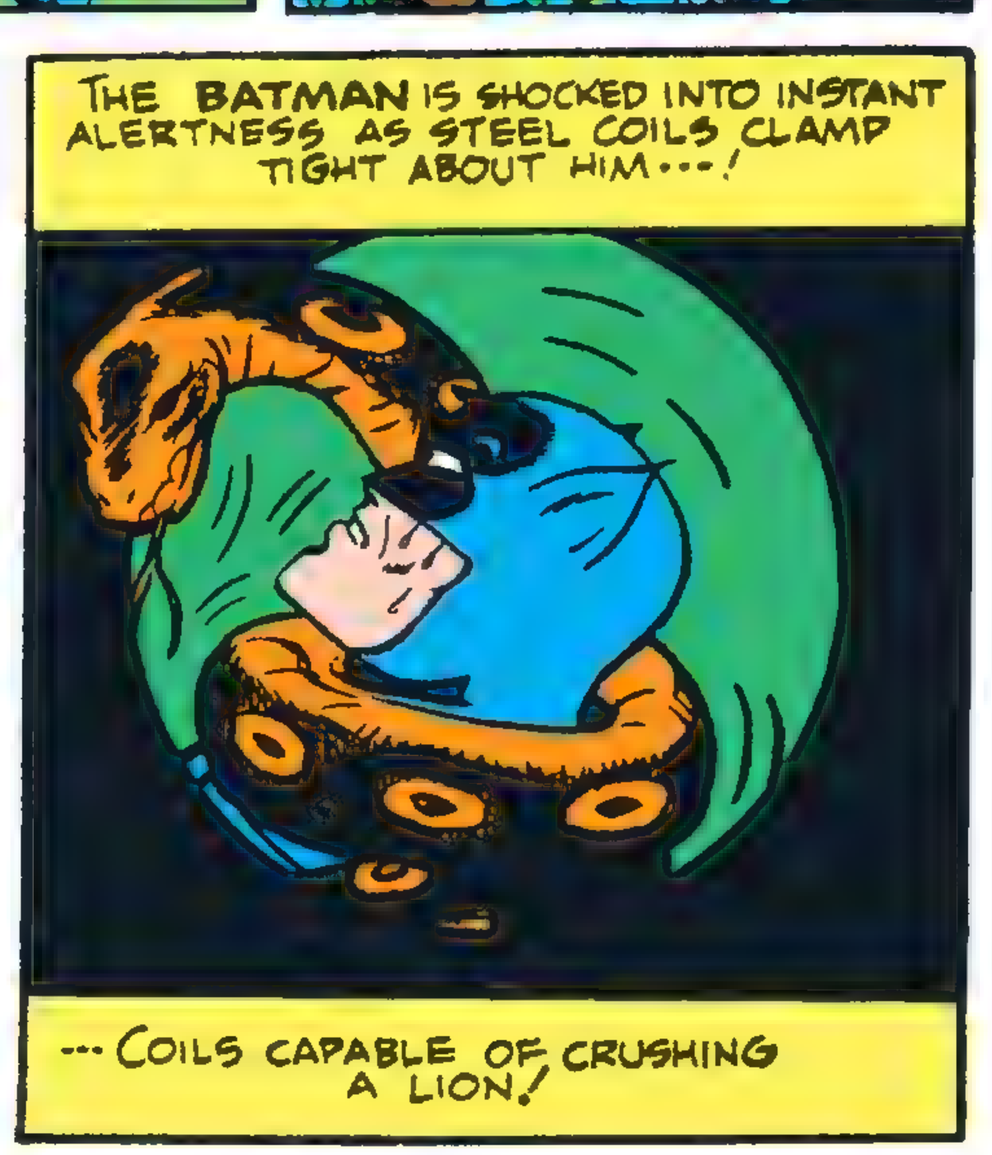

EYES FLAMING WITH ANGER, ROBIN RUSHES FORWARD... BUT TRIPS HEADLONG OVER A SNAGGING ROOT!
YOU TOO, EH?

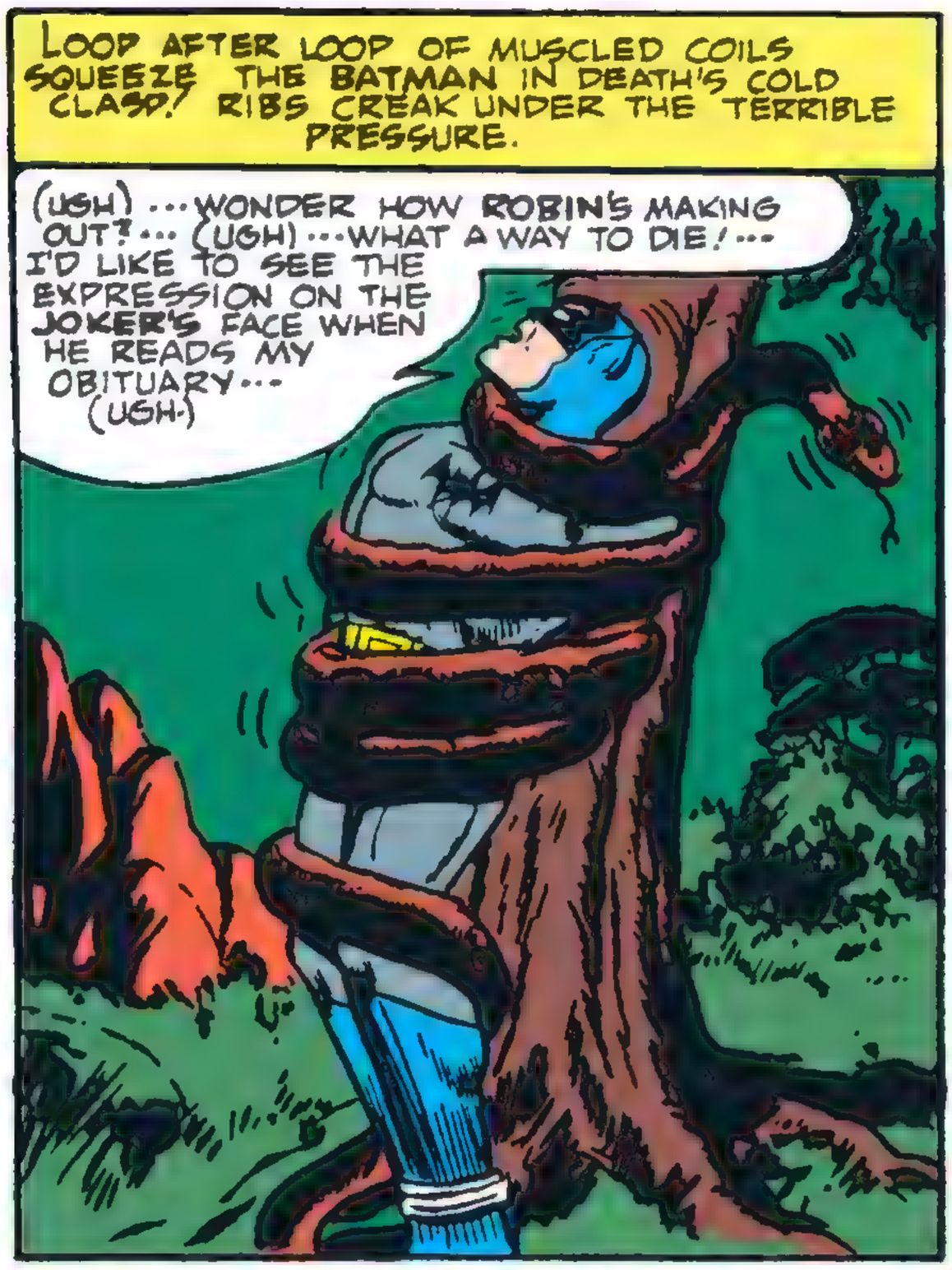

A SHARP WHISTLE BRINGS TWO MEN TO THE ATTACKER'S SIDE!
WHAT'S UP, DAN?
THIS GUY'S GRABBING MY ACT! I WANT HIM OUT OF THE WAY FOR A WHILE!

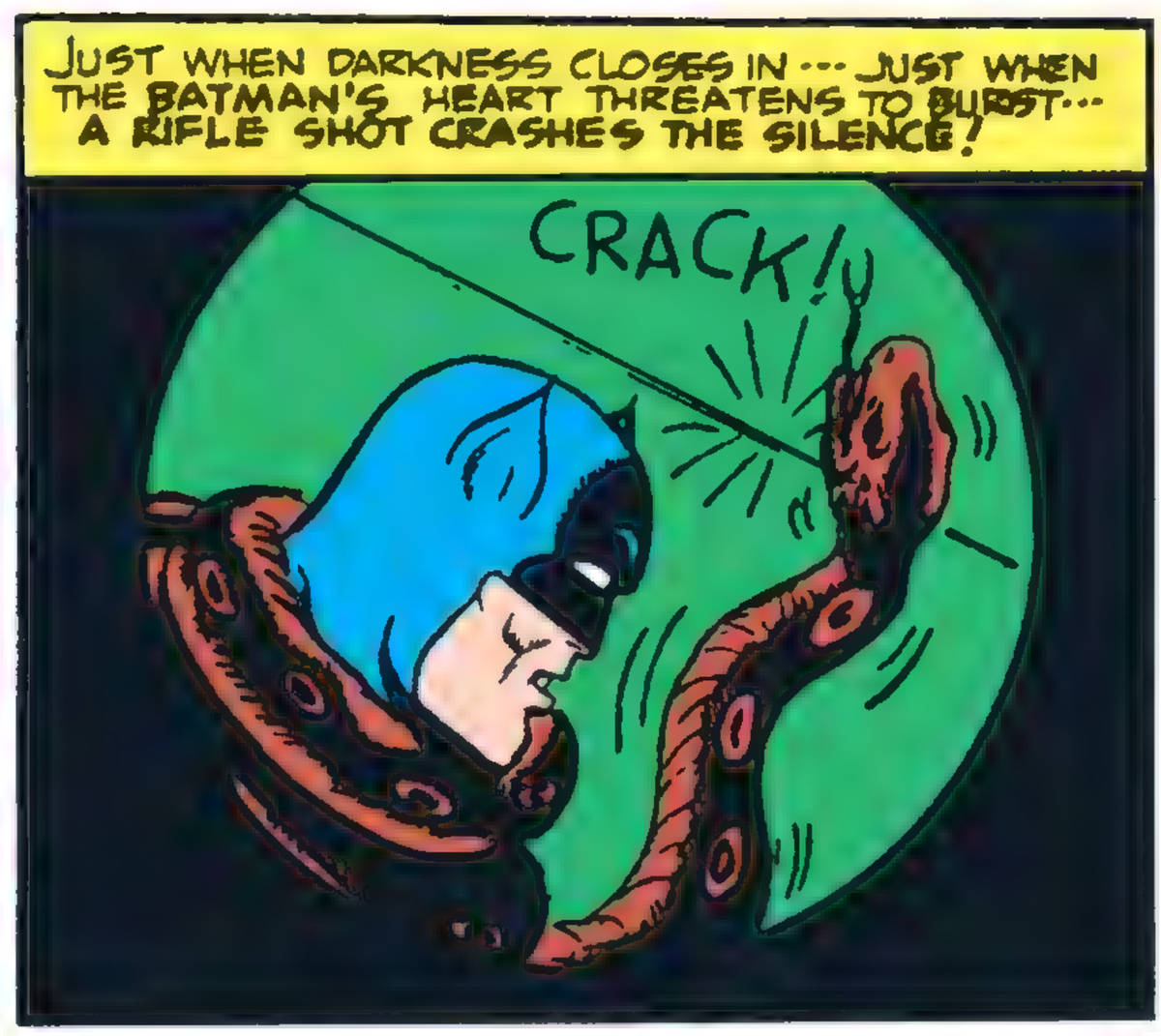
IT'S THE BATMAN! BIG GUY AIN'T GONNA LIKE THIS!
AND NEITHER DO I!
LISTEN, YOU GUYS. HELP ME OUT AND ONCE WE GET OFF THIS ISLAND I'LL FILL YOUR POCKETS WITH MONEY!

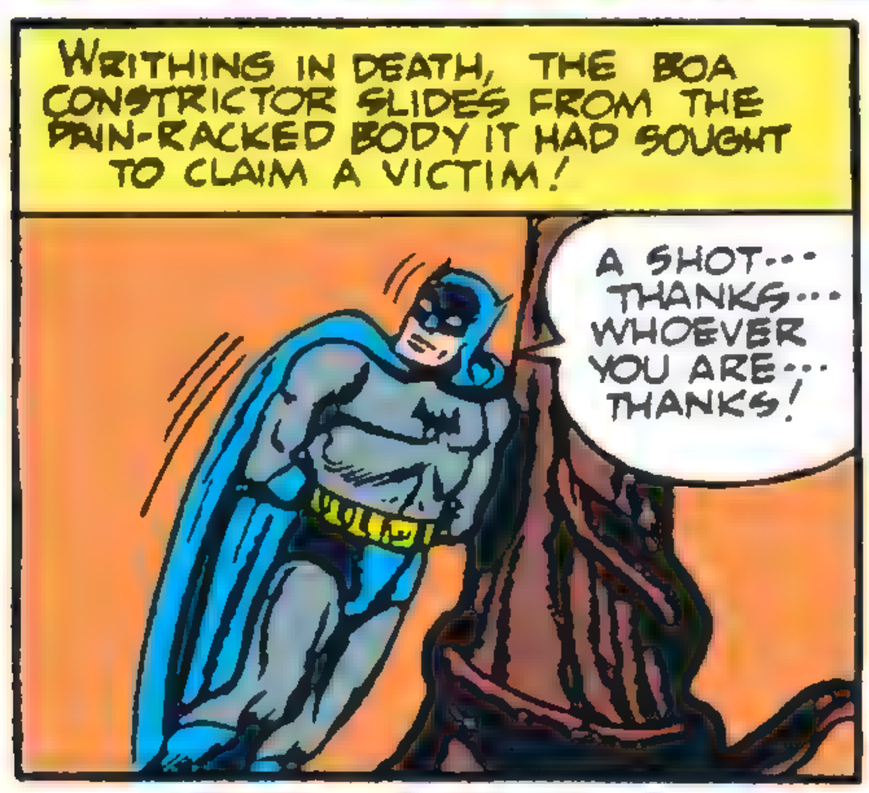
AFTER DAN EXPLAINS, TWO LIMP FIGURES ARE SLUNG OVER STRONG SHOULDERS.
I GOT A FEELING BIG GUY AIN'T...
SHUT UP! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN OR HE'LL HEAR YOU! HE'S WATCHING US NOW. ACT NATURAL AND DON'T GIVE THE SHOW AWAY. GET GOING!


BOUND AND HELPLESS, THE BATMAN IS LEFT TO FACE THE UNKNOWN PERILS OF THE ISLE OF MONSTERS!
THEN FROM THE FOLIAGE, CHILL, SLIMY DOOM SLITHERS NEAR! A GIANT BOA CONSTRICTOR!


THE BATMAN IS SHOCKED INTO INSTANT ALERTNESS AS STEEL COILS CLAMP TIGHT ABOUT HIM...!
... COILS CAPABLE OF CRUSHING A LION!


LOOP AFTER LOOP OF MUSCLED COILS SQUEEZE THE BATMAN IN DEATH'S COLD CLASP! RIBS CREAK UNDER THE TERRIBLE PRESSURE.
(UGH) ...WONDER HOW ROBIN'S MAKING OUT? ... (UGH) ...WHAT A WAY TO DIE! ... I'D LIKE TO SEE THE EXPRESSION ON THE JOKER'S FACE WHEN HE READS MY OBITUARY... (UGH)

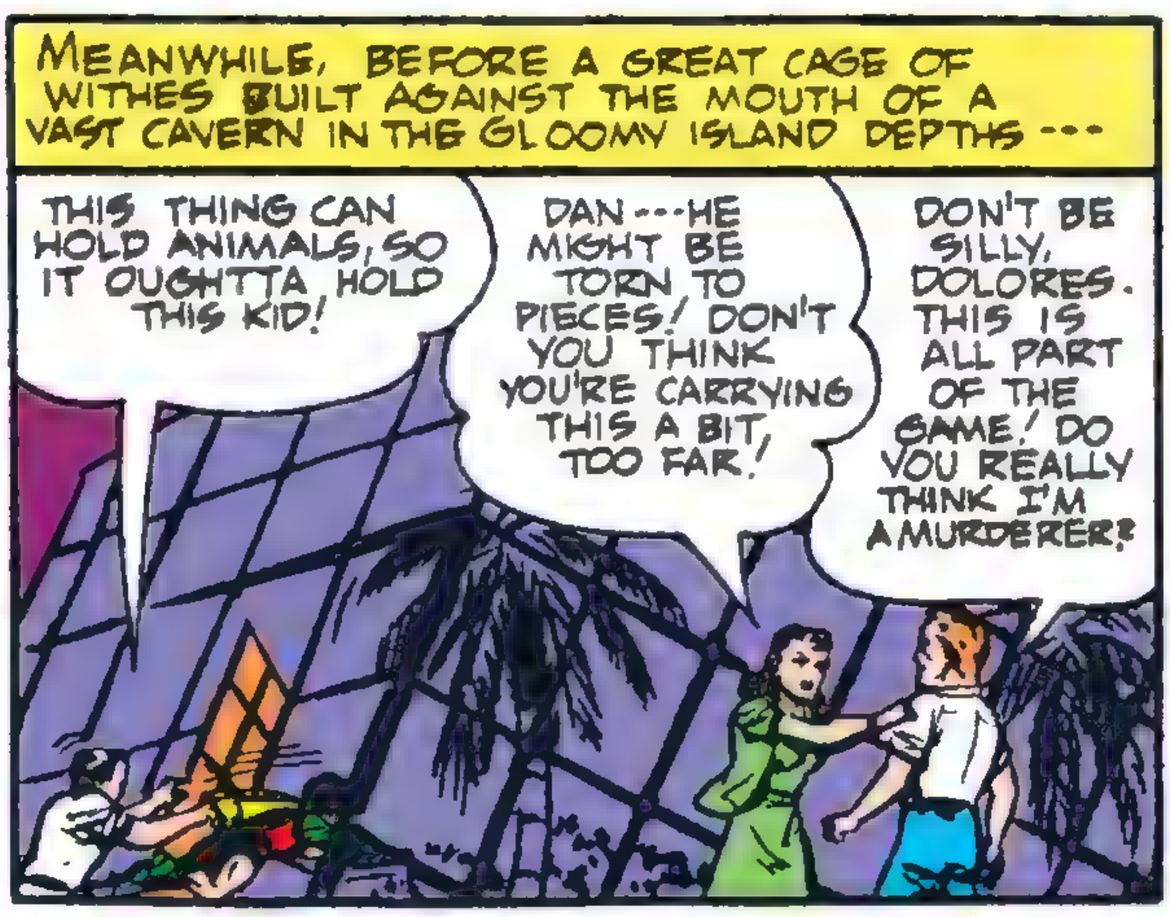

JUST WHEN DARKNESS CLOSES IN ... JUST WHEN THE BATMAN'S HEART THREATENS TO BURST... A RIFLE SHOT CRASHES THE SILENCE!
CRACK!


WRITHING IN DEATH, THE BOA CONSTRICTOR SLIDES FROM THE PAIN-RACKED BODY IT HAD SOUGHT TO CLAIM A VICTIM!
A SHOT... THANKS... WHOEVER YOU ARE... THANKS!

THE BATMAN CUTS HIS BONDS ON A SHARP ROCK...
HEY! COME OUT! I WANT TO THANK YOU! ... HOW? THAT'S ODD! NO ANSWER! ??

A FOOTPRINT! SOMEBODY WAS HERE ... SAVED MY LIFE ... AND DISAPPEARED! I DON'T GET IT??

CERTAINLY MOLOFF OR THAT OTHER FELLOW WOULDN'T RESCUE ME! SOMEBODY IS PLAYING MY GUARDIAN ANGEL ... BUT WHO? THIS, MR. BATMAN, IS A WEE BIT MYSTERIOUS!


MEANWHILE, BEFORE A GREAT CAGE OF WITHES BUILT AGAINST THE MOUTH OF A VAST CAVERN IN THE GLOOMY ISLAND DEPTHS ...
THIS THING CAN HOLD ANIMALS, SO IT OUGHTTA HOLD THIS KID!
DAN ... HE MIGHT BE TORN TO PIECES! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE CARRYING THIS A BIT, TOO FAR!
DON'T BE SILLY, DOLORES. THIS IS ALL PART OF THE GAME! DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M A MURDERER?

YOU... YOU'RE SURE HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
OF COURSE! HONEY, DO YOU REALIZE THIS ISLAND MEANS A FORTUNE FOR US! BURIED TREASURE ... THAT'S WHAT YOU COULD CALL IT ... YES, BURIED TREASURE ... NOW...

AFTER THEY DEPART...
SOMETHING QUEER IS GOING ON HERE THAT NEEDS EXPLAINING...I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?...

AS IF IN ANSWER, A TUSKED, SHAGGY BEAST PADS SILENTLY TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING LAD!
FEEL LIKE STRETCHING MY...UH! A SABER-TOOTHED TIGER!

SUPERBLY-TRAINED MUSCLES RESPOND WITH LIGHTNING SPEED TO THE STIMULUS OF DANGER!
SABER-TOOTHED TIGERS WENT OUT OF STYLE IN THE STONE AGE...BUT AFTER THAT DINOSAUR I'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING NOW!

BUT THE ANGRY SABER-TOOTH IS NOT TO BE CHEATED!
OH, OH! MY BELT RADIO. IF THE BATMAN IS ALIVE, HE'LL COME! BATMAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME? A TIGER HAS ME TREED!!!

AND IN THE FOREST NOT TOO FAR AWAY...
SNAKE? NO...I DIDN'T! BIG GUY...AH... BUT THE SECRET OF YOUR PROTECTION LIES WITH ME.
MOLOFF! YOU... YOU KILLED THE SNAKE!

...A TIGER HAS ME TREED!
NO, BATMAN.. I DID NOT SAVE YOUR LIFE... I HAVE COME BACK TO TAKE IT! IT IS AS SIMPLE AS ALL THAT!
MY RADIO... ROBIN IN TROUBLE!
9

OUT OF MY WAY! ROBIN NEEDS ME! OUT OF MY WAY! COMING, ROBIN...

HEARTENED BY THE BATMAN'S CRY, ROBIN STRIKES BACK AT THE SNARLING MAN-KILLER!
COMING, ROBIN!
I'M WARNING YOU. YOU'D BETTER SCRAM BEFORE THE BATMAN GETS HERE!

LIKE A BLOODHOUND ON THE SCENT, THE BATMAN FOLLOWS THE BLIND TRAIL OF THE URGING VOICE EMANATING FROM HIS WIRELESS.

HMM ··· IN THAT CASE, I'LL GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

AFTER HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

ARE YOU COMING, BATMAN?

SNAP!

LURCHING THROUGH BRAMBLE, STUMBLING OVER SNAGGING BRUSH AND ROOTS, SICK WITH APPREHENSION, THE BATMAN FOLLOWS THE INVISIBLE RADIO BEAM/

I'M GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION··· ROBIN'S VOICE ···IT'S GETTING WEAKER ··· I'LL TRY ANOTHER PATH

TIGER GETTING BOLDER··

VOICE IS STRONG NOW! I'VE GOT THE TRAIL ··· OH-OH MOLOFF ON MY TRAIL NOW!

THIS WAY! HE CAN'T BE FAR!

CANT·· HOLD·· OUT·· MUCH·· LONGER!

AN INSTANT LATER, A HUMAN ANTHROPOID DARTS THROUGH THE TREETOPS, MUSCLES RIPPLING IN RHYTHM/··· SWING AND CLUTCH ··· CLUTCH AND SWING ···

NOW LET MOLOFF AND HIS MEN FOLLOW MY TRAIL! COMING, ROBIN ··· KEEP PUNCHING!

BATMAN! WHERE ARE YOU?

SUDDENLY A FORMIDABLE FIGURE CRASHES THROUGH THE RUSTIC CAGE!

ROBIN!

BATMAN! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

MAN AND BEAST FALL HEAVILY. STEELY LEGS LOCK ABOUT THE WRITHING TIGER.

FIRST SABER-TOOTH I'VE EVER WRESTLED ··· BUT I GUESS THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING!

C'MON, BATMAN- SNAP HIS NECK!

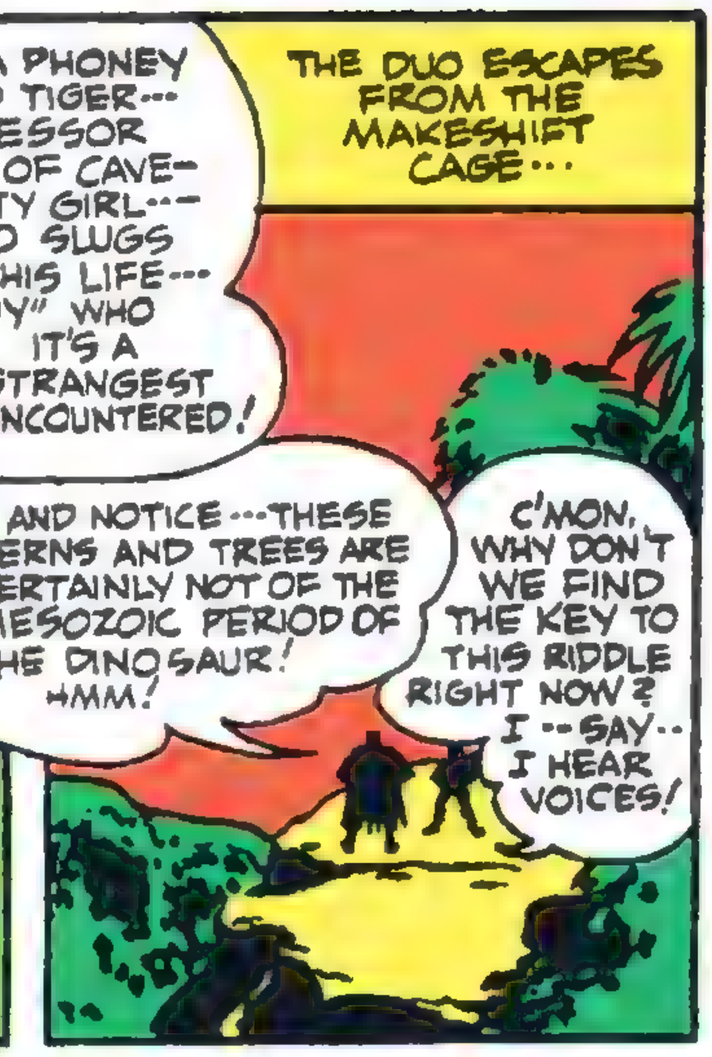
STRONG HANDS CLAMP AROUND POINTED TUSKS AND ···

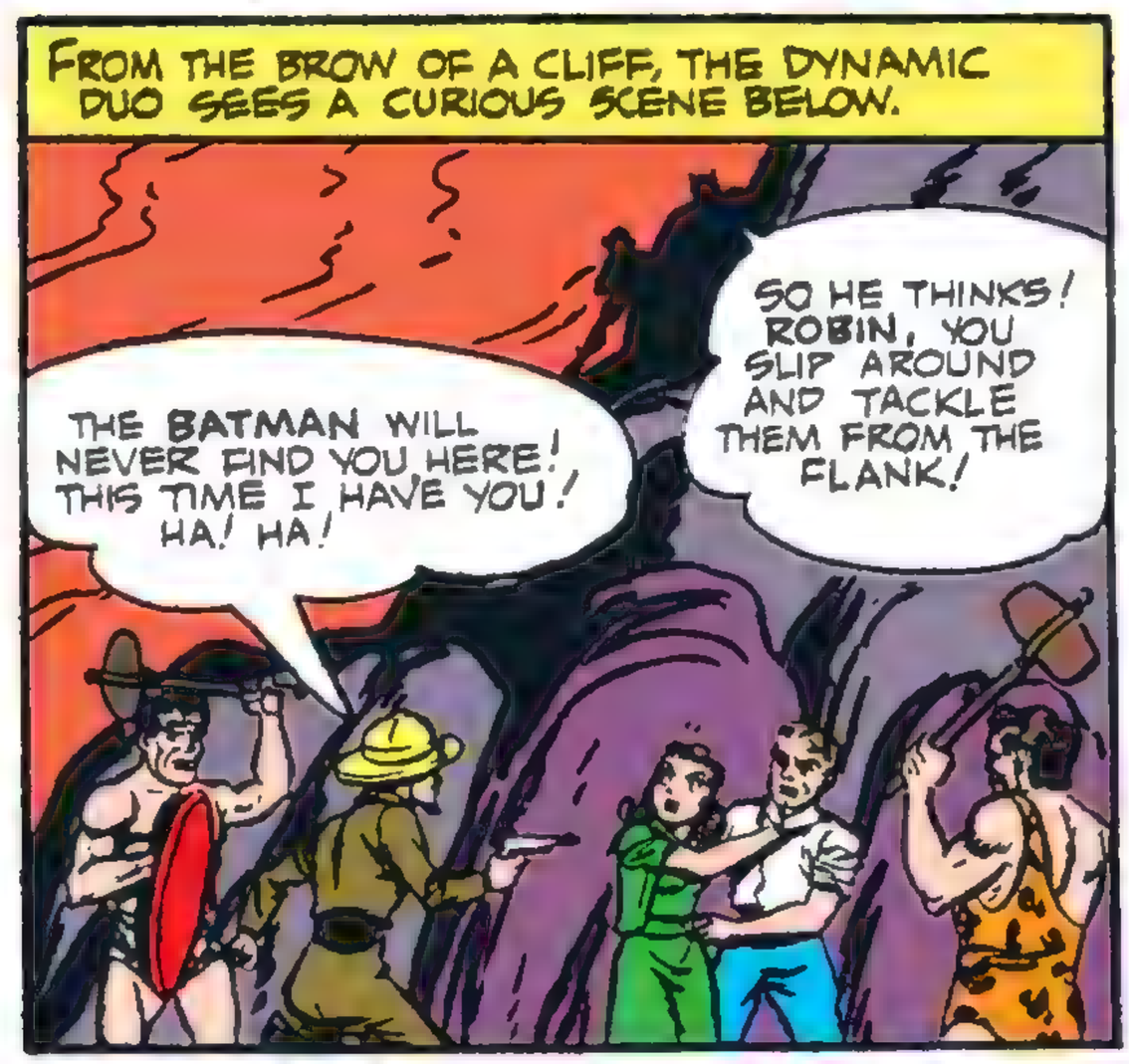
HEY! SOMETHING'S WRONG! TEETH AREN'T PULLED THAT EASY!

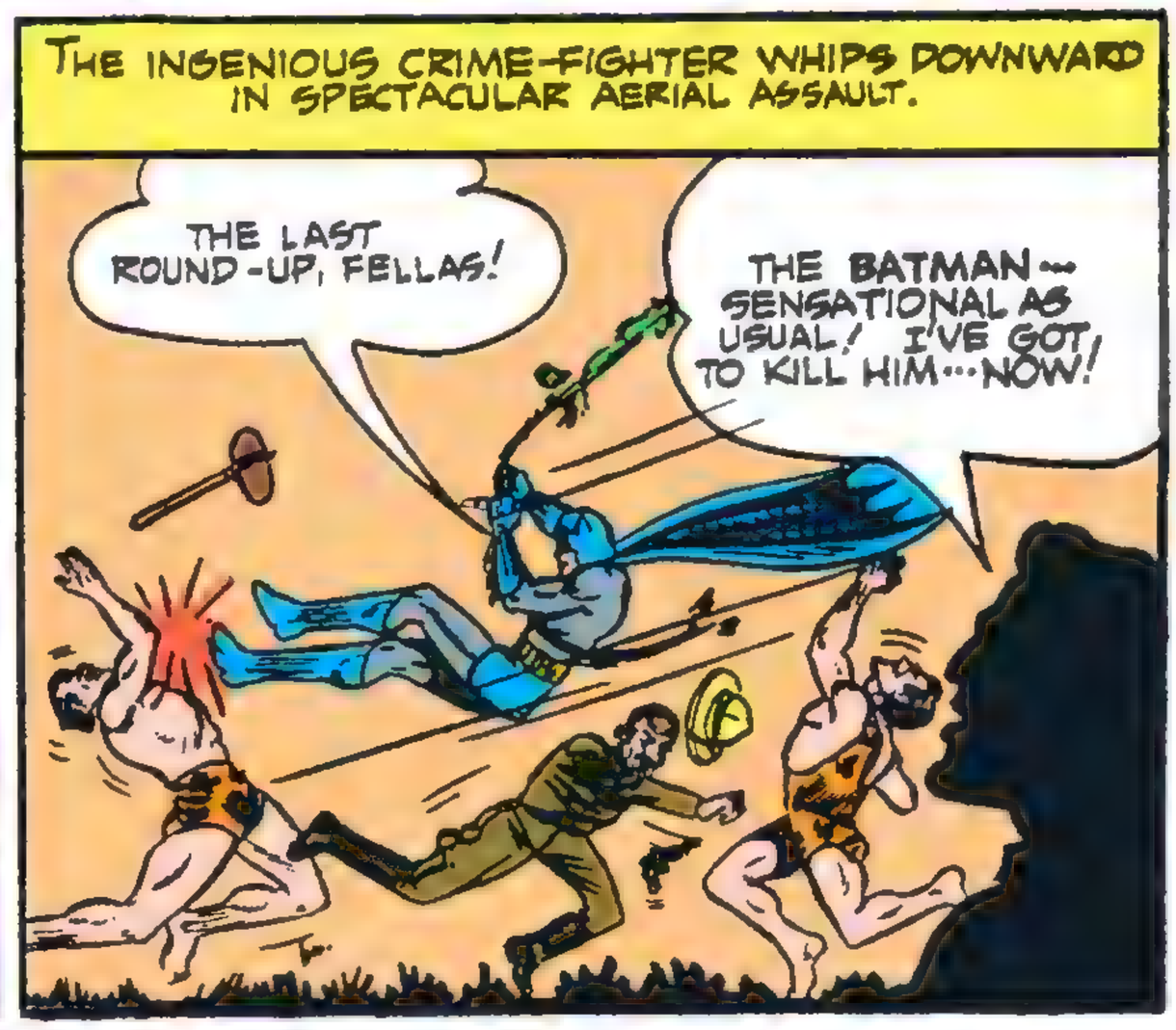
10

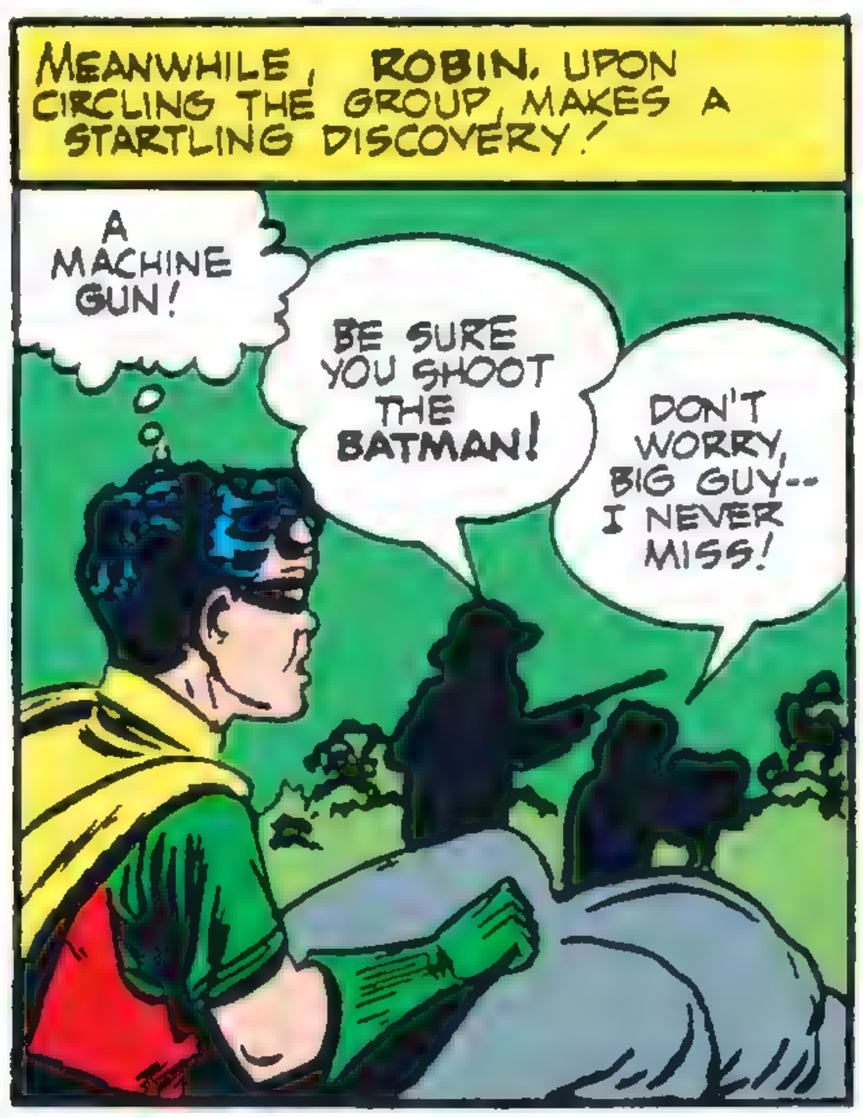
DOWN FLASHES THE TUSK ---- BITING DEEP INTO THE TIGER'S HEART!
AT LEAST, THIS CERTAINLY MAKES A FIRST-CLASS DAGGER!
I KNEW YOU'D TAKE HIM!

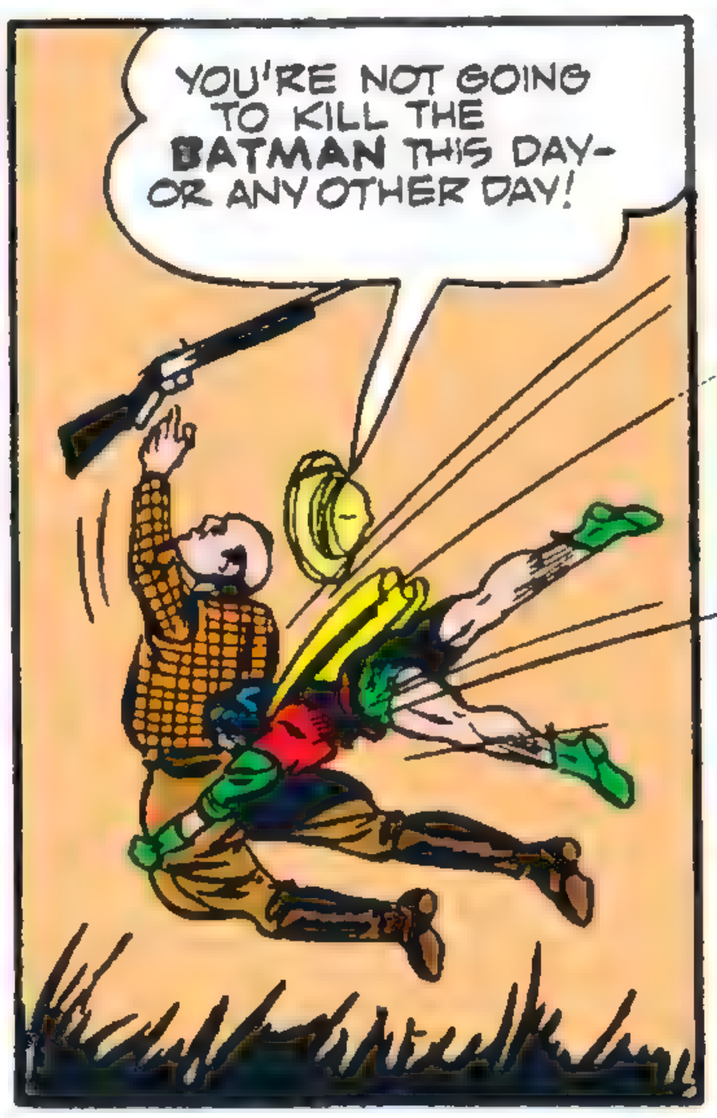
---AND THEY KEPT TALKING ABOUT THIS "BIG GUY" AS IF THEY WERE AFRAID OF HIM!
DINOSAURS-- A PHONEY SABER-TOOTHED TIGER--- A CRAZY PROFESSOR WITH AN ARMY OF CAVE-MEN---A PRETTY GIRL--- A FELLOW WHO SLUGS US FOR SAVING HIS LIFE--- AND THIS "BIG GUY" WHO SAVED MY LIFE! IT'S A PUZZLE ---THE STRANGEST PUZZLE I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED!
AND NOTICE ---THESE FERNS AND TREES ARE CERTAINLY NOT OF THE MESOZOIC PERIOD OF THE DINOSAUR! HMM!

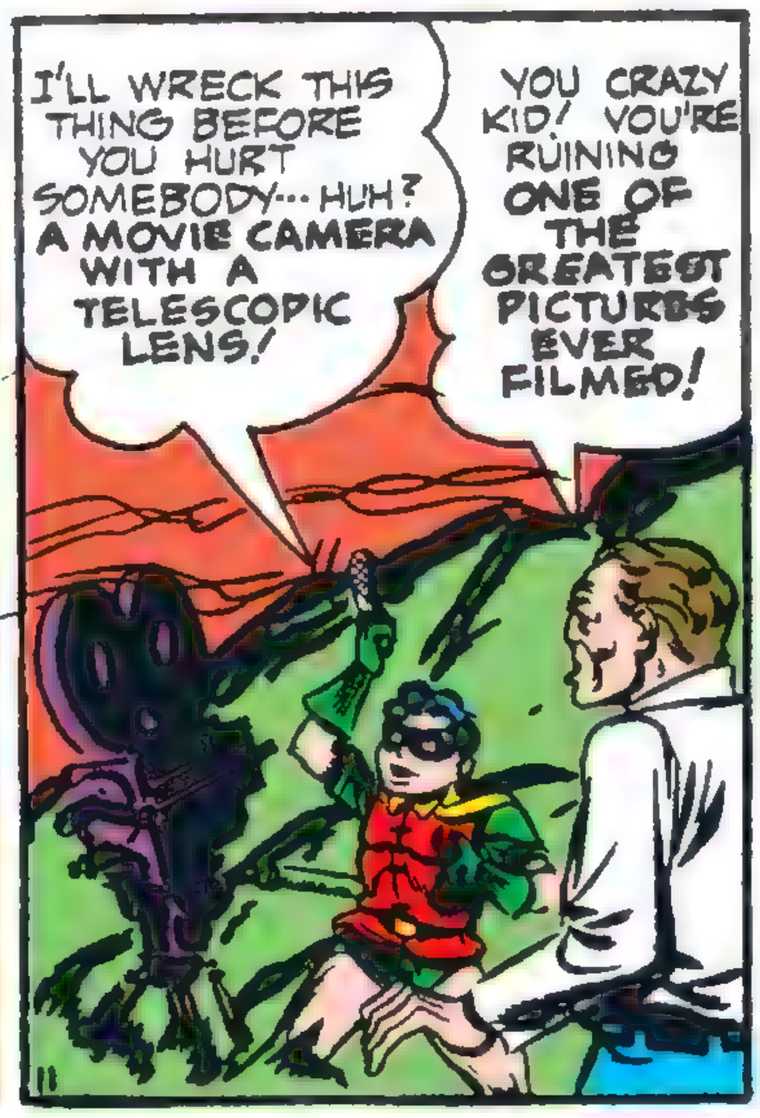

THE DUO ESCAPES FROM THE MAKESHIFT CAGE...
C'MON, WHY DON'T WE FIND THE KEY TO THIS RIDDLE RIGHT NOW? I --SAY-- I HEAR VOICES!

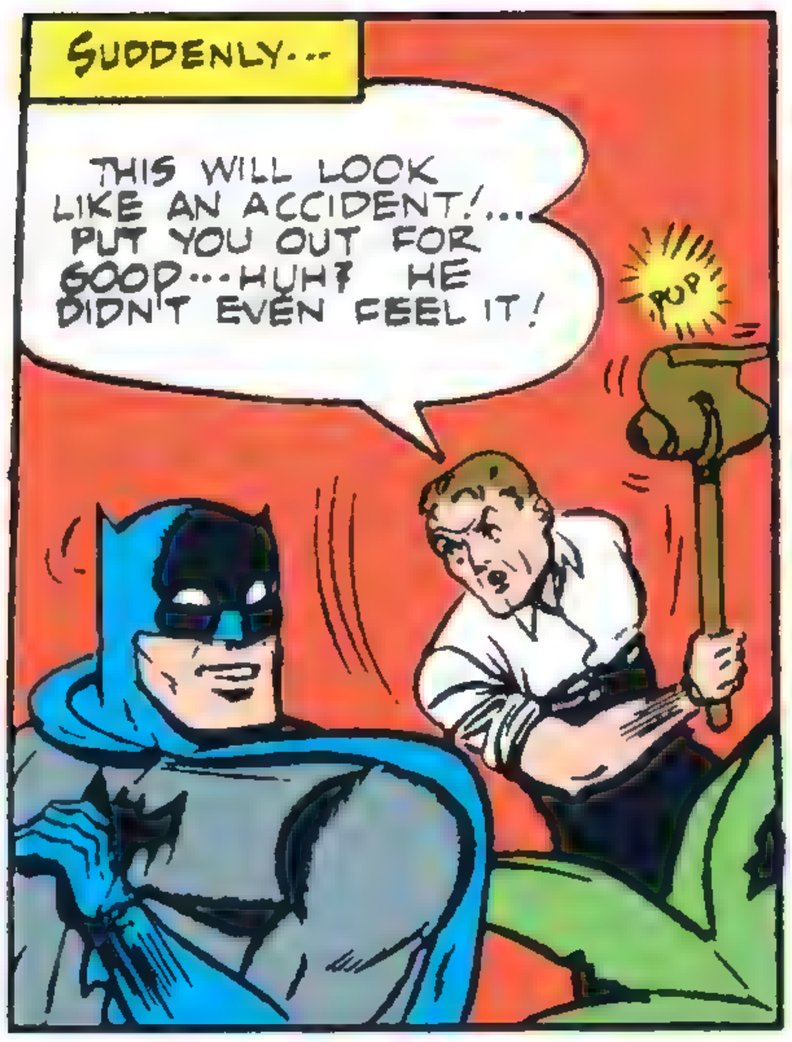

FROM THE BROW OF A CLIFF, THE DYNAMIC DUO SEES A CURIOUS SCENE BELOW.
THE BATMAN WILL NEVER FIND YOU HERE! THIS TIME I HAVE YOU! HA! HA!
SO HE THINKS! ROBIN, YOU SLIP AROUND AND TACKLE THEM FROM THE FLANK!


THE INGENIOUS CRIME-FIGHTER WHIPS DOWNWARD IN SPECTACULAR AERIAL ASSAULT.
THE LAST ROUND-UP, FELLAS!
THE BATMAN--- SENSATIONAL AS USUAL! I'VE GOT TO KILL HIM---NOW!

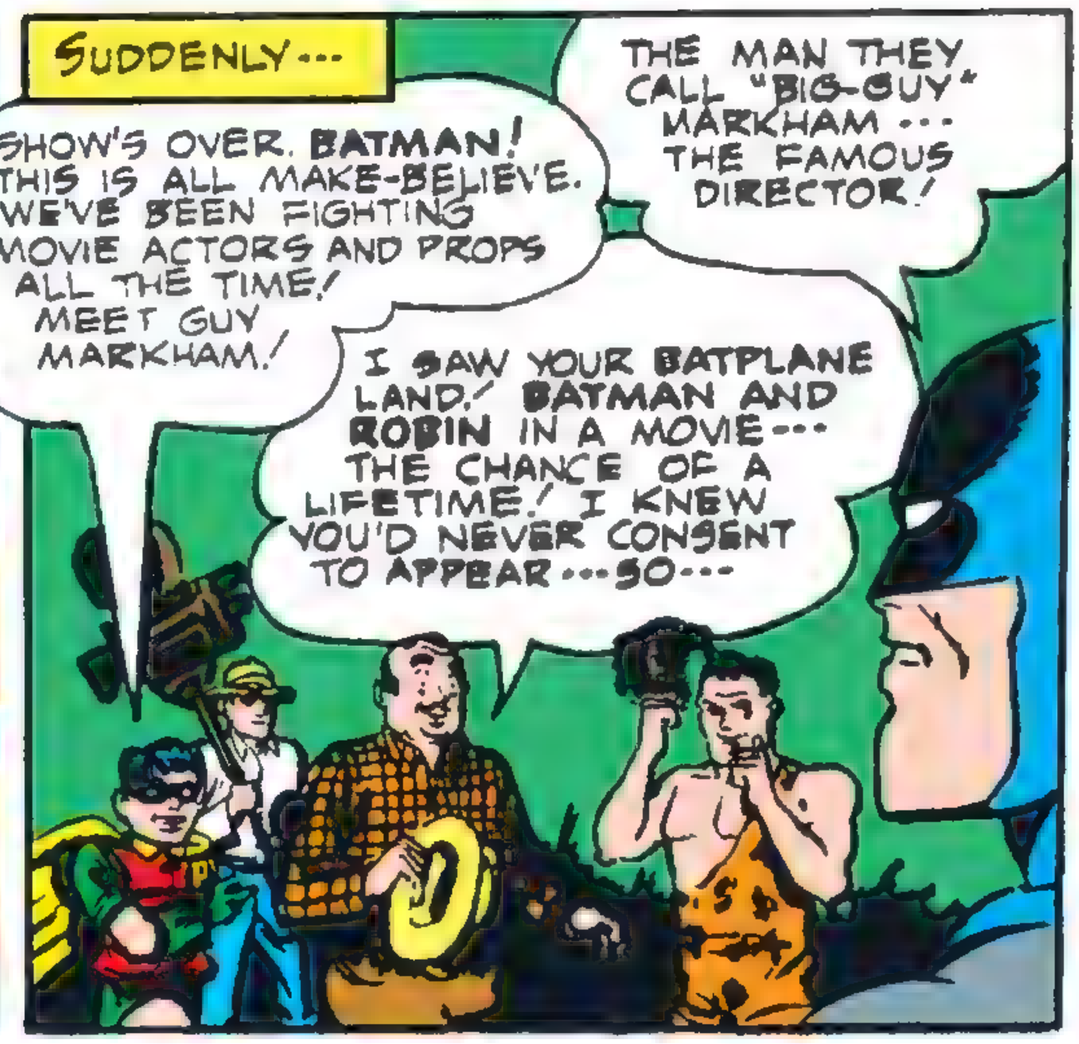

MEANWHILE, ROBIN, UPON CIRCLING THE GROUP, MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY!
A MACHINE GUN!
BE SURE YOU SHOOT THE BATMAN!
DON'T WORRY, BIG GUY-- I NEVER MISS!

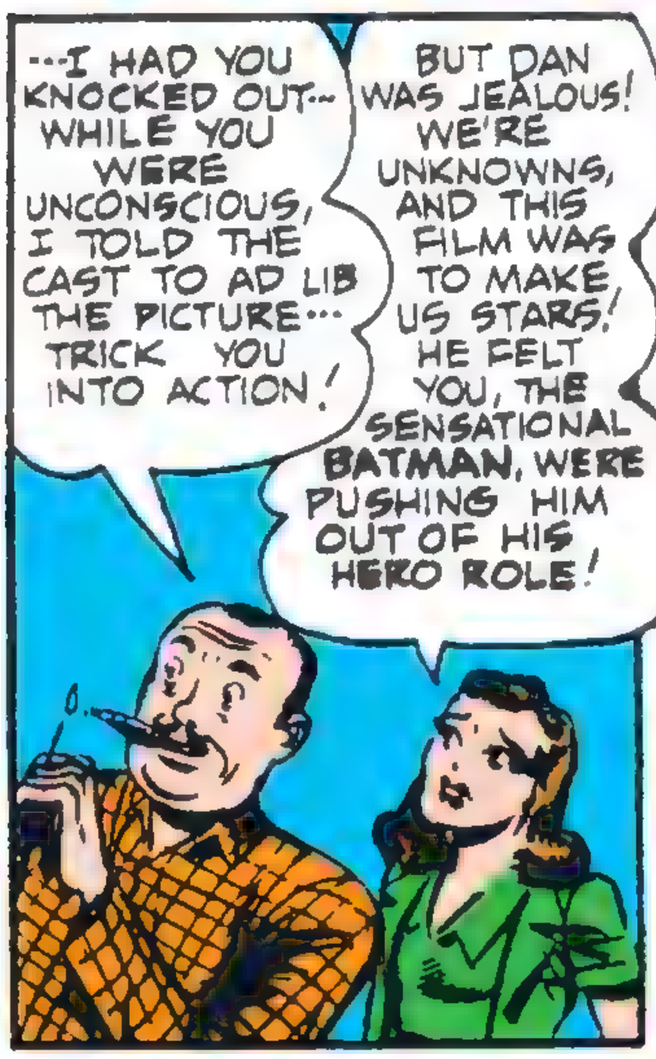

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL THE BATMAN THIS DAY- OR ANY OTHER DAY!


I'LL WRECK THIS THING BEFORE YOU HURT SOMEBODY--- HUH? A MOVIE CAMERA WITH A TELESCOPIC LENS!
YOU CRAZY KID! YOU'RE RUINING ONE OF THE GREATEST PICTURES EVER FILMED!

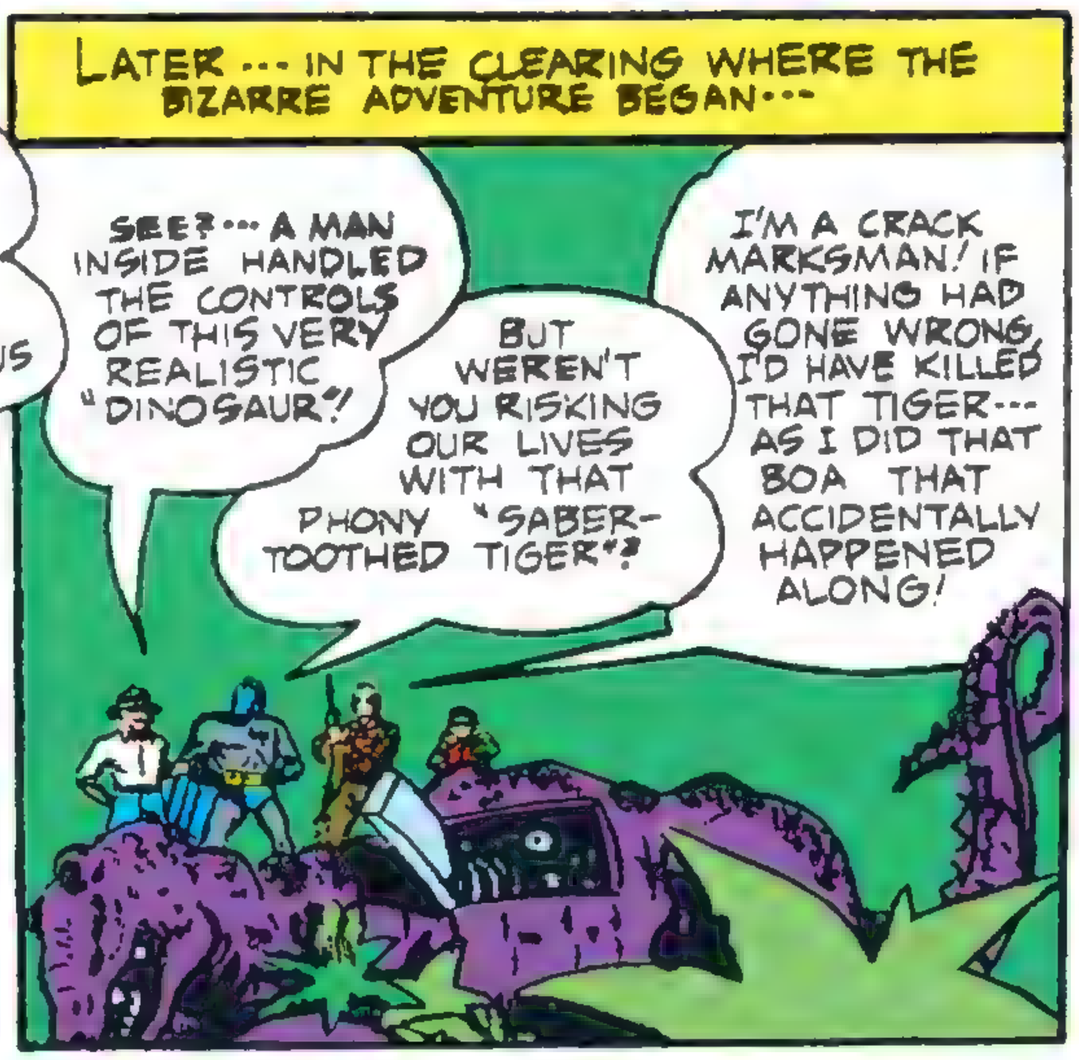

SUDDENLY...
THIS WILL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!... PUT YOU OUT FOR GOOD...HUH? HE DIDN'T EVEN FEEL IT!
POP

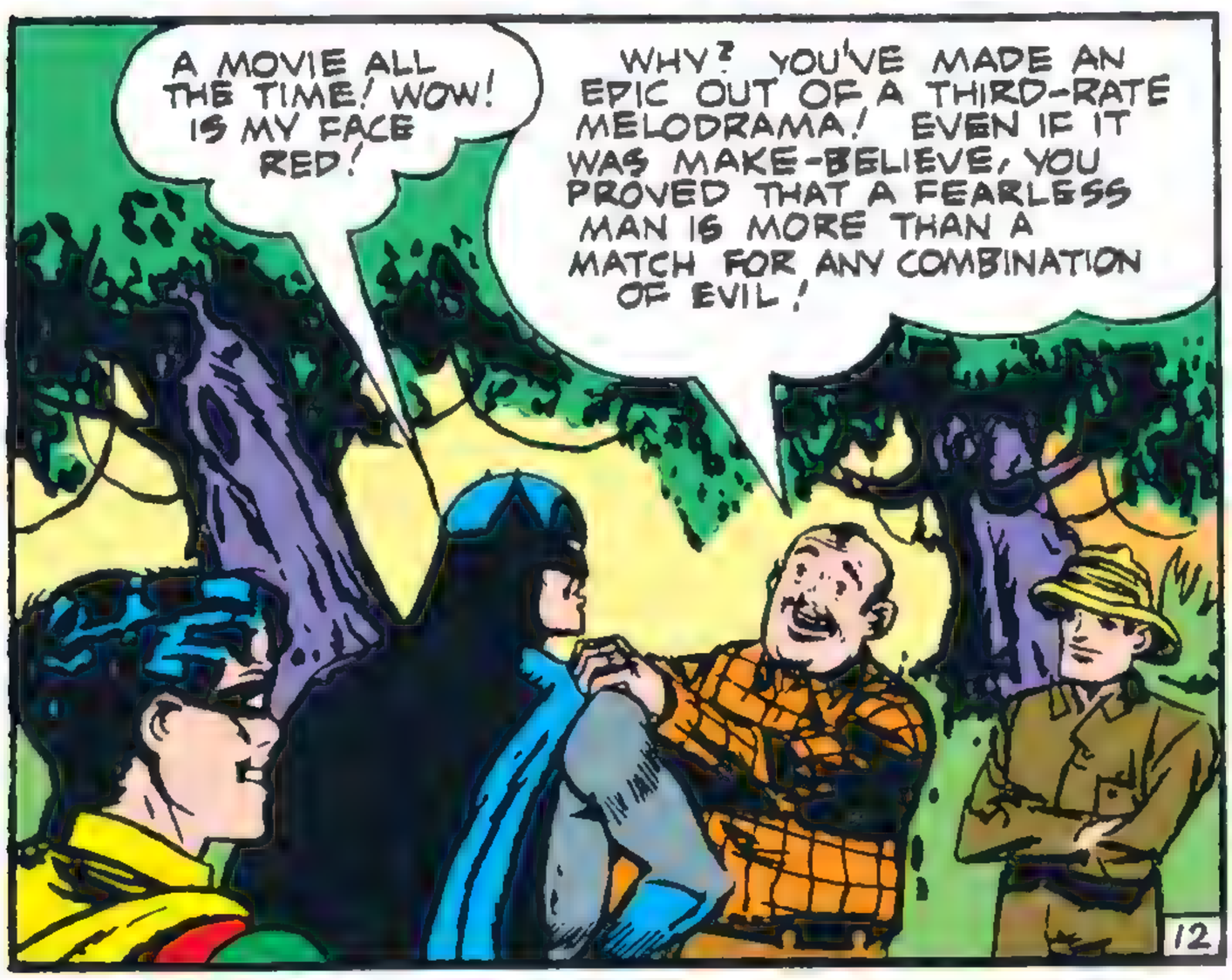
NO! BUT I GUARANTEE YOU'LL FEEL THIS!

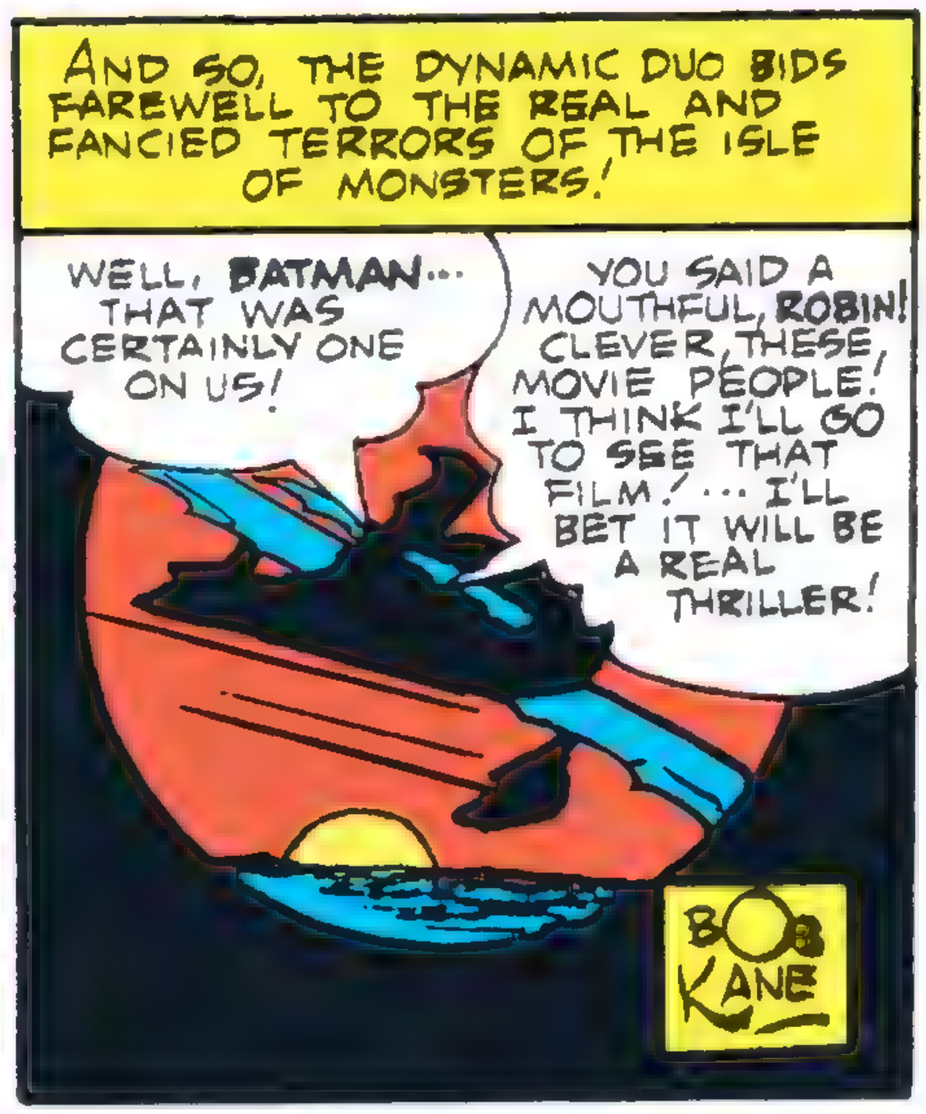

SUDDENLY...
SHOW'S OVER. BATMAN! THIS IS ALL MAKE-BELIEVE. WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING MOVIE ACTORS AND PROPS ALL THE TIME! MEET GUY MARKHAM!
THE MAN THEY CALL "BIG-GUY" MARKHAM... THE FAMOUS DIRECTOR!
I SAW YOUR BATPLANE LAND! BATMAN AND ROBIN IN A MOVIE... THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME! I KNEW YOU'D NEVER CONSENT TO APPEAR...SO...


...I HAD YOU KNOCKED OUT... WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS, I TOLD THE CAST TO AD LIB THE PICTURE... TRICK YOU INTO ACTION!
BUT DAN WAS JEALOUS! WE'RE UNKNOWNS, AND THIS FILM WAS TO MAKE US STARS! HE FELT YOU, THE SENSATIONAL BATMAN, WERE PUSHING HIM OUT OF HIS HERO ROLE!

I WANTED TO MAKE YOU AND YOUR ACTIONS SEEM RIDICULOUS... BUT INSTEAD YOU MADE ME LOOK THE FOOL! I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU...AND WOULD HAVE...IF I HADN'T FORGOTTEN THIS STONE CLUB WAS A PROP... MADE OF PAPIER-MACHE!
I'M SORRY, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW OF THIS TREACHEROUS PLAN!


LATER... IN THE CLEARING WHERE THE BIZARRE ADVENTURE BEGAN...
SEE?... A MAN INSIDE HANDLED THE CONTROLS OF THIS VERY REALISTIC "DINOSAUR"!
BUT WEREN'T YOU RISKING OUR LIVES WITH THAT PHONY "SABER-TOOTHED TIGER"?
I'M A CRACK MARKSMAN! IF ANYTHING HAD GONE WRONG, I'D HAVE KILLED THAT TIGER... AS I DID THAT BOA THAT ACCIDENTALLY HAPPENED ALONG!


A MOVIE ALL THE TIME! WOW! IS MY FACE RED!
WHY? YOU'VE MADE AN EPIC OUT OF A THIRD-RATE MELODRAMA! EVEN IF IT WAS MAKE-BELIEVE, YOU PROVED THAT A FEARLESS MAN IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY COMBINATION OF EVIL!
12


AND SO, THE DYNAMIC DUO BIDS FAREWELL TO THE REAL AND FANCIED TERRORS OF THE ISLE OF MONSTERS!
WELL, BATMAN... THAT WAS CERTAINLY ONE ON US!
YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL, ROBIN! CLEVER, THESE MOVIE PEOPLE! I THINK I'LL GO TO SEE THAT FILM!... I'LL BET IT WILL BE A REAL THRILLER!
BOB KANE

BATMAN WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

POST NO BILLS

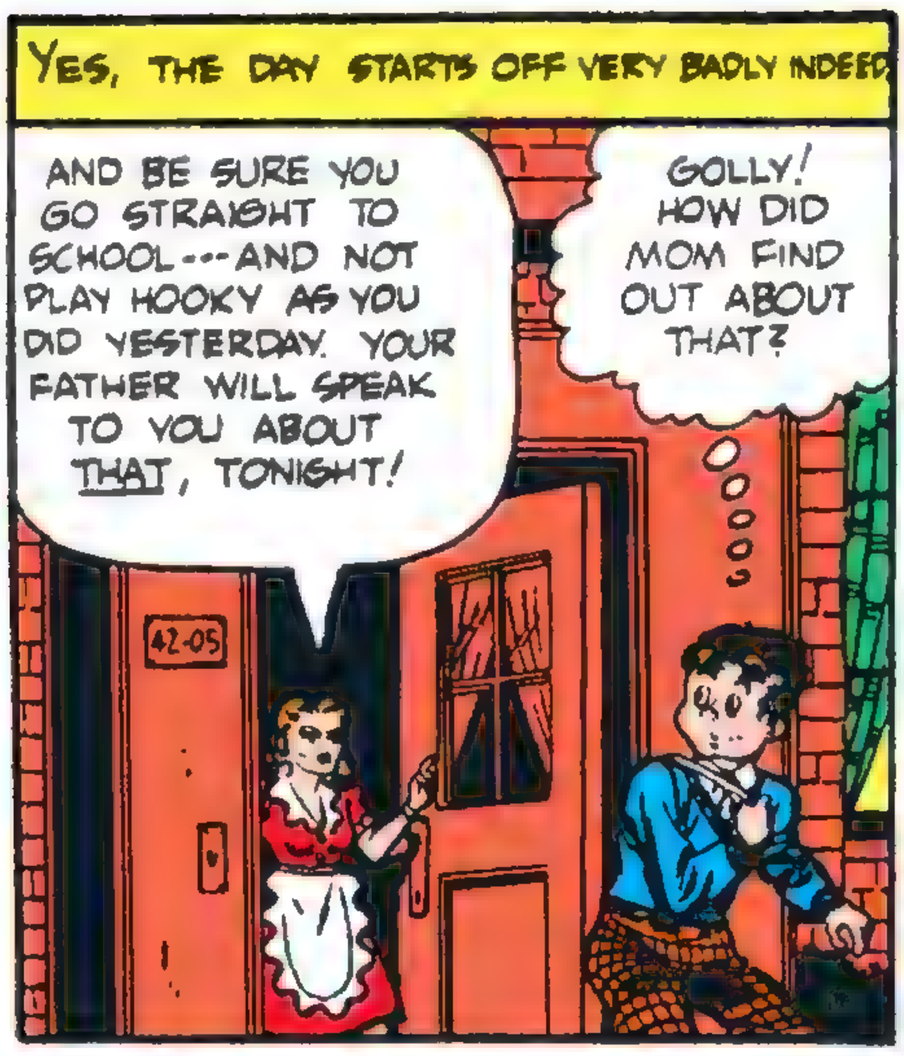
LITTLE TOMMY DIDN'T LIKE TO GO TO SCHOOL. HE PLAYED HOOKY. HE DIDN'T STUDY. HE GOT BAD REPORT CARDS. TOMMY WAS A **BA-AD** BOY! SO, WHEN REPORT CARD DAY CAME, TOMMY TOOK IT ON THE LAM. HE BEAT IT TO THE BIG TOWN ---AND RAN SMACK INTO TROUBLE---RIGHT UP TO HIS NECKTIE!

BUT WHEN TOMMY TOOK THE HIGH ROAD, HE MET THOSE ROVING CRIME-BUSTERS, **BATMAN AND ROBIN**, WHO SOON SHOWED HIM THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS... IN THIS STORY OF... "REPORT CARD BLUES!"

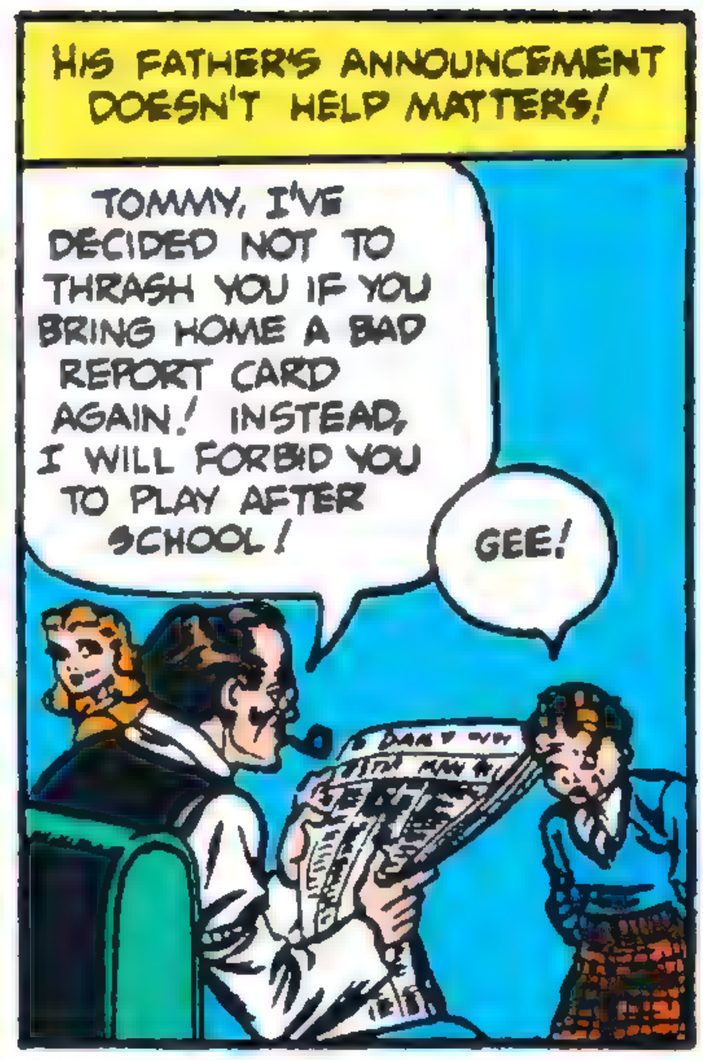
THE DAY STARTS OFF BADLY FOR LITTLE TOMMY TRENT...

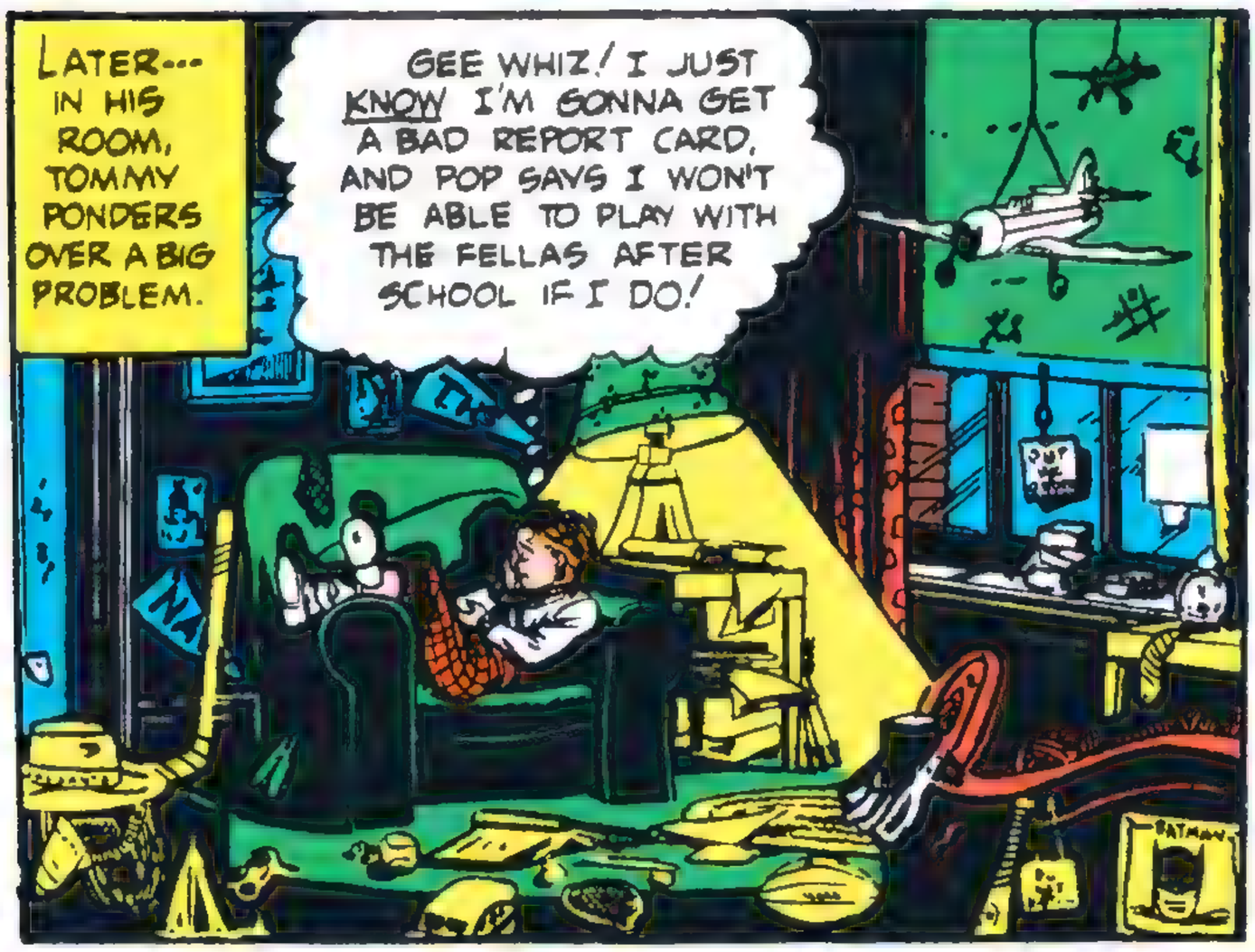
TOM-MY-Y-Y! YOU'RE LATE! TIME TO GET UP TO GO TO SCHOOL!

BZZZ... AW RIGHT... BZZZ...I'M GETTING UP... BZZZ...

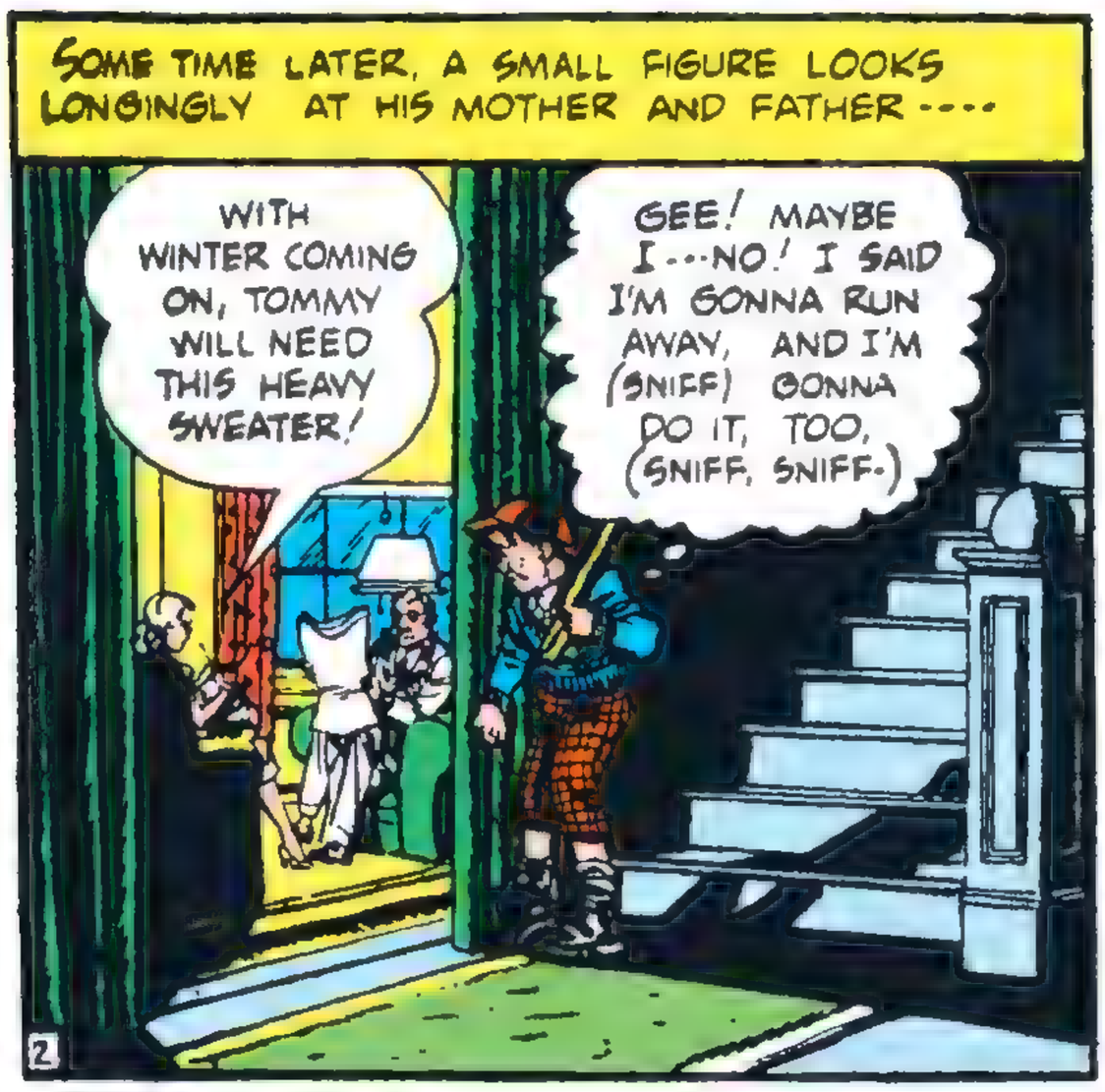

YES, THE DAY STARTS OFF VERY BADLY INDEED
AND BE SURE YOU GO STRAIGHT TO SCHOOL---AND NOT PLAY HOOKY AS YOU DID YESTERDAY. YOUR FATHER WILL SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, TONIGHT!
GOLLY! HOW DID MOM FIND OUT ABOUT THAT?
42-05

AS A MATTER OF FACT, TOMMY'S DAY CONTINUES IN TERRIBLE FASHION!
PUPILS, TOMORROW YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR REPORT CARDS!
REPORT CARDS! O-O-O-H! I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD!


HIS FATHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT DOESN'T HELP MATTERS!
TOMMY, I'VE DECIDED NOT TO THRASH YOU IF YOU BRING HOME A BAD REPORT CARD AGAIN! INSTEAD, I WILL FORBID YOU TO PLAY AFTER SCHOOL!
GEE!

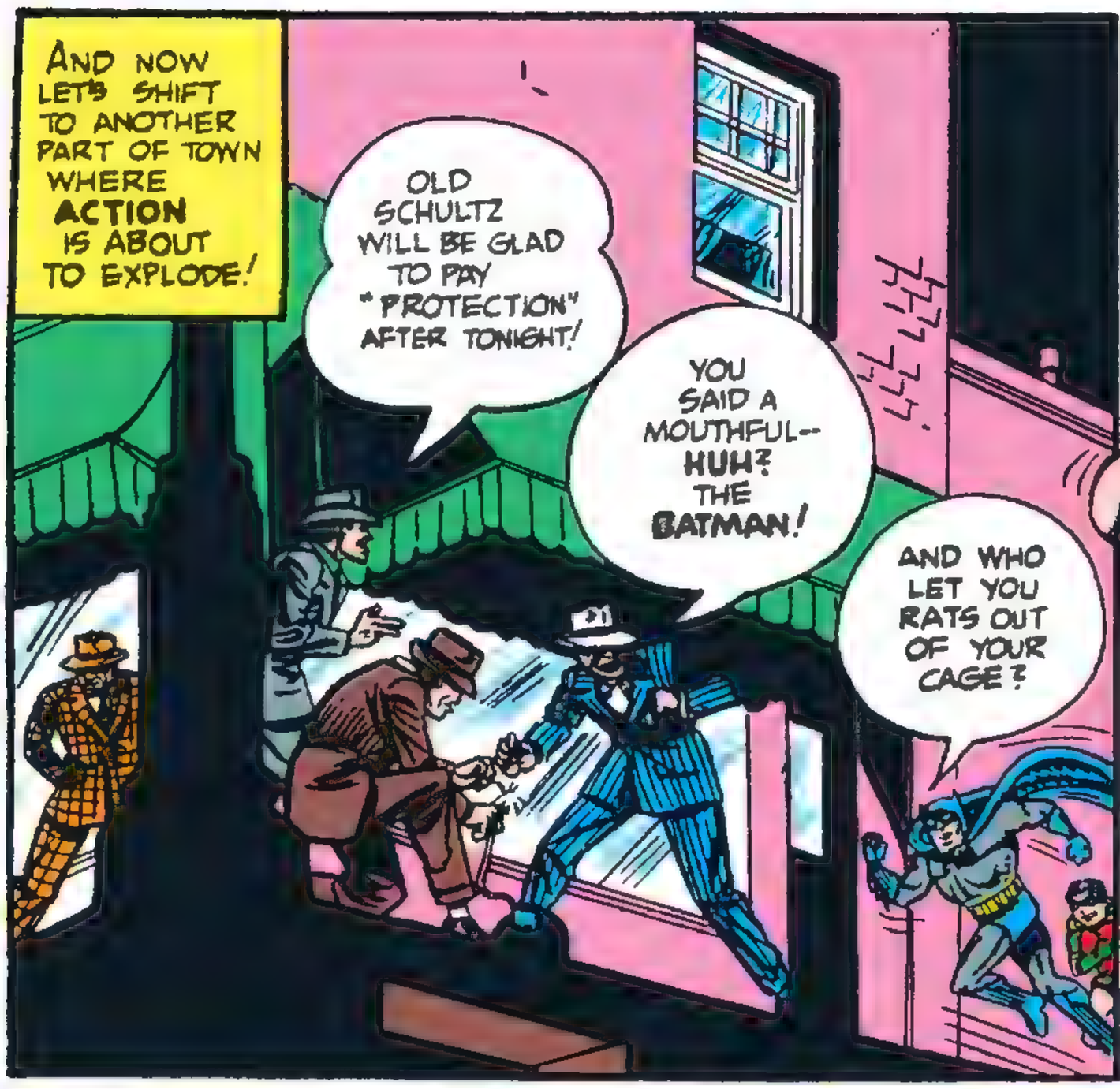

LATER--- IN HIS ROOM, TOMMY PONDERS OVER A BIG PROBLEM.
GEE WHIZ! I JUST KNOW I'M GONNA GET A BAD REPORT CARD, AND POP SAYS I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH THE FELLAS AFTER SCHOOL IF I DO!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY FOOTBALL, OR HAVE ANY FUN ANY-MORE! HUH! I'LL SHOW 'EM! THEY'LL BE SORRY! I'LL RUN AWAY, THAT'S WHAT!

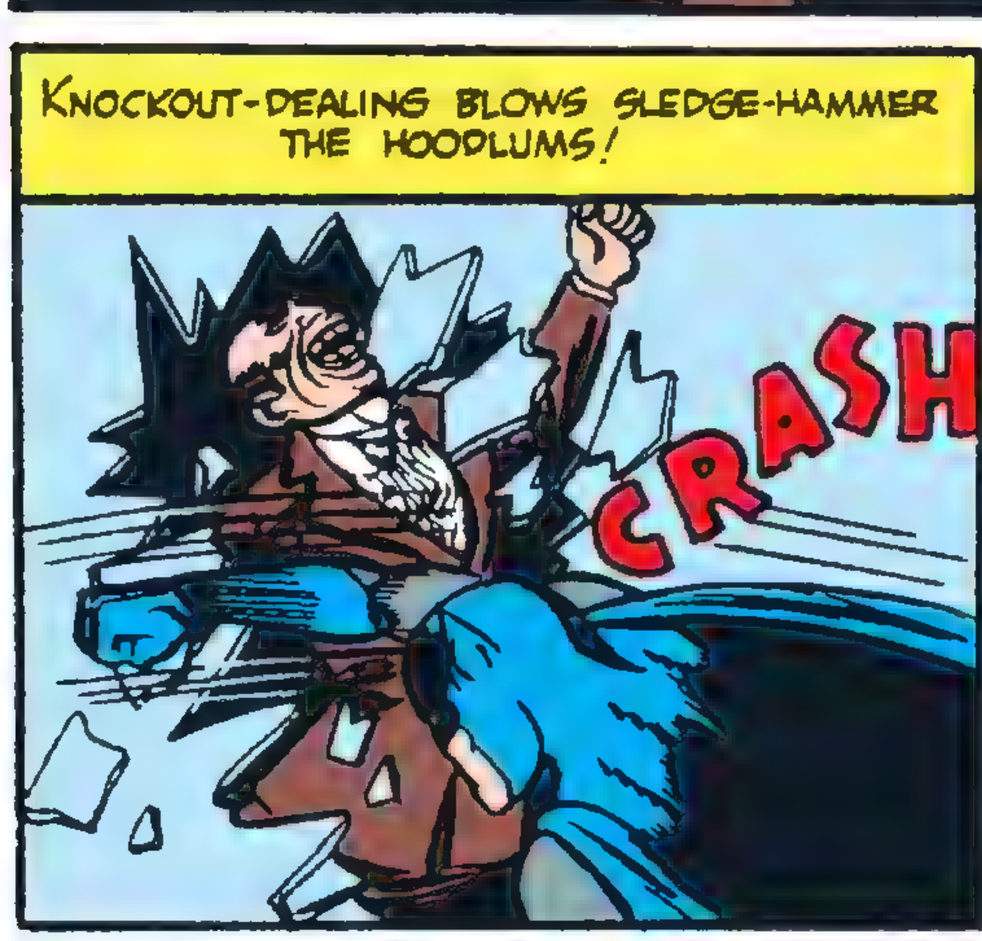

SOME TIME LATER, A SMALL FIGURE LOOKS LONGINGLY AT HIS MOTHER AND FATHER ----
WITH WINTER COMING ON, TOMMY WILL NEED THIS HEAVY SWEATER!
GEE! MAYBE I---NO! I SAID I'M GONNA RUN AWAY, AND I'M (SNIFF) GONNA DO IT, TOO, (SNIFF, SNIFF-)
2

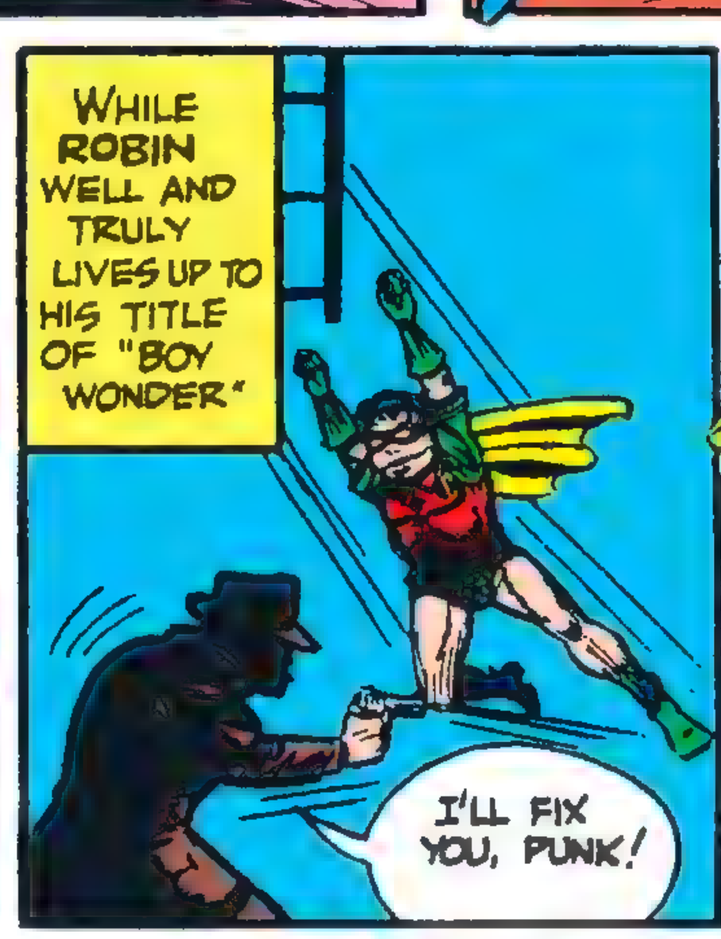
HIS HEART THUMPING LOUDLY, TOMMY STEPS OUT INTO NIGHT-- BLACK, OMINOUS ---AND TERRIFYING---
WHOO
UH!

FULL OF MISGIVINGS, BUT MANFULLY DETERMINED, TOMMY SETS FEET ON THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE--
LITTLE TOMMY TRENT, YOU'LL REMEMBER THIS NIGHT ALL YOUR LIFE!

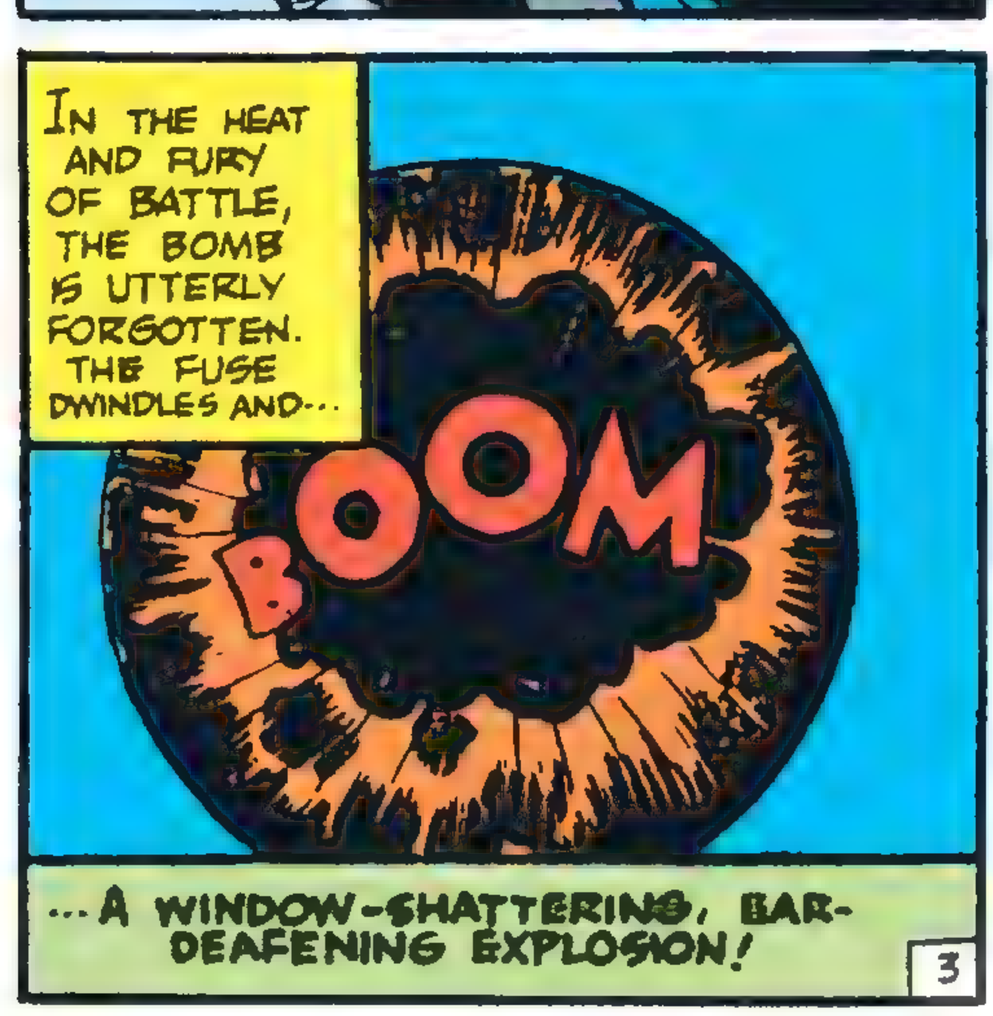

AND NOW LET'S SHIFT TO ANOTHER PART OF TOWN WHERE ACTION IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE!
OLD SCHULTZ WILL BE GLAD TO PAY "PROTECTION" AFTER TONIGHT!
YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL-- HUH? THE BATMAN!
AND WHO LET YOU RATS OUT OF YOUR CAGE?

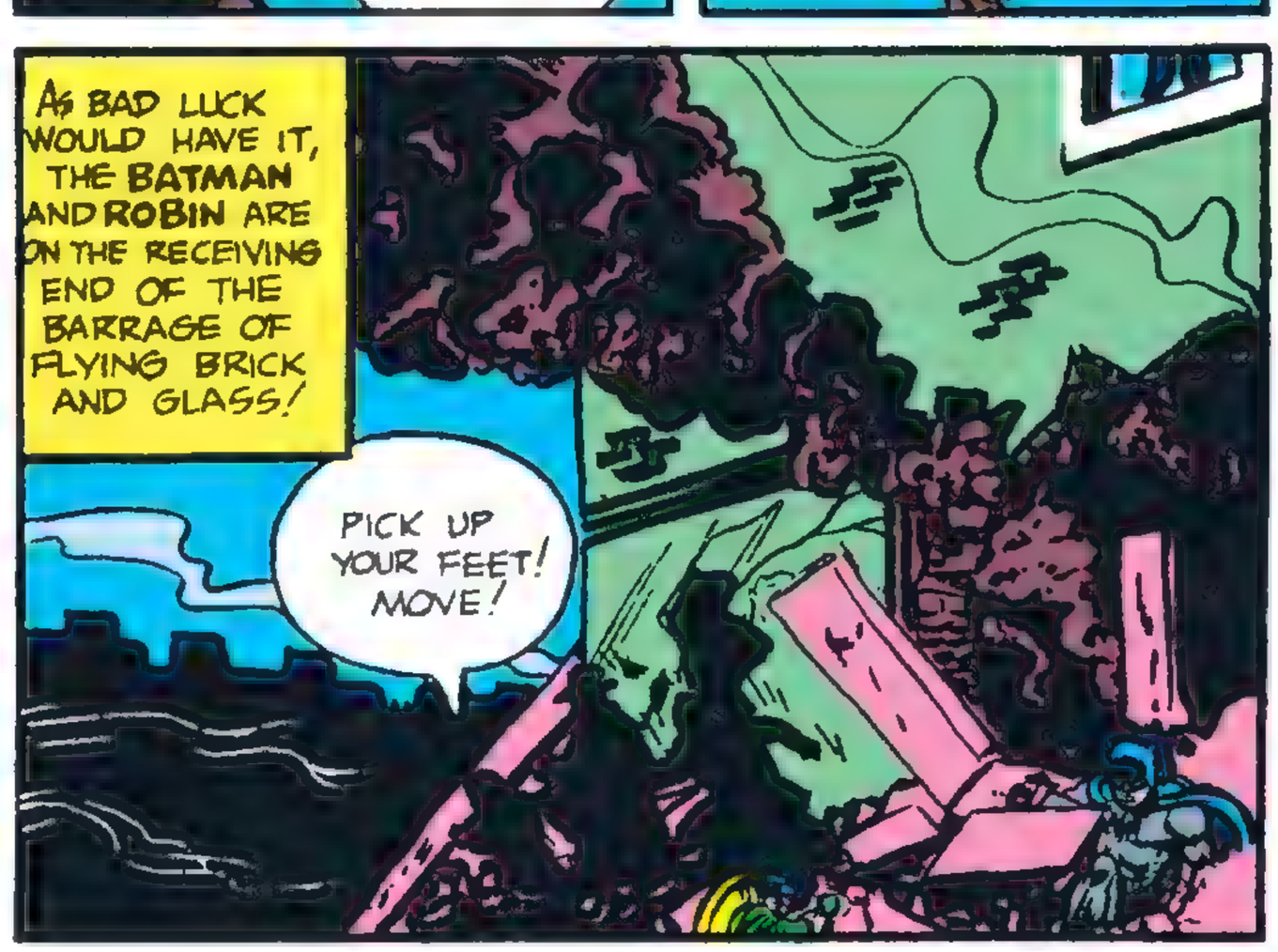
TWIN THUNDERBOLTS, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN BLAST INTO THE THUGS!
SOLID. ROBIN... SOLID!

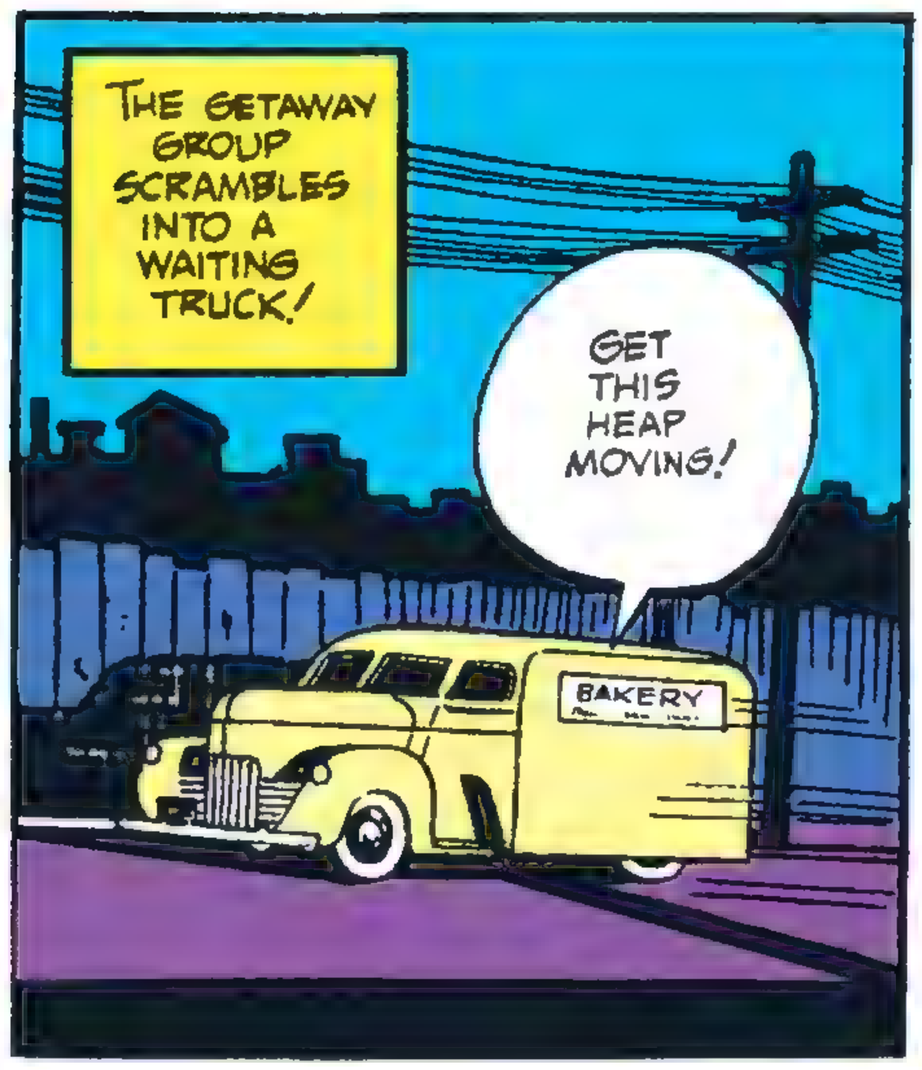

KNOCKOUT-DEALING BLOWS SLEDGE-HAMMER THE HOODLUMS!
CRASH

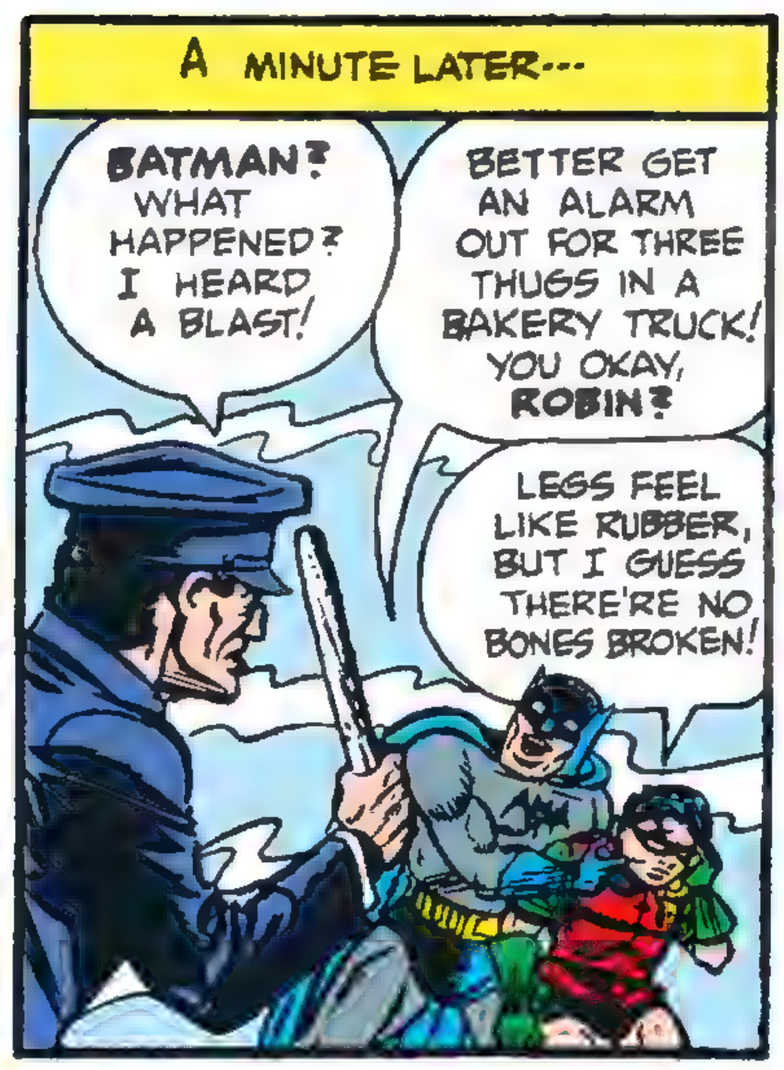

WHILE ROBIN WELL AND TRULY LIVES UP TO HIS TITLE OF "BOY WONDER"
I'LL FIX YOU, PUNK!

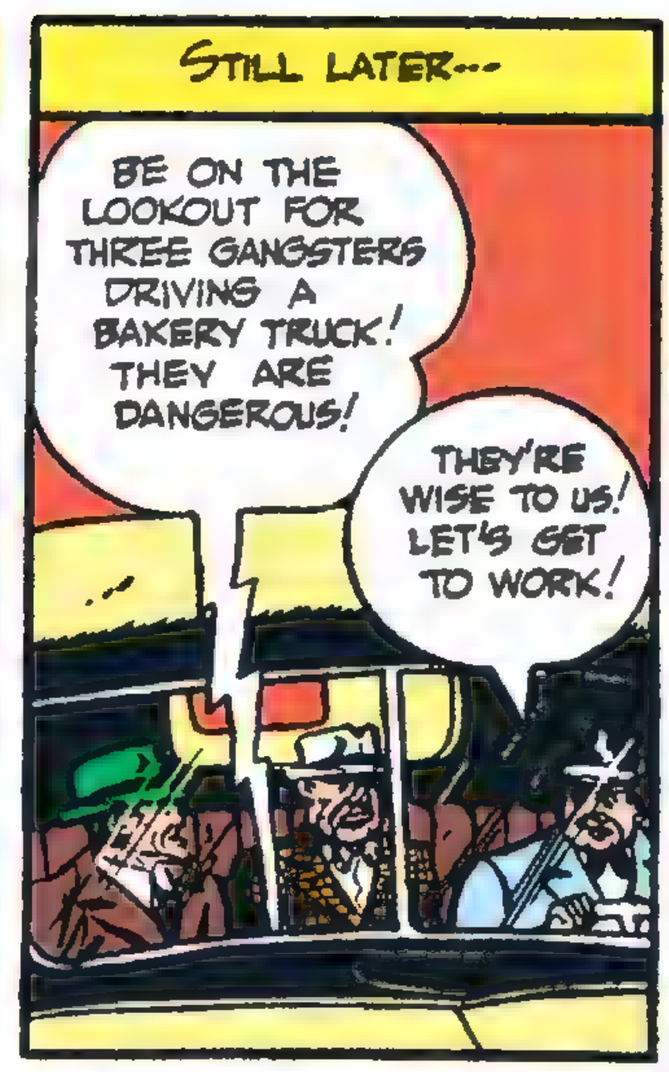
WHO ARE YOU CALLING NAMES--- RAT?

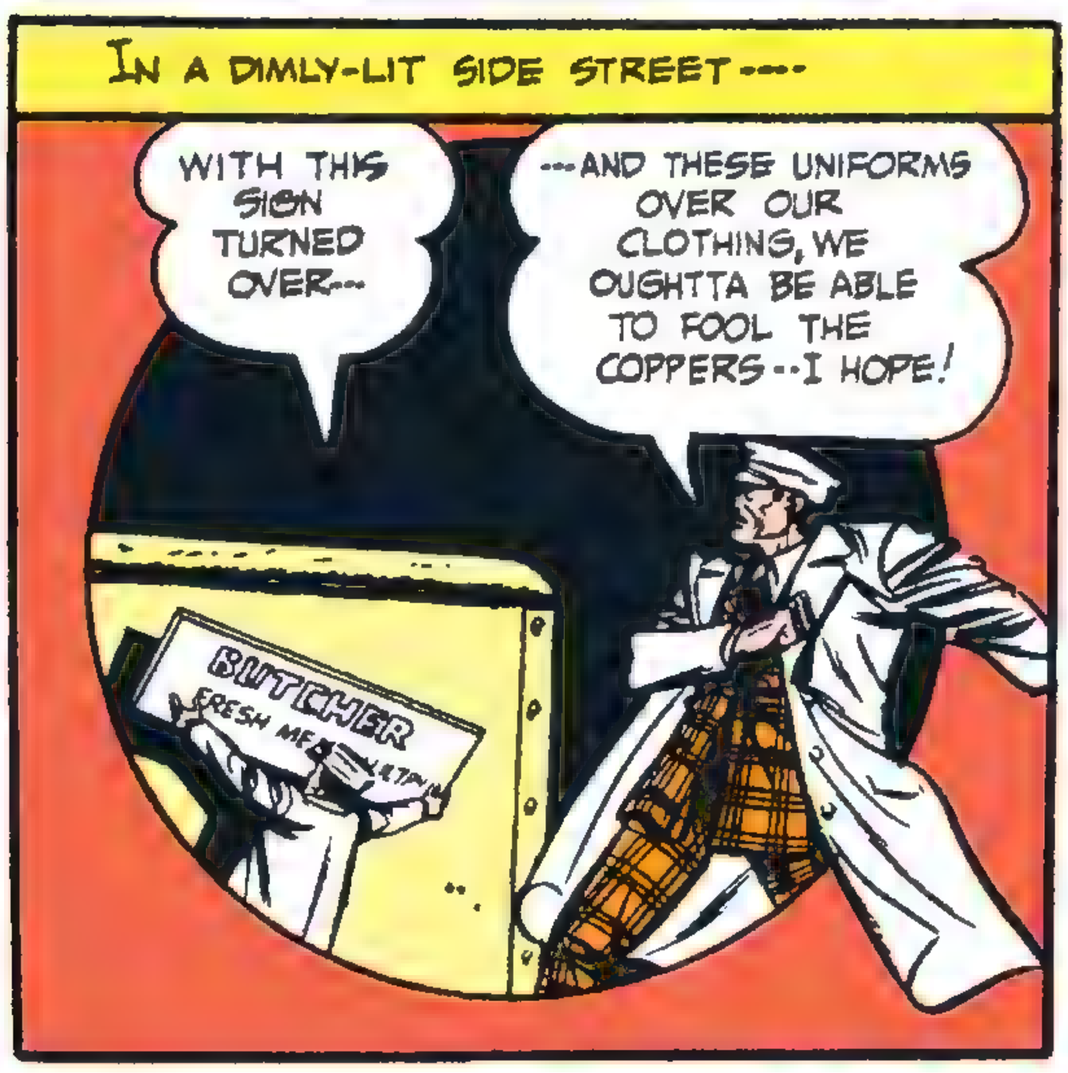

IN THE HEAT AND FURY OF BATTLE, THE BOMB IS UTTERLY FORGOTTEN. THE FUSE DWINDLES AND...
BOOM
...A WINDOW-SHATTERING, EAR-DEAFENING EXPLOSION!
3

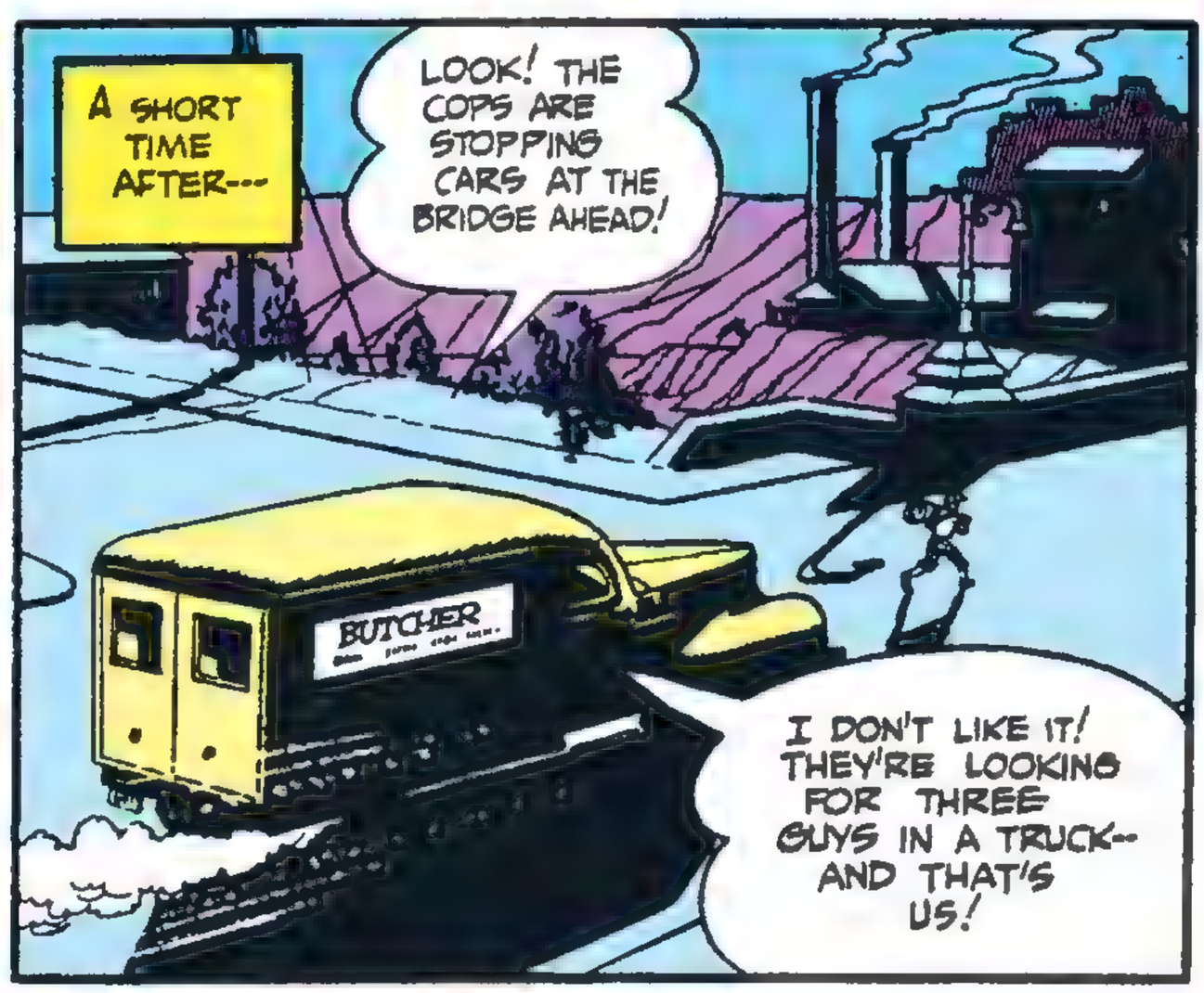

AS BAD LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE BARRAGE OF FLYING BRICK AND GLASS!
PICK UP YOUR FEET! MOVE!

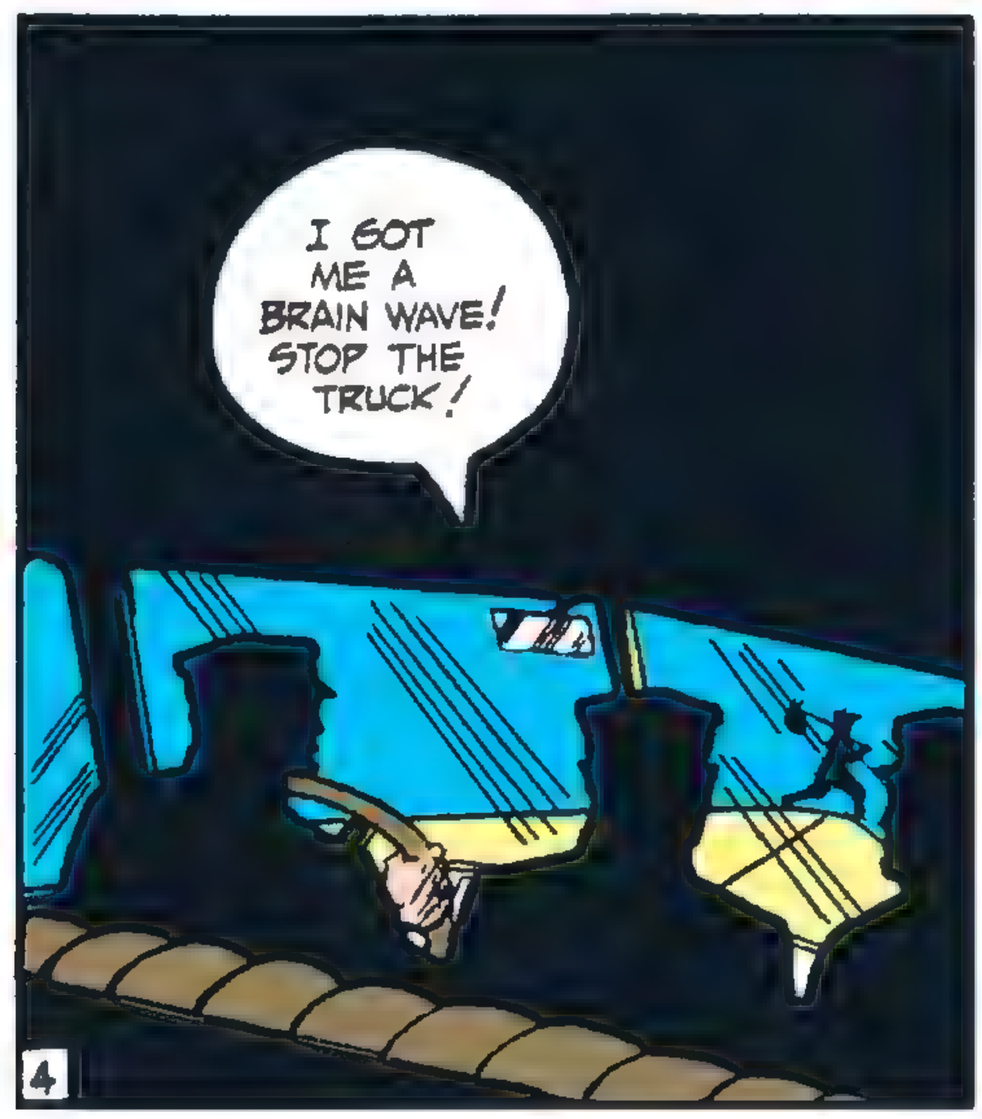

THE GETAWAY GROUP SCRAMBLES INTO A WAITING TRUCK!
GET THIS HEAP MOVING!
BAKERY


A MINUTE LATER---
BATMAN? WHAT HAPPENED? I HEARD A BLAST!
BETTER GET AN ALARM OUT FOR THREE THUGS IN A BAKERY TRUCK! YOU OKAY, ROBIN?
LEGS FEEL LIKE RUBBER, BUT I GUESS THERE'RE NO BONES BROKEN!


STILL LATER---
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THREE GANGSTERS DRIVING A BAKERY TRUCK! THEY ARE DANGEROUS!
THEY'RE WISE TO US! LET'S GET TO WORK!

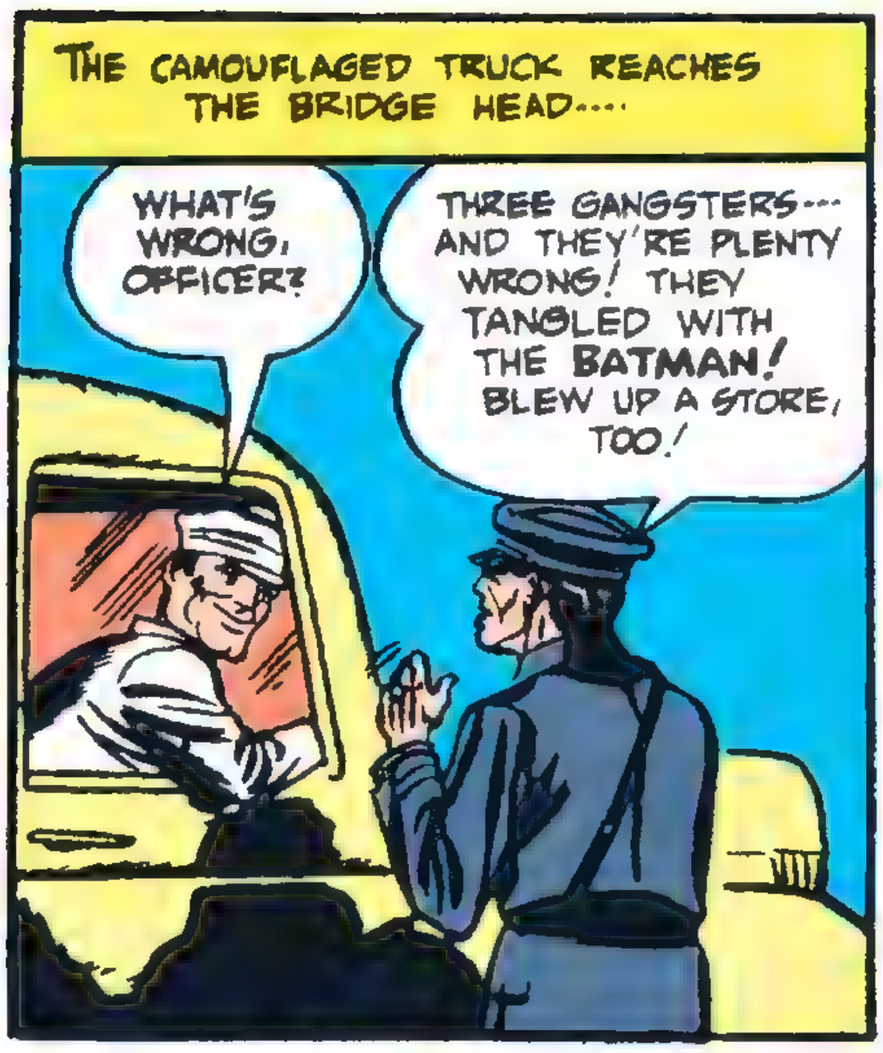

IN A DIMLY-LIT SIDE STREET----
WITH THIS SIGN TURNED OVER---
---AND THESE UNIFORMS OVER OUR CLOTHING, WE OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO FOOL THE COPPERS--I HOPE!
BUTCHER


A SHORT TIME AFTER---
LOOK! THE COPS ARE STOPPING CARS AT THE BRIDGE AHEAD!
BUTCHER
I DON'T LIKE IT! THEY'RE LOOKING FOR THREE GUYS IN A TRUCK-- AND THAT'S US!


I GOT ME A BRAIN WAVE! STOP THE TRUCK!
4

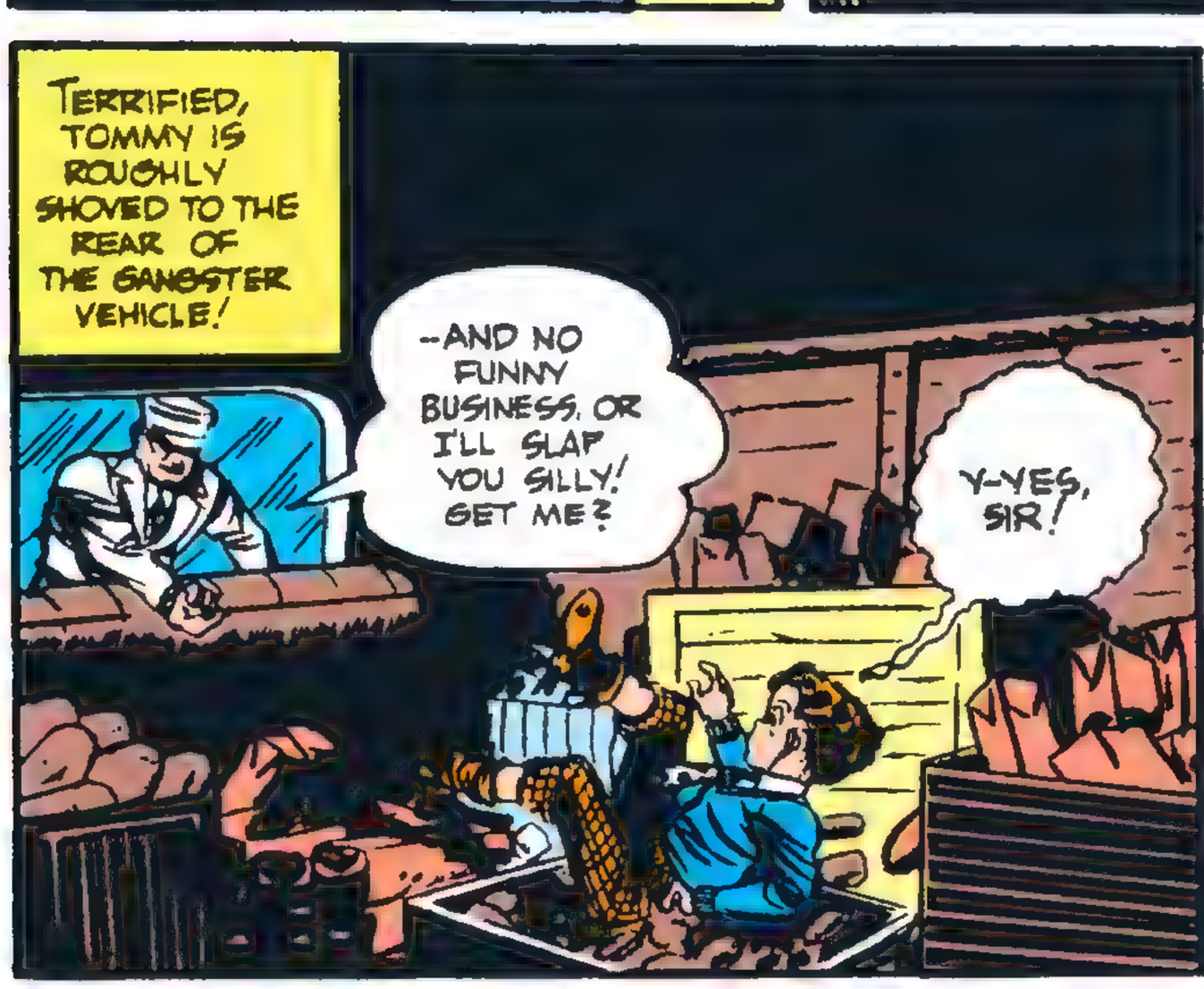
HI, KID! YOU MUST BE TIRED O' HIKIN'! HOW ABOUT A LIFT?
GEE, WHIZ! THANKS, MISTER! THANKS A LOT!

TOMMY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE CLIMBED INTO THAT TRUCK! IT'S RIDING YOU INTO MORE TROUBLE THAN YOUR REPORT CARD COULD EVER HAVE GIVEN YOU!

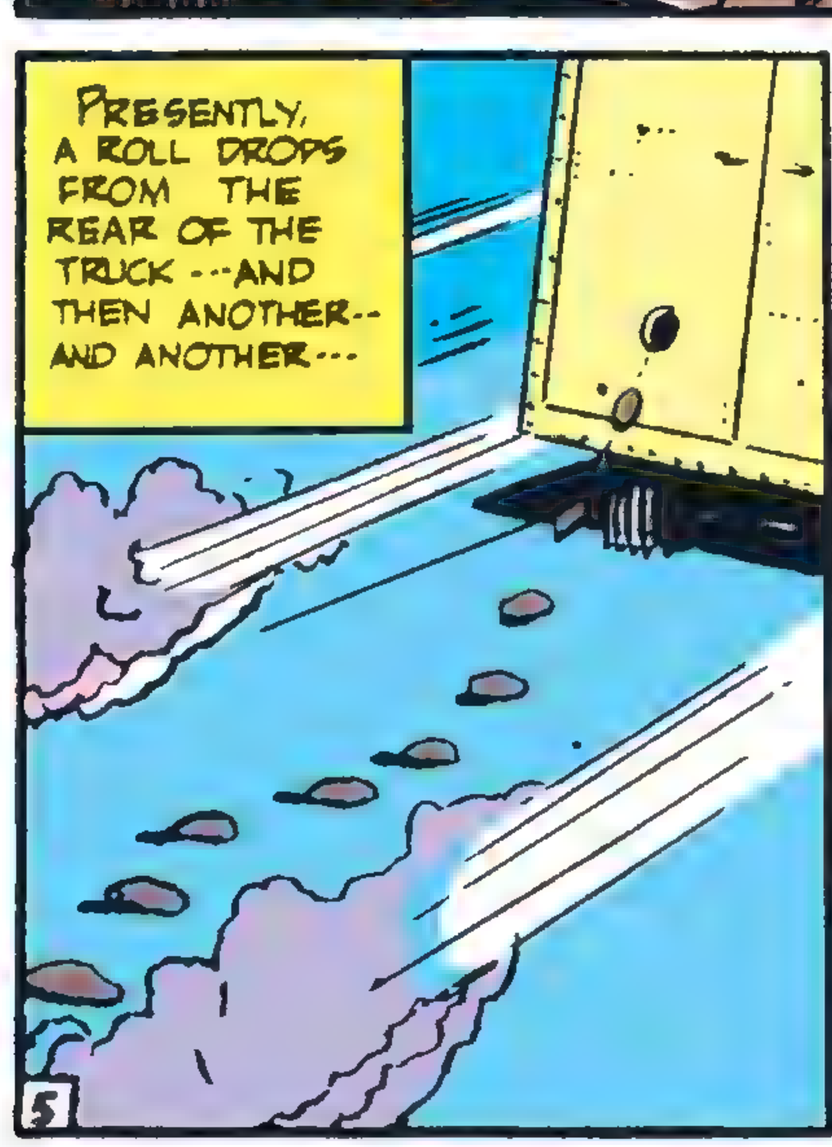

THE CAMOUFLAGED TRUCK REACHES THE BRIDGE HEAD....
WHAT'S WRONG, OFFICER?
THREE GANGSTERS--- AND THEY'RE PLENTY WRONG! THEY TANGLED WITH THE BATMAN! BLEW UP A STORE, TOO!

THREE MEN AND A BOY! AND THIS IS A MEAT TRUCK. I GUESS YOU'RE OKAY! GET GOING!
THANK YOU, OFFICER-- THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THE BATMAN! WOW!

HAW, HAW! THAT DUMB COPPER HAD HIS HANDS ON THE THREE GUYS HE WAS LOOKIN' FOR- AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT!
Y-YOU'RE THE GANGSTERS! OH, GOLLY--- --OH, GOLLY!
SHOVE THE BRAT IN THE BACK! THE BOSS WILL TELL US WHAT TO DO WITH HIM!

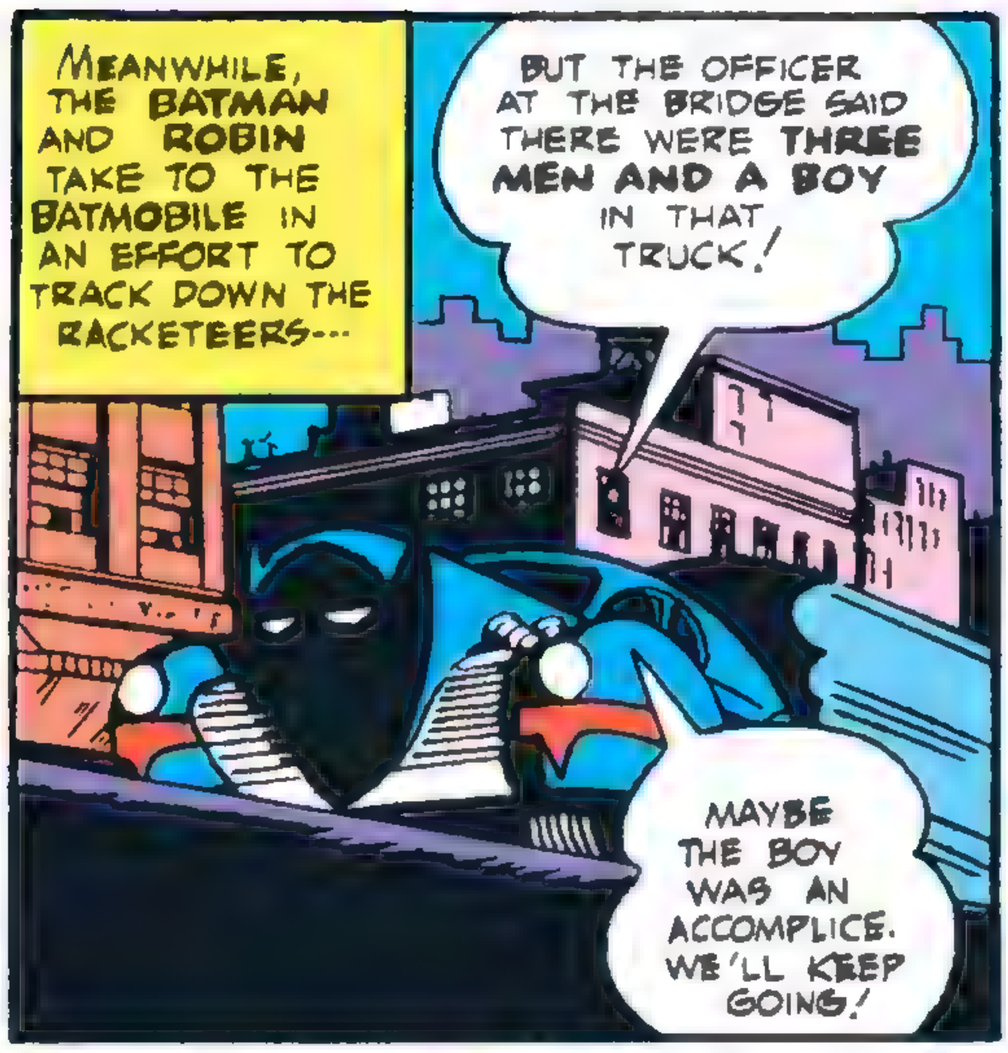

TERRIFIED, TOMMY IS ROUGHLY SHOVED TO THE REAR OF THE GANGSTER VEHICLE!
--AND NO FUNNY BUSINESS, OR I'LL SLAP YOU SILLY! GET ME?
Y-YES, SIR!

I WISH I WAS HOME! THOSE GANGSTERS MIGHT EVEN K-KILL ME. I GOTTA GET HELP! THOSE ROLLS---AND THAT HOLE---MAYBE I CAN LEAVE A TRAIL LIKE A BOY SCOUT DOES IN THE WOODS---

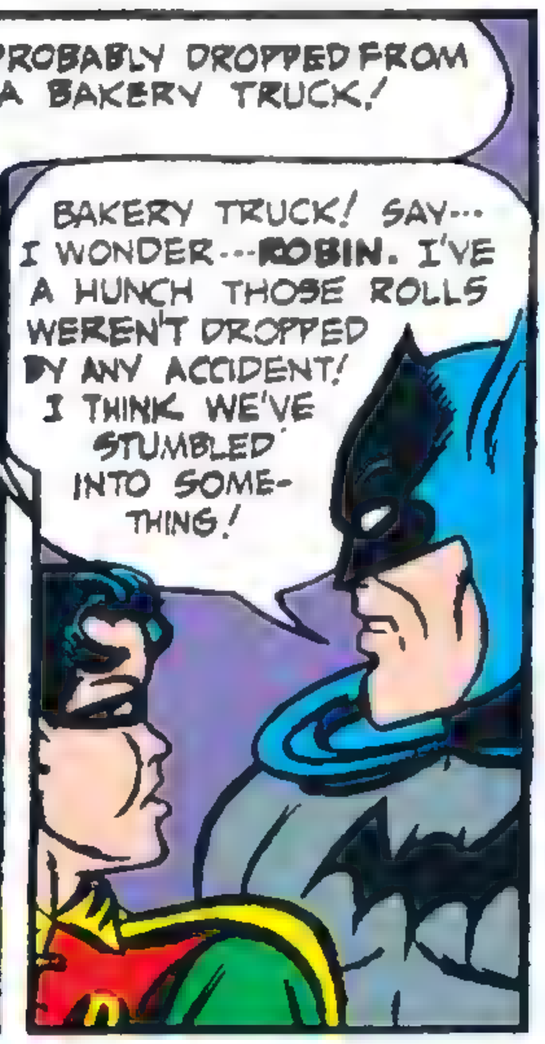

PRESENTLY, A ROLL DROPS FROM THE REAR OF THE TRUCK---AND THEN ANOTHER-- AND ANOTHER---
5

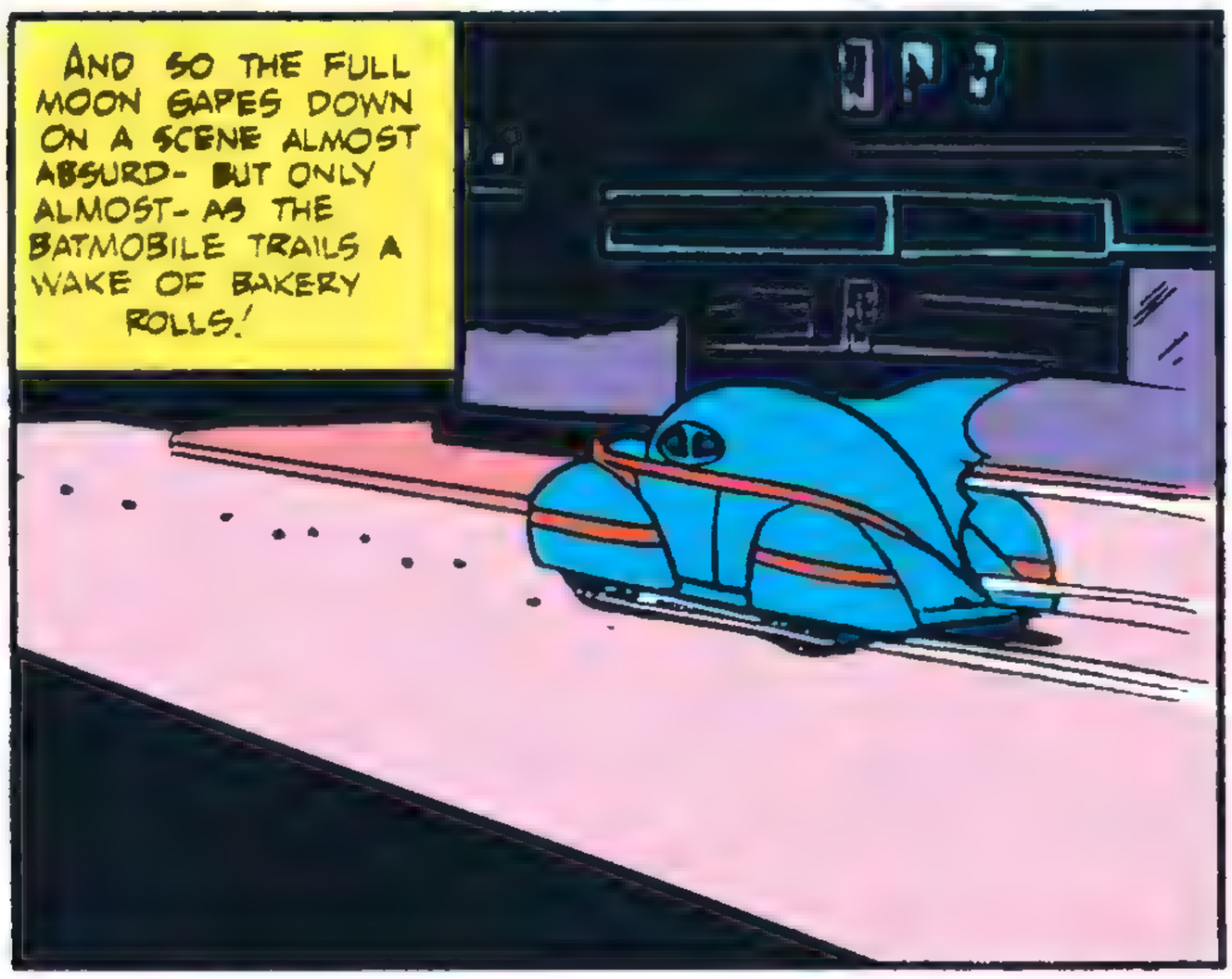
SOME TIME AFTER, THE TRUCK GRINDS TO A STOP ON A SIDE STREET/...
Florist
L. MILO
Florist
MOVE, AND DON'T LET ME HEAR A PEEP OUTA YA!

THE HOODLUMS WALK TO THE REAR OF THE FLORIST STORE AND OPEN A DOOR
HYA, BOSS?
AH, MUGGSY! COME AND SMELL MY NEW ROSES! THEY'RE EXQUISITE-- EXQUISITE!


MEANWHILE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TAKE TO THE BATMOBILE IN AN EFFORT TO TRACK DOWN THE RACKETEERS---
BUT THE OFFICER AT THE BRIDGE SAID THERE WERE THREE MEN AND A BOY IN THAT TRUCK!
MAYBE THE BOY WAS AN ACCOMPLICE. WE'LL KEEP GOING!

SAY--- LOOK AT THAT!
ROLLS LINED UP ON THE STREETS! THAT'S ODD! VERY ODD!


PROBABLY DROPPED FROM A BAKERY TRUCK!
BAKERY TRUCK! SAY--- I WONDER---ROBIN. I'VE A HUNCH THOSE ROLLS WEREN'T DROPPED BY ANY ACCIDENT! I THINK WE'VE STUMBLED INTO SOMETHING!


AND SO THE FULL MOON GAPES DOWN ON A SCENE ALMOST ABSURD- BUT ONLY ALMOST- AS THE BATMOBILE TRAILS A WAKE OF BAKERY ROLLS!

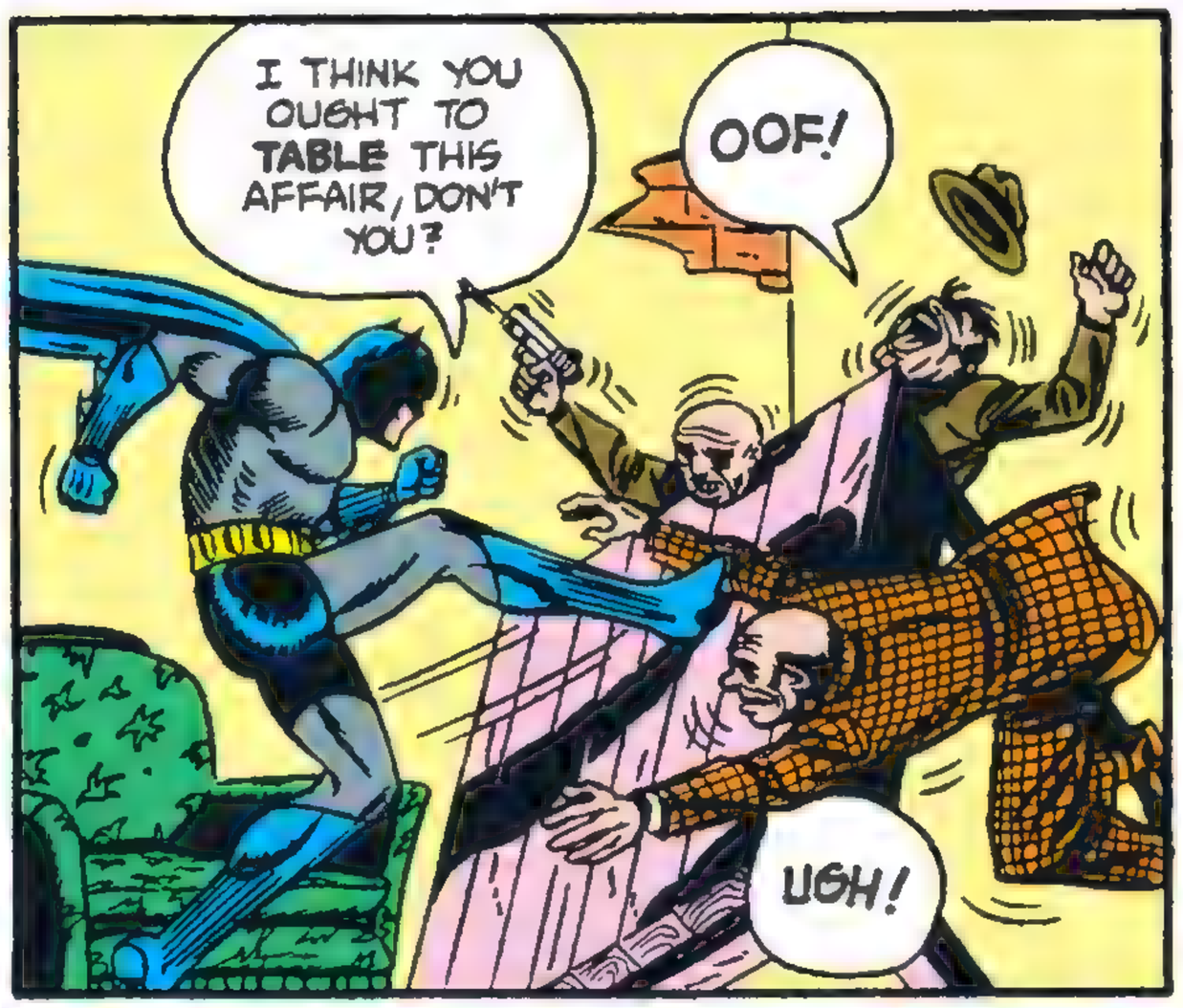
AT THAT VERY MOMENT----IN THE FLOWER SHOP---
AND SO YOU PICKED UP THIS CHERUB TO ELUDE THE POLICE! THAT WAS CLEVER OF YOU, MUGGSY!
I THOUGHT SO TOO, MILO!

BUT NOT CLEVER ENOUGH! YOU STUPID LOUT, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HIM TO THE HIDEOUT! SUPPOSE HE ESCAPES?
6

AW, BOSS! BUT HE WON'T ESCAPE!
RIGHT! TIE HIM UP IN A SACK AND THROW HIM IN A RIVER. SHOOT HIM, ANYTHING---BUT GET RID OF HIM! THE DAHLIA IS A DELICATE FLOWER, DON'T YOU THINK SO, MUGGSY?
SNIFF SNIFF

NO---NO--- YOU'RE GOING TO HURT ME!
WHY---WHAT EVER PUT THAT IDEA INTO YOUR HEAD, KID?
YOU DID, OF COURSE!

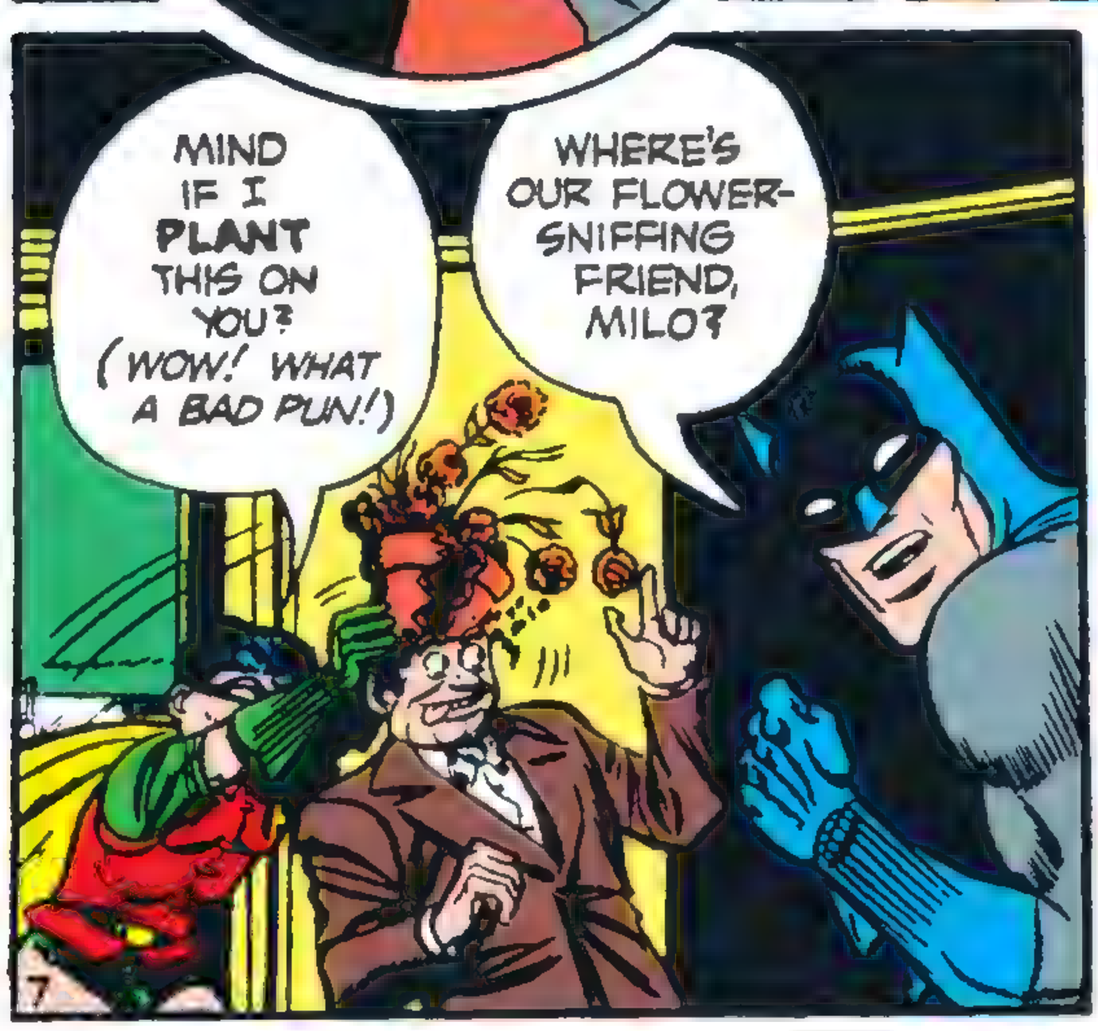
THE BATMAN!
DON'T STAND THERE LIKE FOOLS! CLUB HIM DOWN! HIM AND THAT ROBIN BOY!

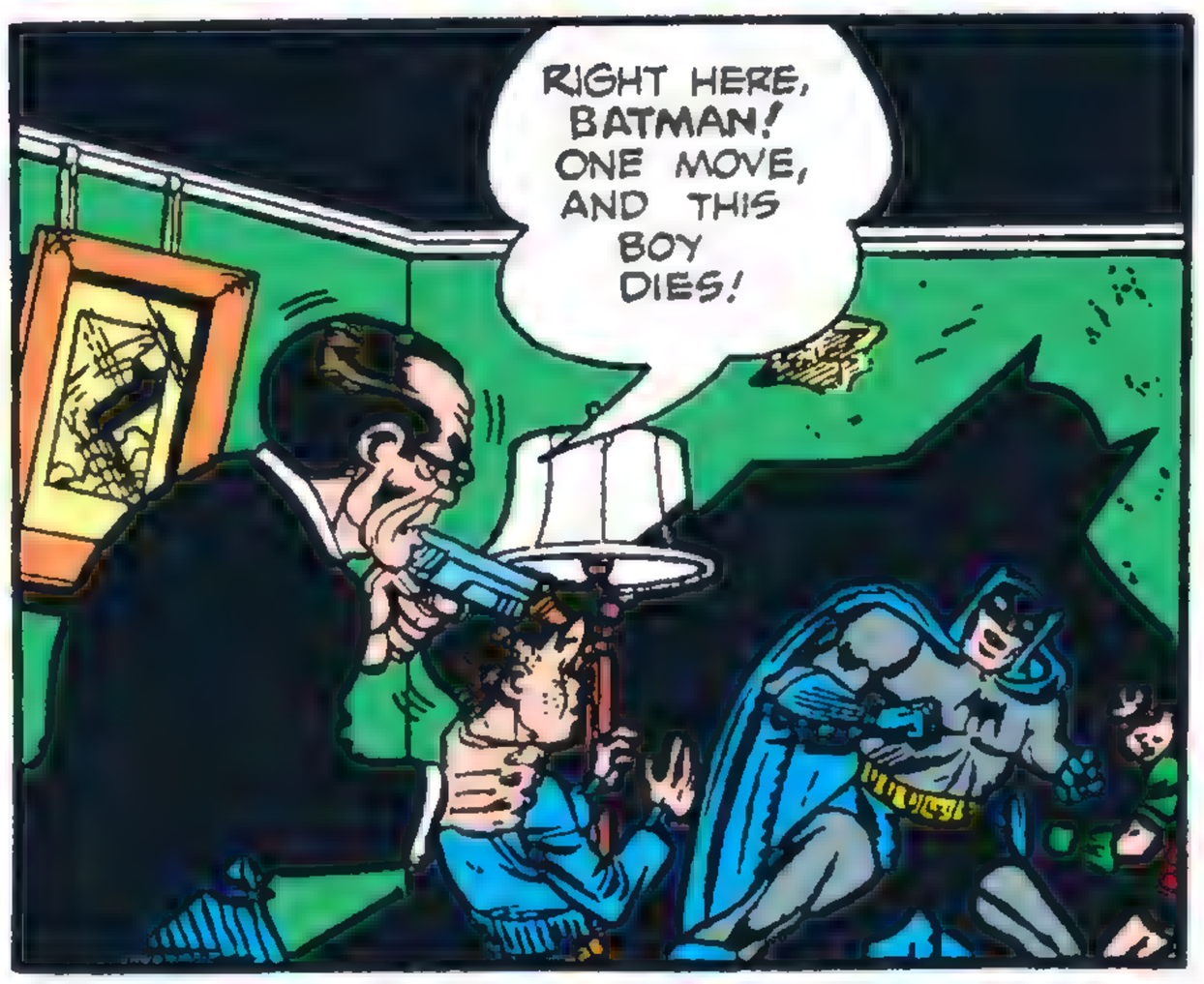

I THINK YOU OUGHT TO TABLE THIS AFFAIR, DON'T YOU?
OOF!
UGH!

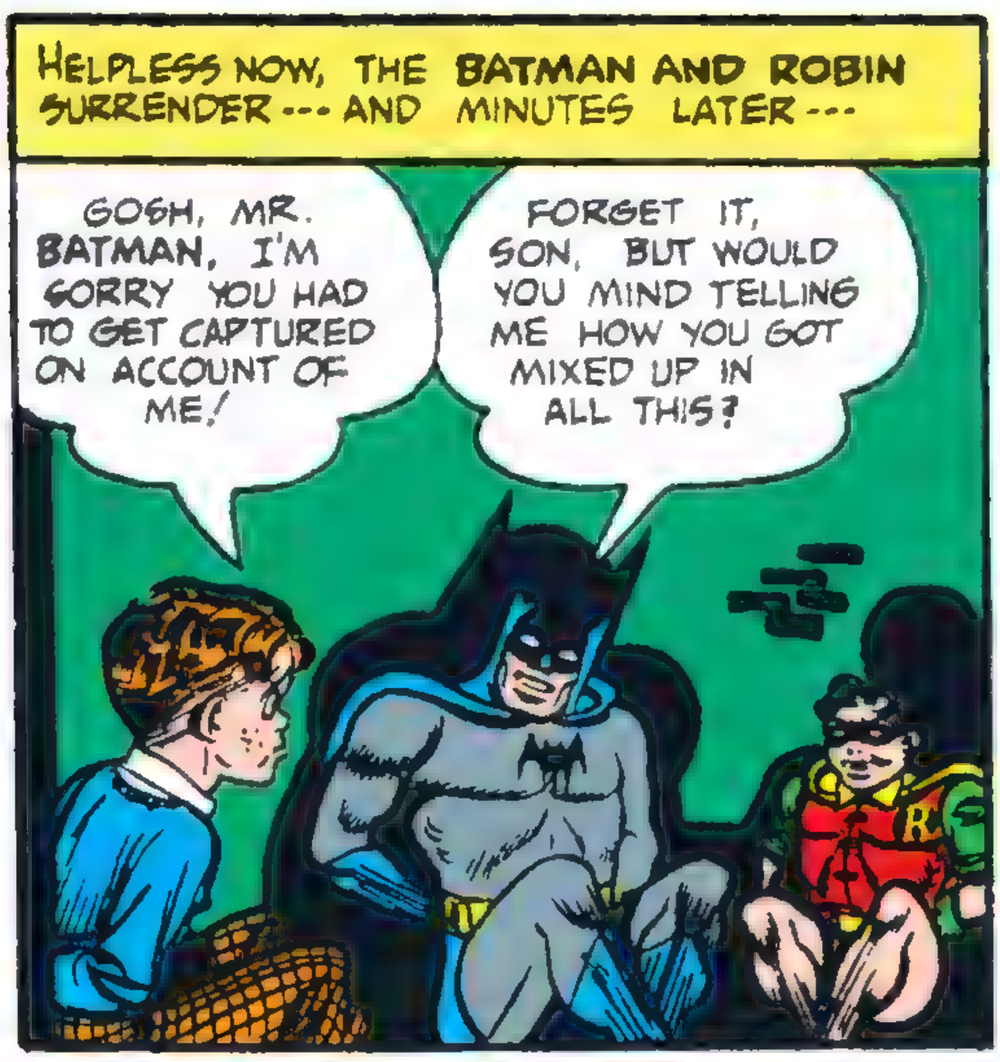
I'M GONNA—
DON'T TRY IT! IT ISN'T WORTH THE EFFORT!

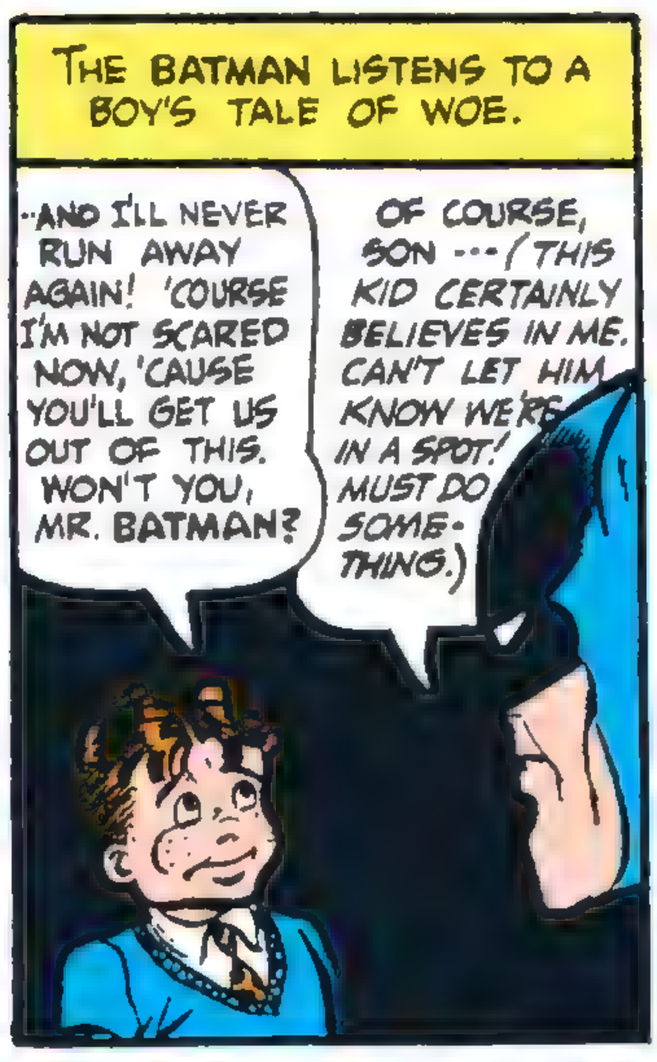
KEEN-EDGED DANGER SWOOPS DOWN TOWARD ROBIN'S UNDEFENDED BACK---
OH! OH!

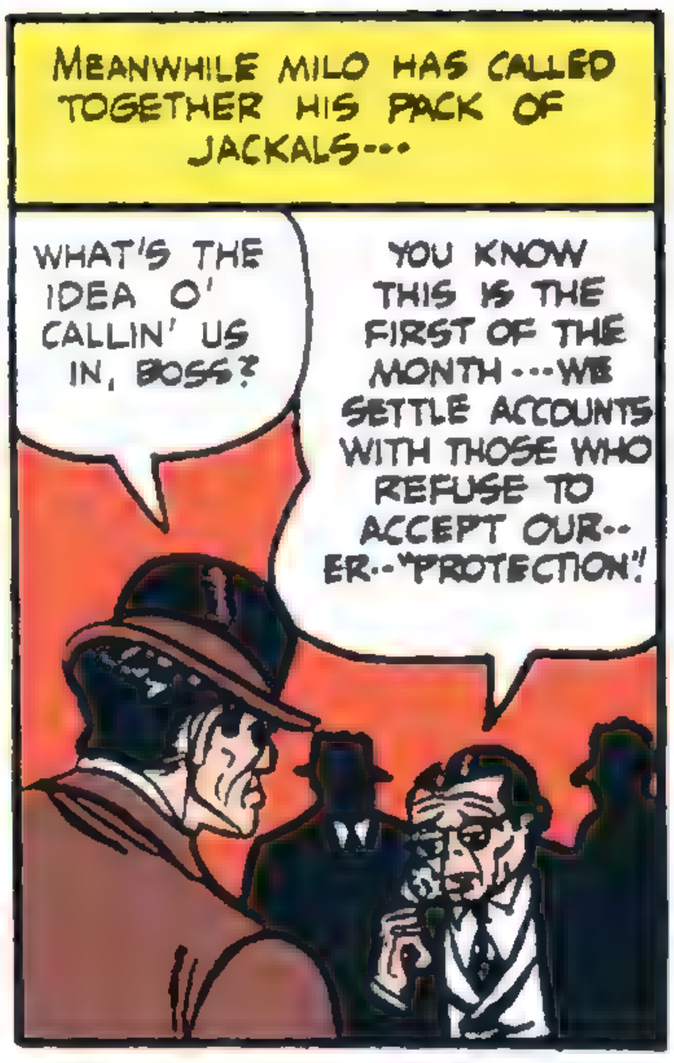
BUT ROBIN'S NIMBLE BRAIN AND LITHE BODY ACT IN PERFECT RHYTHM!
MY, AREN'T YOU THE LITTLE CUT-UP!


MIND IF I PLANT THIS ON YOU? (WOW! WHAT A BAD PUN!)
WHERE'S OUR FLOWER-SNIFFING FRIEND, MILO?

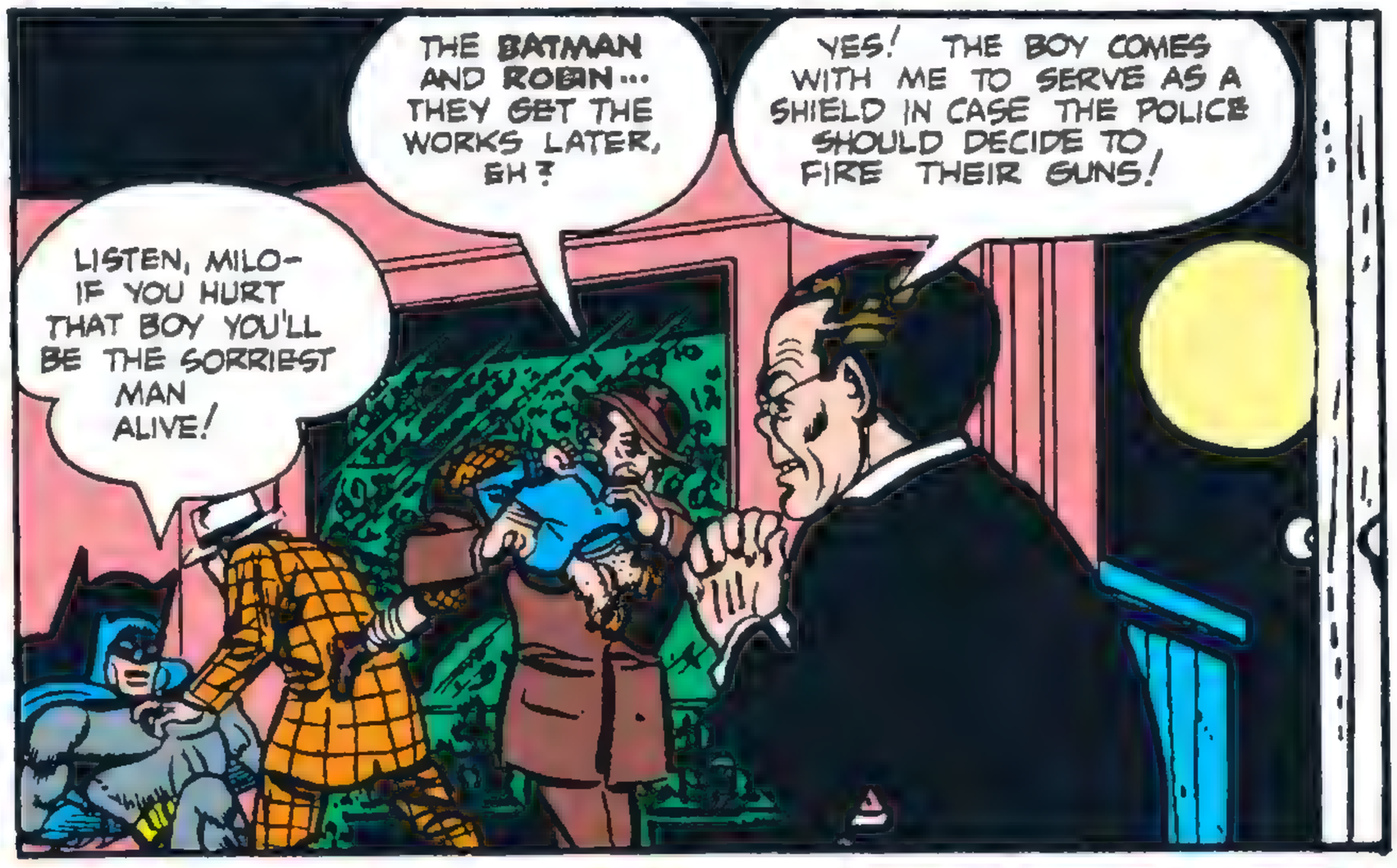

RIGHT HERE, BATMAN! ONE MOVE, AND THIS BOY DIES!

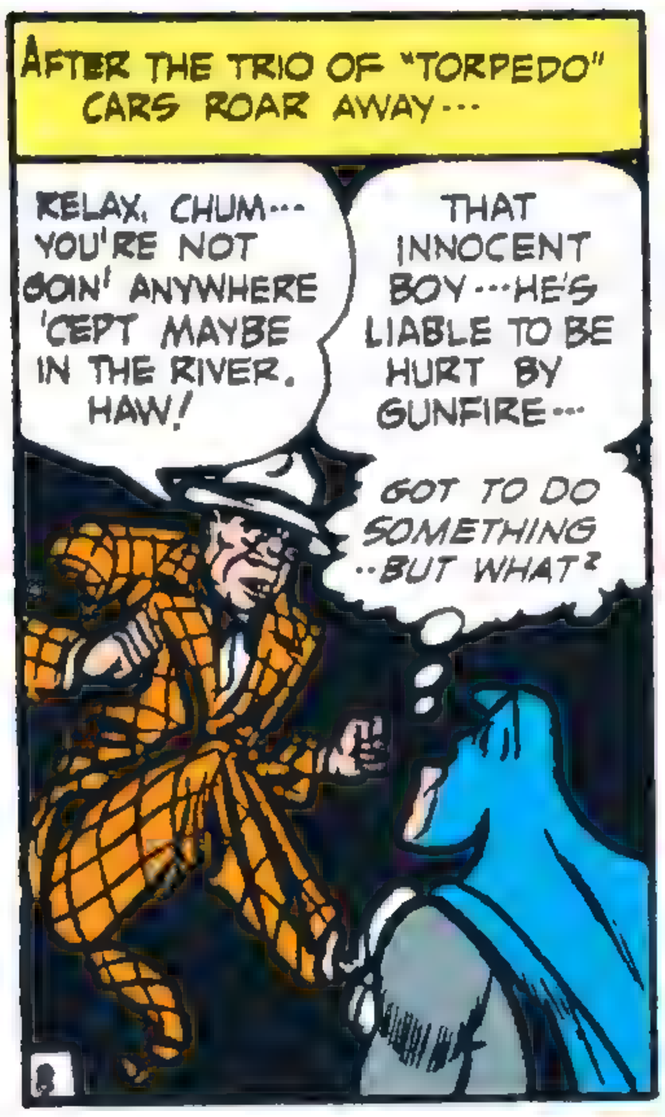

HELPLESS NOW, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SURRENDER --- AND MINUTES LATER ---
GOSH, MR. BATMAN, I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GET CAPTURED ON ACCOUNT OF ME!
FORGET IT, SON, BUT WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME HOW YOU GOT MIXED UP IN ALL THIS?

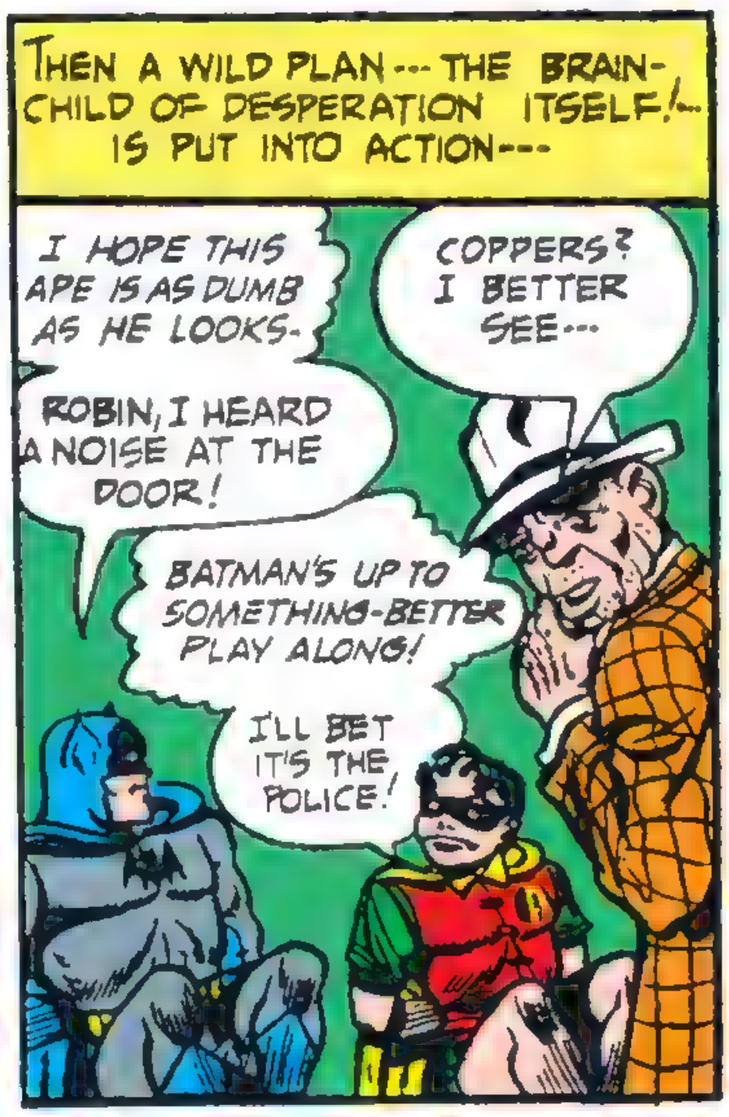

THE BATMAN LISTENS TO A BOY'S TALE OF WOE.
..AND I'LL NEVER RUN AWAY AGAIN! 'COURSE I'M NOT SCARED NOW, 'CAUSE YOU'LL GET US OUT OF THIS. WON'T YOU, MR. BATMAN?
OF COURSE, SON ---(THIS KID CERTAINLY BELIEVES IN ME. CAN'T LET HIM KNOW WE'RE IN A SPOT! MUST DO SOME-THING.)

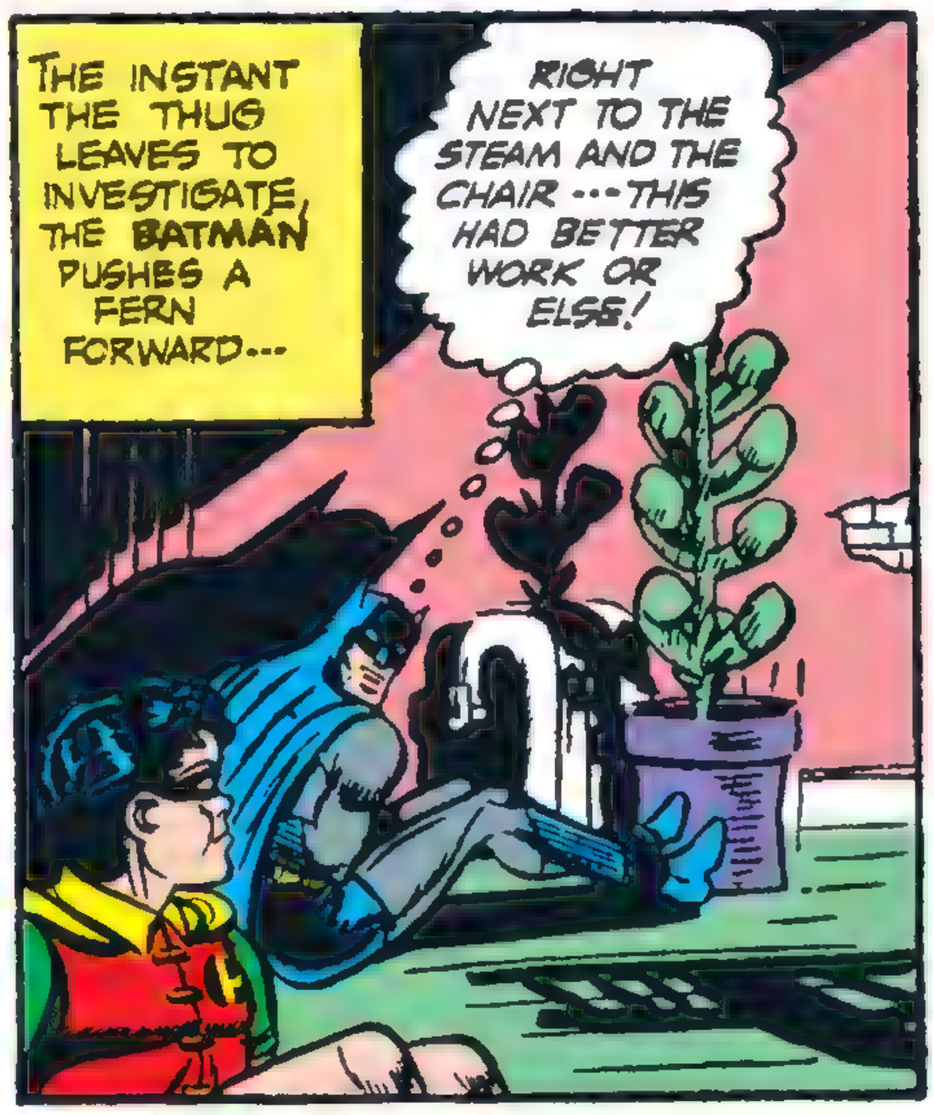

MEANWHILE MILO HAS CALLED TOGETHER HIS PACK OF JACKALS---
WHAT'S THE IDEA O' CALLIN' US IN, BOSS?
YOU KNOW THIS IS THE FIRST OF THE MONTH ---WE SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THOSE WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT OUR-- ER--"PROTECTION"!

SURE-- THIS IS PAYOFF NIGHT!
RIGHT! BUT THE POLICE ARE ON THE PROWL FOR US! SO WE MUST WORK FASTER. SPLIT INTO THREE GROUPS AND TAKE THREE CARS TO THESE ADDRESSES!

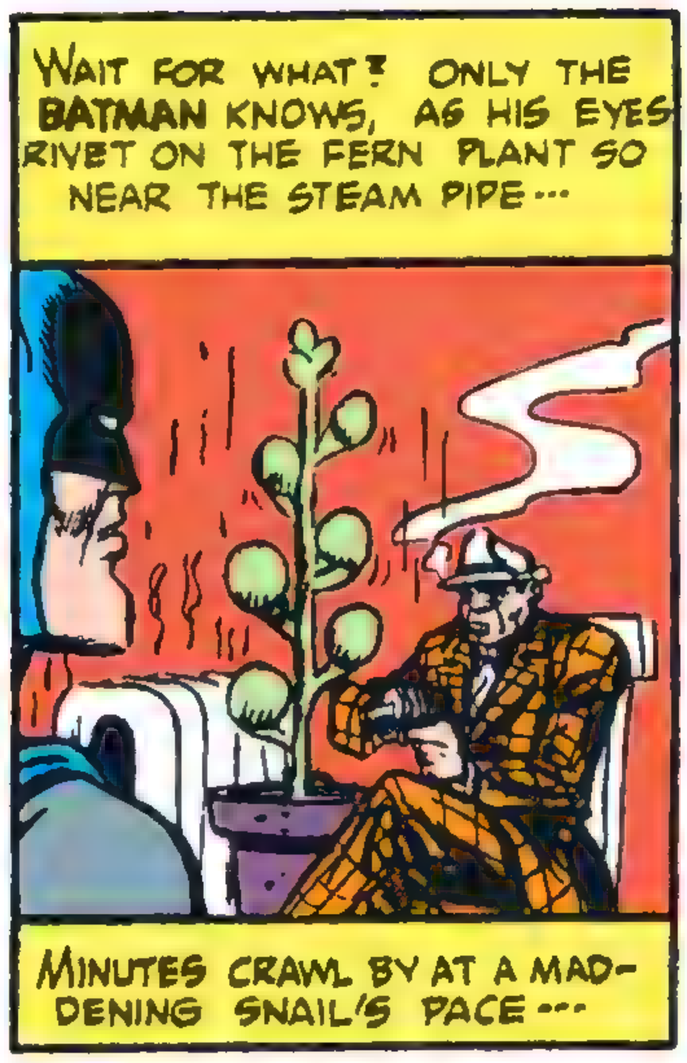

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN... THEY GET THE WORKS LATER, EH?
YES! THE BOY COMES WITH ME TO SERVE AS A SHIELD IN CASE THE POLICE SHOULD DECIDE TO FIRE THEIR GUNS!
LISTEN, MILO- IF YOU HURT THAT BOY YOU'LL BE THE SORRIEST MAN ALIVE!

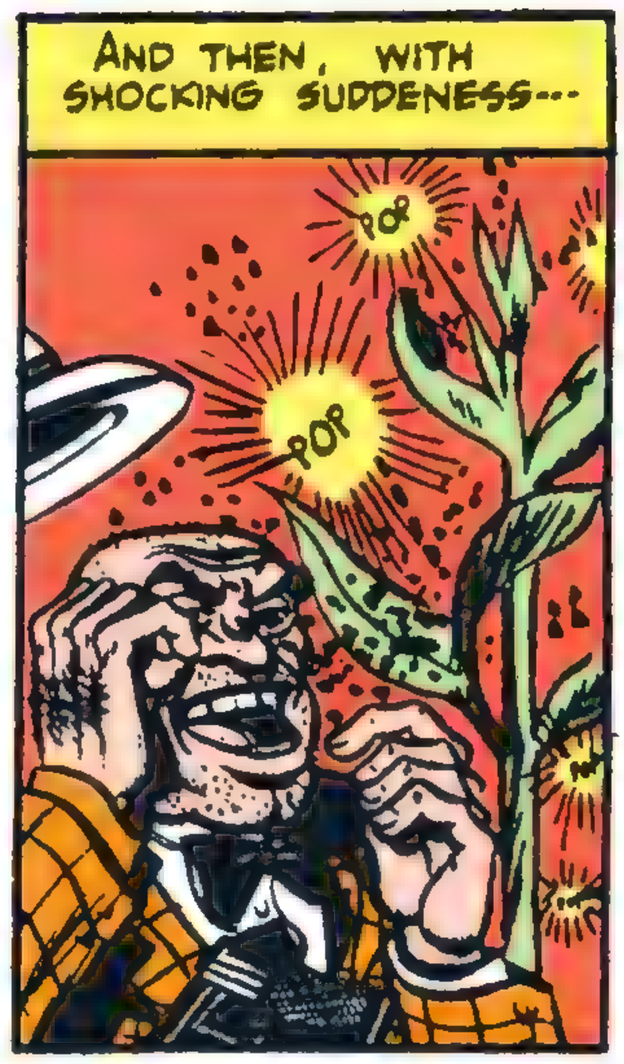

AFTER THE TRIO OF "TORPEDO" CARS ROAR AWAY ---
RELAX, CHUM--- YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE 'CEPT MAYBE IN THE RIVER. HAW!
THAT INNOCENT BOY ---HE'S LIABLE TO BE HURT BY GUNFIRE---
GOT TO DO SOMETHING ..BUT WHAT?

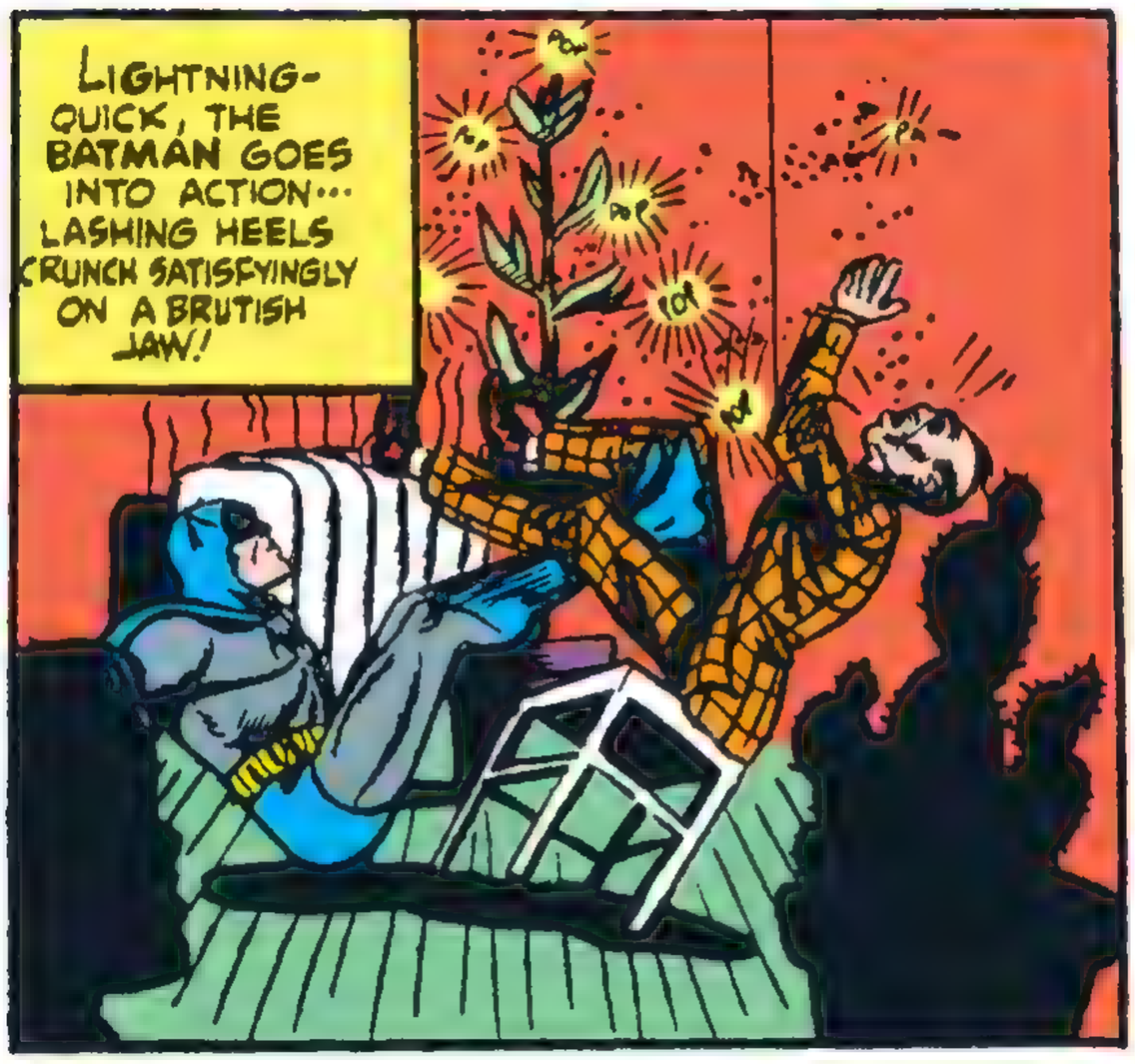

THEN A WILD PLAN --- THE BRAIN-CHILD OF DESPERATION ITSELF!-- IS PUT INTO ACTION---
I HOPE THIS APE IS AS DUMB AS HE LOOKS-
COPPERS? I BETTER SEE---
ROBIN, I HEARD A NOISE AT THE DOOR!
BATMAN'S UP TO SOMETHING-BETTER PLAY ALONG!
I'LL BET IT'S THE POLICE!


THE INSTANT THE THUG LEAVES TO INVESTIGATE, THE BATMAN PUSHES A FERN FORWARD---
RIGHT NEXT TO THE STEAM AND THE CHAIR ---THIS HAD BETTER WORK OR ELSE!

HAW! HAW! YOU MUSTA HEARD MICE! AIN'T A COP IN SIGHT! WAIT'LL I TELL MILO HOW NERVOUS YOU ARE!
WE'LL WAIT... (BUT NOT FOR MILO!)
LATER...

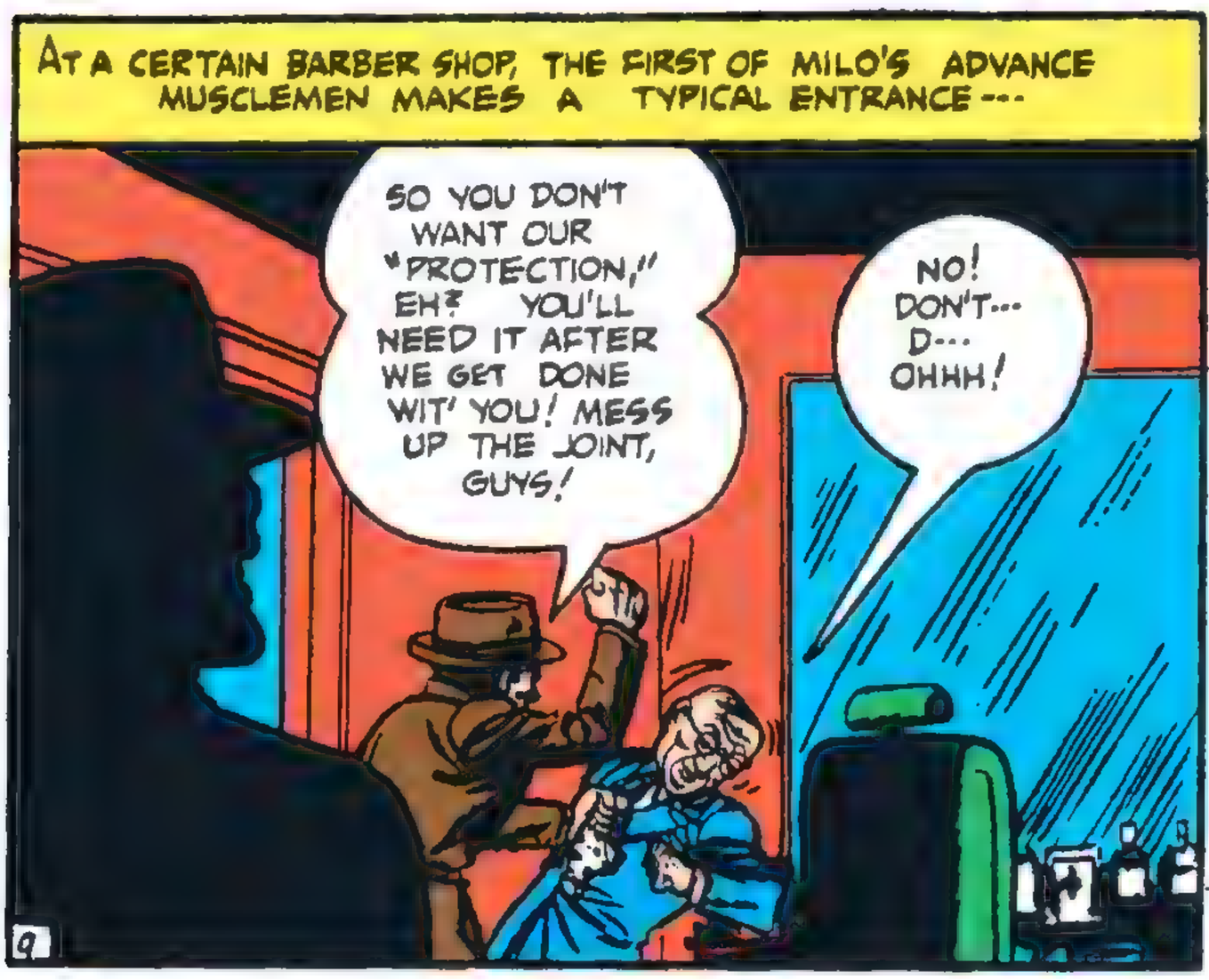

WAIT FOR WHAT? ONLY THE BATMAN KNOWS, AS HIS EYES RIVET ON THE FERN PLANT SO NEAR THE STEAM PIPE...
MINUTES CRAWL BY AT A MADDENING SNAIL'S PACE...


AND THEN, WITH SHOCKING SUDDENESS...
POP
POP

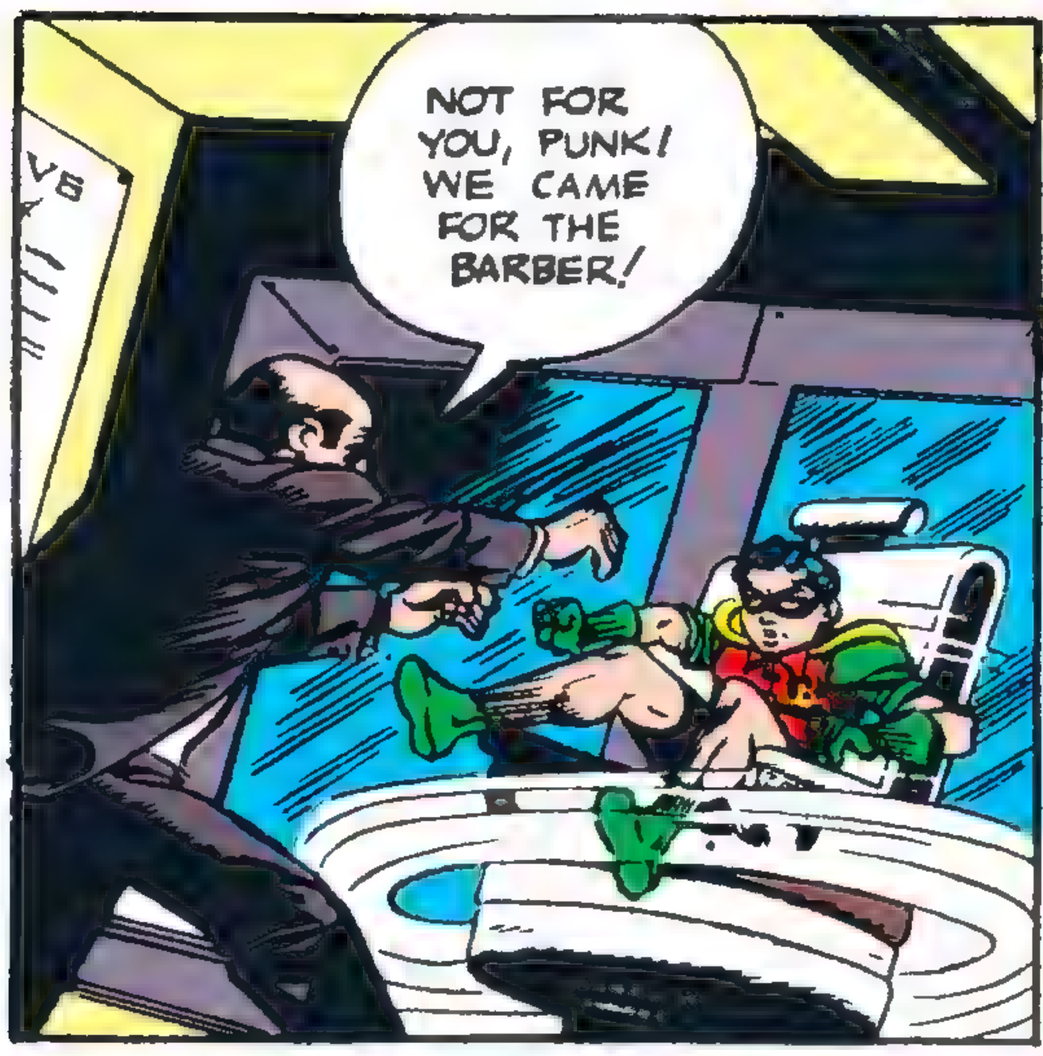

LIGHTNING-QUICK, THE BATMAN GOES INTO ACTION... LASHING HEELS CRUNCH SATISFYINGLY ON A BRUTISH JAW!

WHAT HAPPENED? IT WAS SO FAST..
I ONCE READ IN THE ENCYCLOPEDIA THAT THE FERN PLANT VIOLENTLY EJECTS SEEDS WHEN IT IS RIPE! PUTTING IT NEAR THE EXTREMELY HOT STEAM PIPE MADE IT RIPEN ALL THE FASTER! IT WAS A CHANCE.. BUT IT WORKED!

LATER, AFTER CUTTING THEIR BONDS WITH THE UNCONSCIOUS THUG'S KNIFE...
WHAT'S IN THAT BOOK? THE NAMES OF CUSTOMERS?
"PROTECTION" CUSTOMERS--AND THREE NAMES ARE CHECKED! THE PLACES MILO'S MOB WENT TO! THAT MEANS WE MOVE! WE'LL SPLIT UP AND MEET LATER! LET'S GO!


AT A CERTAIN BARBER SHOP, THE FIRST OF MILO'S ADVANCE MUSCLEMEN MAKES A TYPICAL ENTRANCE...
SO YOU DON'T WANT OUR "PROTECTION," EH? YOU'LL NEED IT AFTER WE GET DONE WIT' YOU! MESS UP THE JOINT, GUYS!
NO! DON'T... D... OHHH!

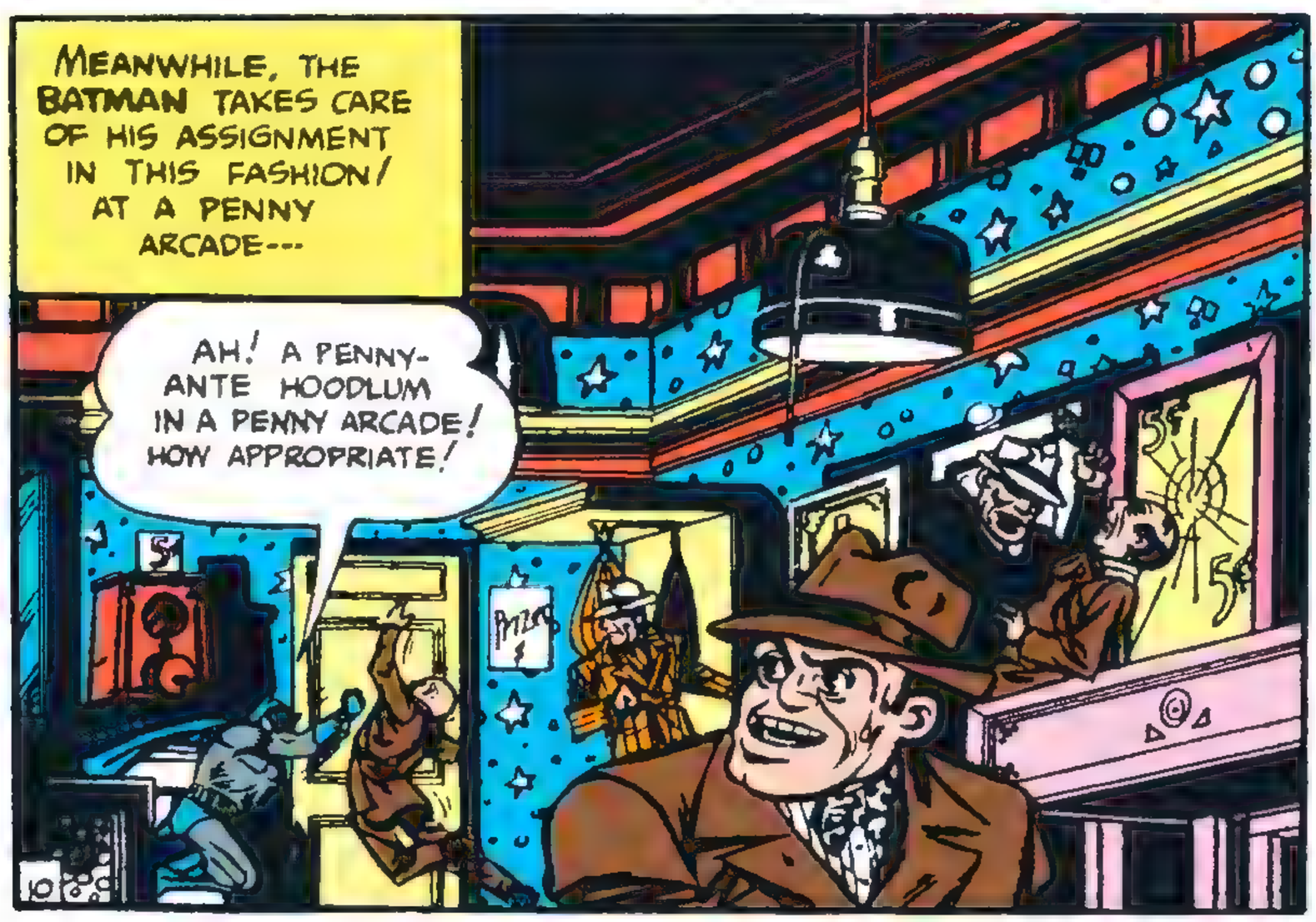
BUT ANOTHER TYPICAL ENTRANCE IS MADE... BY THE BOY WONDER, ROBIN!
YOU "GENTLEMEN" LOOKING FOR ME?


NOT FOR YOU, PUNK! WE CAME FOR THE BARBER!

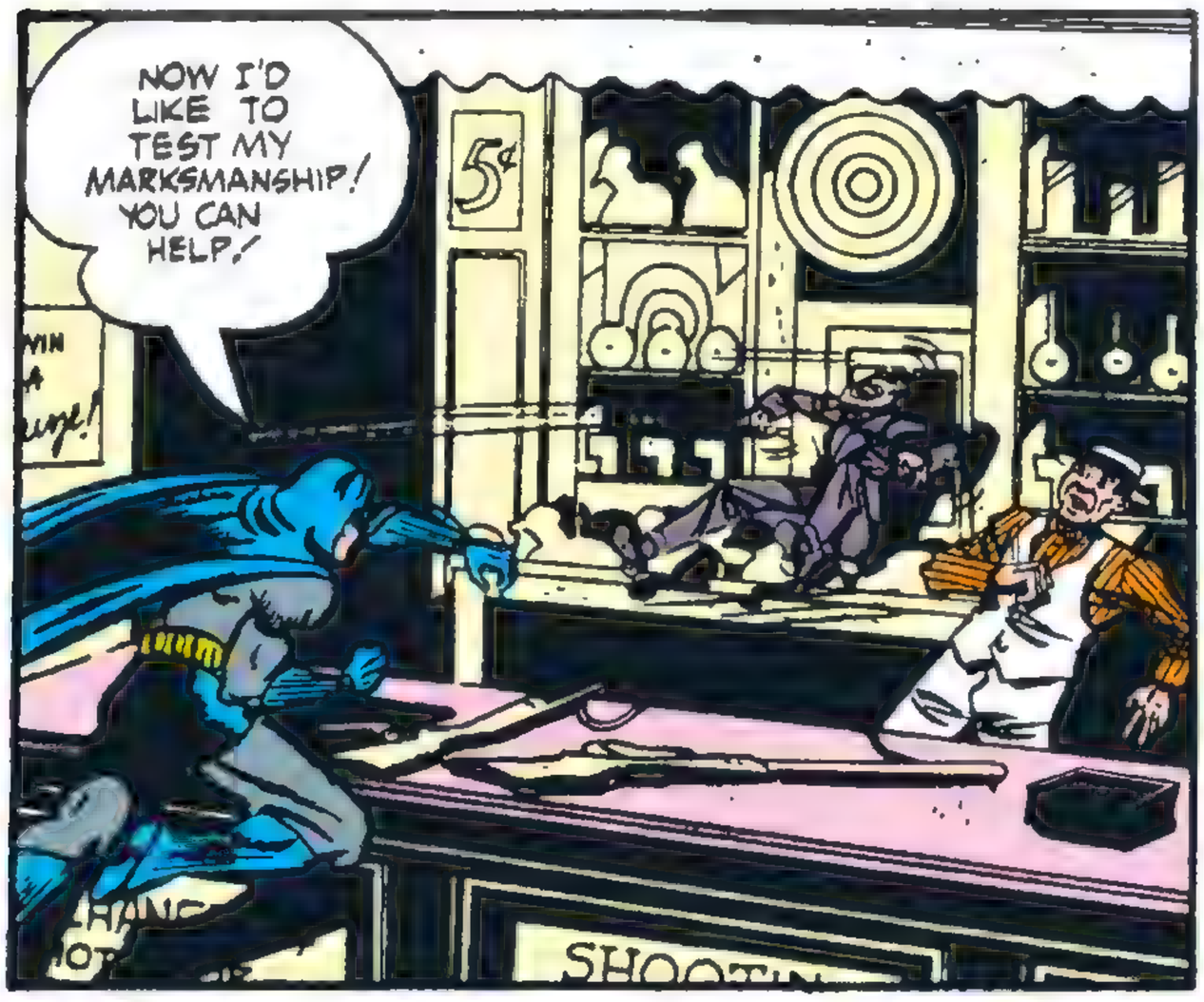
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? I'M THE NEW BARBER-- AND I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU THE WORKS!

GULP!
HOW ABOUT A SHAVE-- AND A HOT TOWEL?

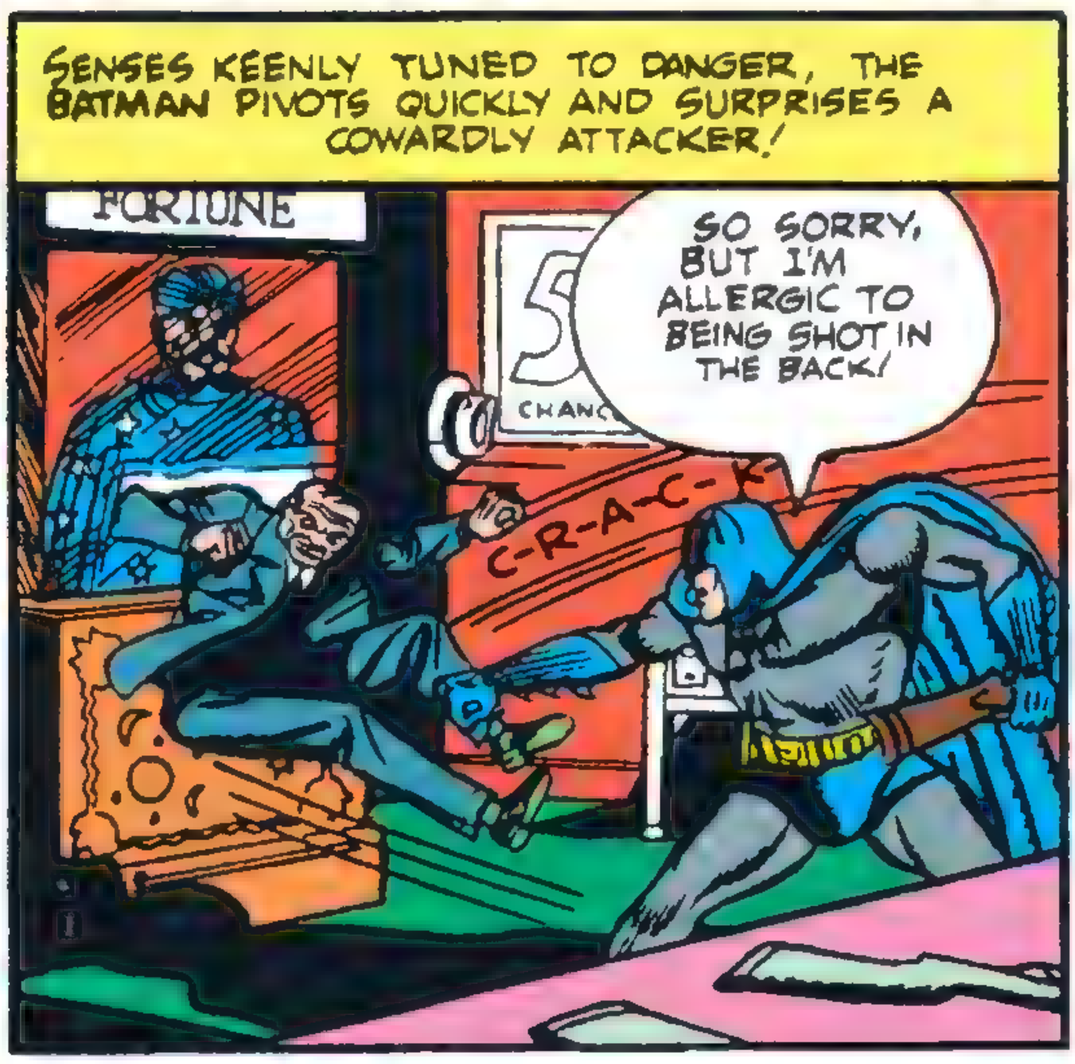
ROBIN MAKES GOOD USE OF THE ELECTRIC VIBRATOR!
--AND WE MUSTN'T FORGET A FACIAL MASSAGE---
B-BR-R-R-


MEANWHILE, THE BATMAN TAKES CARE OF HIS ASSIGNMENT IN THIS FASHION/ AT A PENNY ARCADE---
AH! A PENNY-ANTE HOODLUM IN A PENNY ARCADE! HOW APPROPRIATE!

HARD ENOUGH?

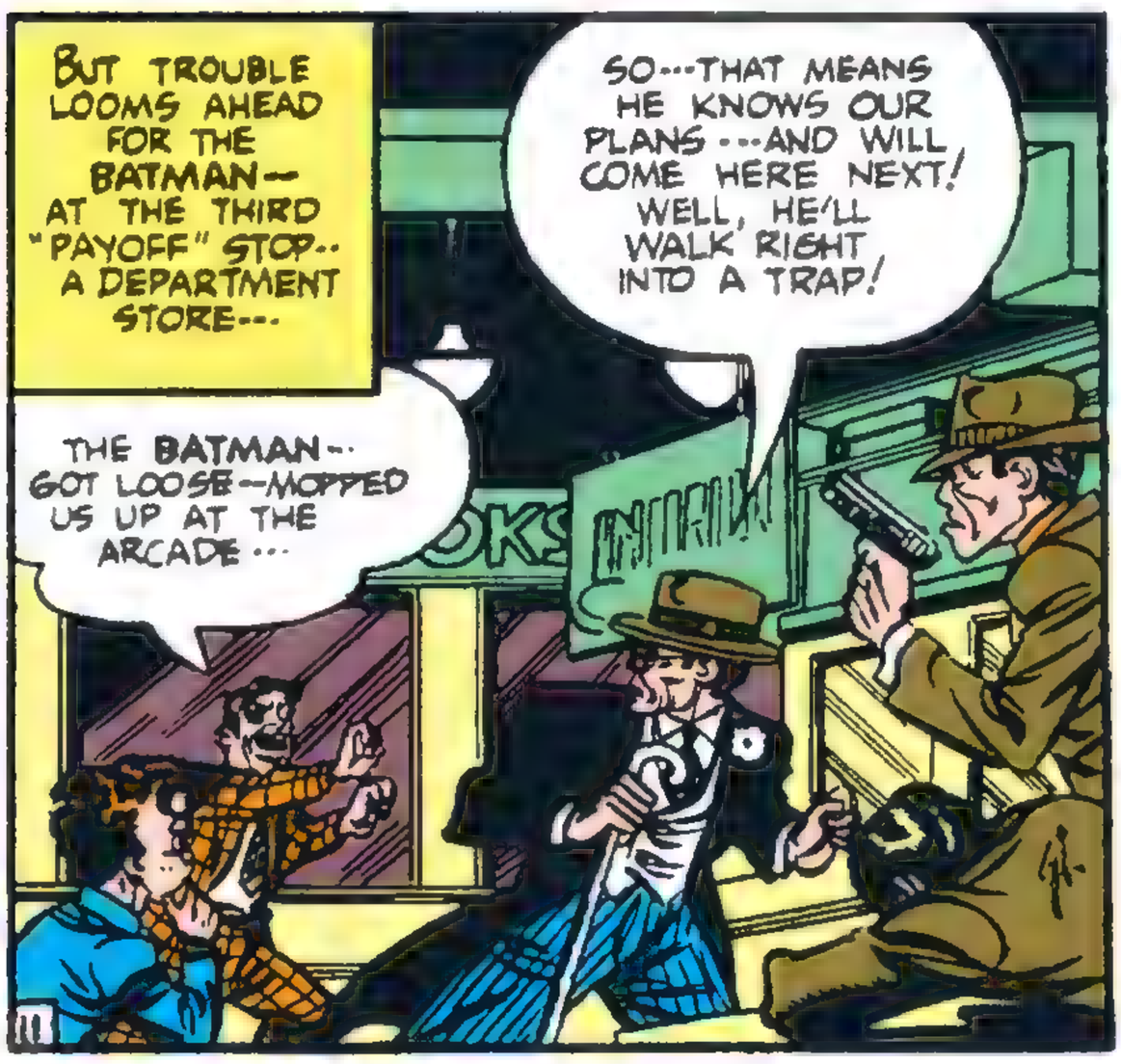

NOW I'D LIKE TO TEST MY MARKSMANSHIP! YOU CAN HELP!
5¢
SHOOTIN

EXPERT SHOOTING CIRCLES THE HOODLUM WITH A WHINING RING OF BULLETS!
BANG
BONG
CRA


SENSES KEENLY TUNED TO DANGER, THE BATMAN PIVOTS QUICKLY AND SURPRISES A COWARDLY ATTACKER!
FORTUNE
SO SORRY, BUT I'M ALLERGIC TO BEING SHOT IN THE BACK!
C-R-A-C-K

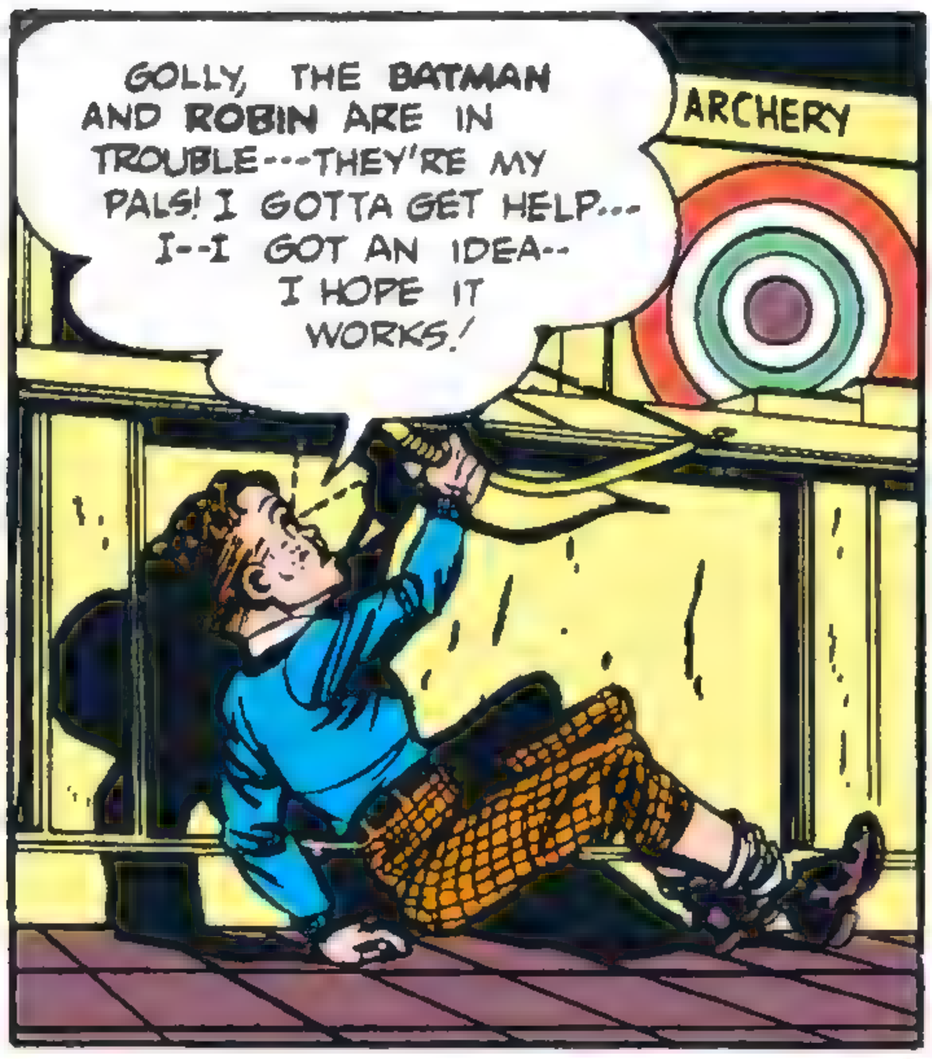
PLUNK

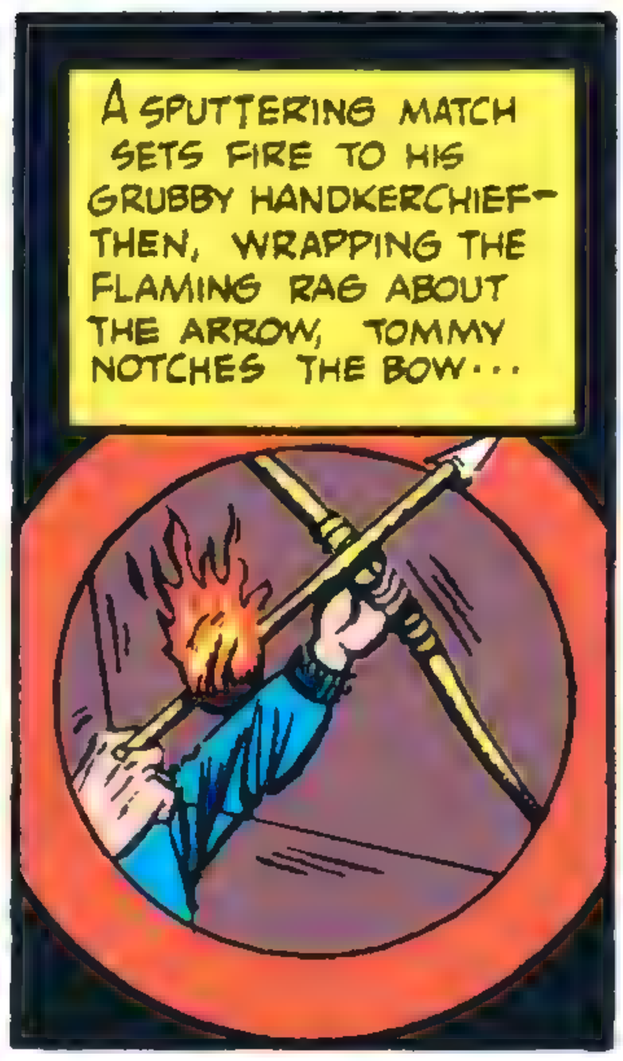
YOU'RE TELLING ME?
YOUR FORTUNE: A TALL DARK MAN WILL ENTER YOUR LIFE AND CAUSE YOU MUCH TROUBLE

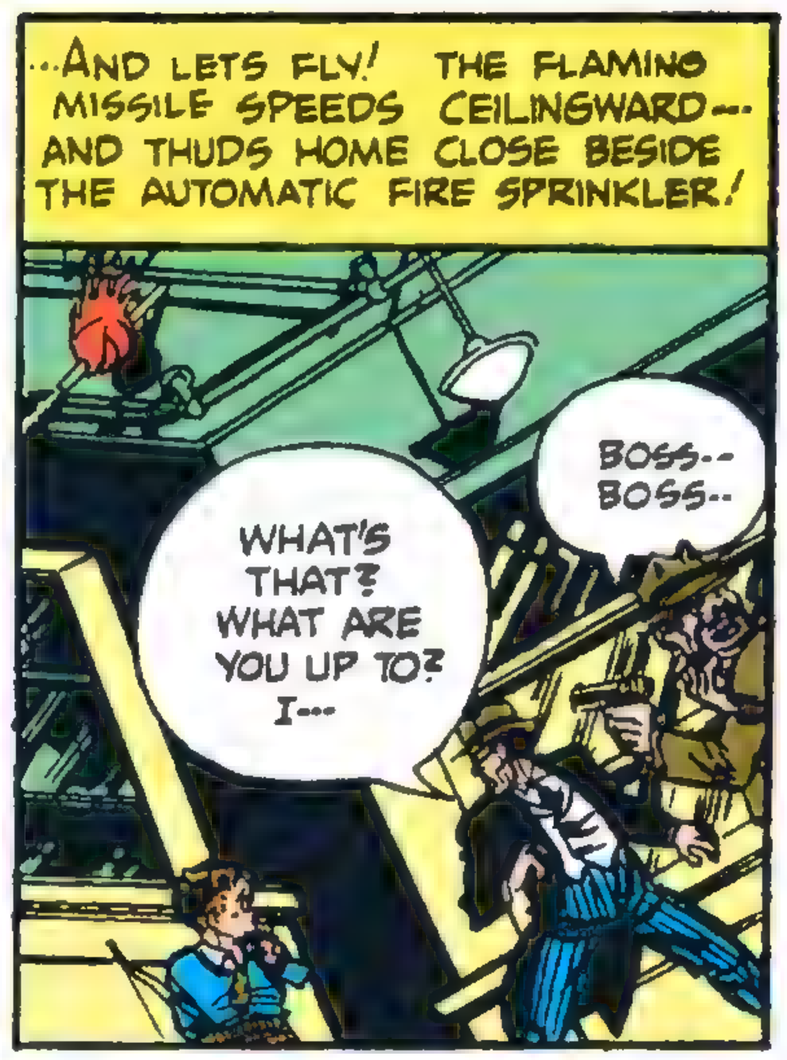

BUT TROUBLE LOOMS AHEAD FOR THE BATMAN— AT THE THIRD "PAYOFF" STOP.. A DEPARTMENT STORE...
SO...THAT MEANS HE KNOWS OUR PLANS...AND WILL COME HERE NEXT! WELL, HE'LL WALK RIGHT INTO A TRAP!
THE BATMAN.. GOT LOOSE—MOPPED US UP AT THE ARCADE...

GOLLY... THEY CAN'T KILL THE BATMAN... I'LL CALL A POLICEMAN... I'LL WARN HIM... I'LL!...

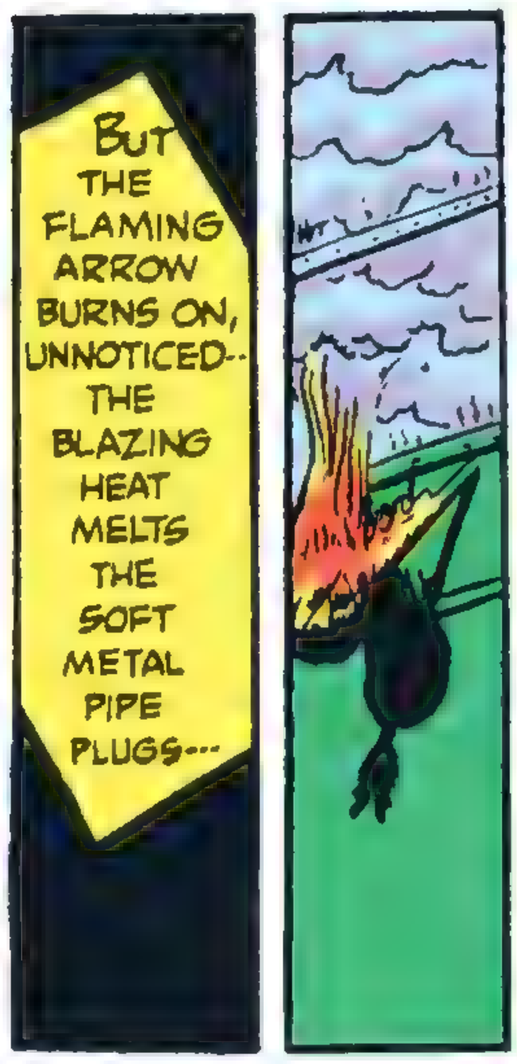
TRY TO SNEAK OUT, WILL YOU? STAY THERE.. AND BE QUIET!
SLAP!
OW!


GOLLY, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE IN TROUBLE---THEY'RE MY PALS! I GOTTA GET HELP... I--I GOT AN IDEA-- I HOPE IT WORKS!
ARCHERY


A SPUTTERING MATCH SETS FIRE TO HIS GRUBBY HANDKERCHIEF- THEN, WRAPPING THE FLAMING RAG ABOUT THE ARROW, TOMMY NOTCHES THE BOW...


..AND LETS FLY! THE FLAMING MISSILE SPEEDS CEILINGWARD--- AND THUDS HOME CLOSE BESIDE THE AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER!
BOSS-- BOSS--
WHAT'S THAT? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? I---

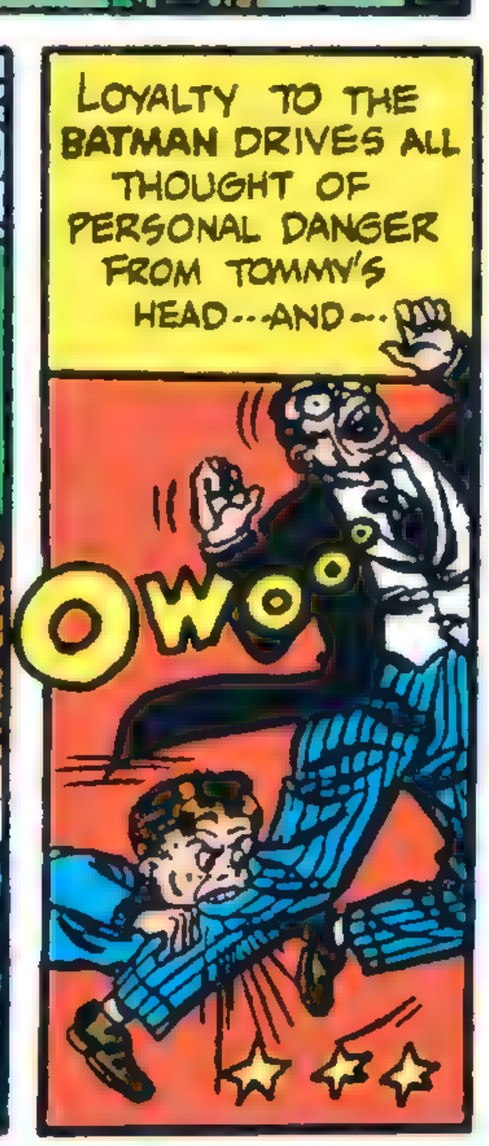
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN... THEY'RE COMING-- I SAW THEM---
GOOD! THEY'LL OPEN THE DOOR-- AND WE'LL SHOOT THEM DOWN! THEY WON'T HAVE A CHANCE---NOT A CHANCE--


BUT THE FLAMING ARROW BURNS ON, UNNOTICED-- THE BLAZING HEAT MELTS THE SOFT METAL PIPE PLUGS---

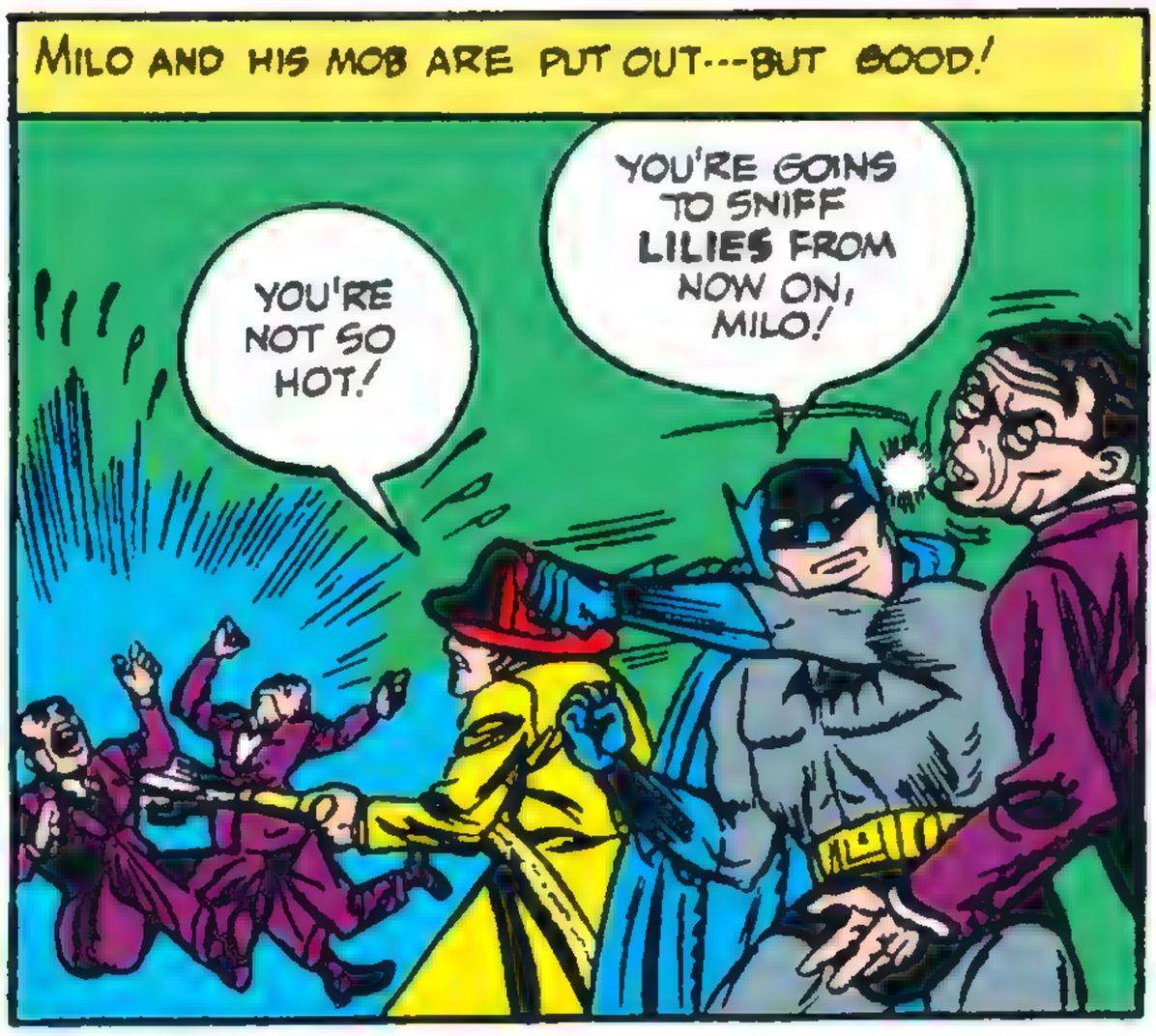
AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN STEP INTO THE JAWS OF MILO'S LETHAL TRAP!
OH-OH! WHAT'S THIS?
YOUR DEATH, BATMAN! SHOOT THEM DOWN!

SUDDENLY TWO THINGS HAPPEN IN ONE CONGLOMERATE ACTION! WATER SPRINKLES THE KILLERS- AND A SIREN'S WAIL SCREAMS OUT!
ULP... WATER! A SIREN!
12

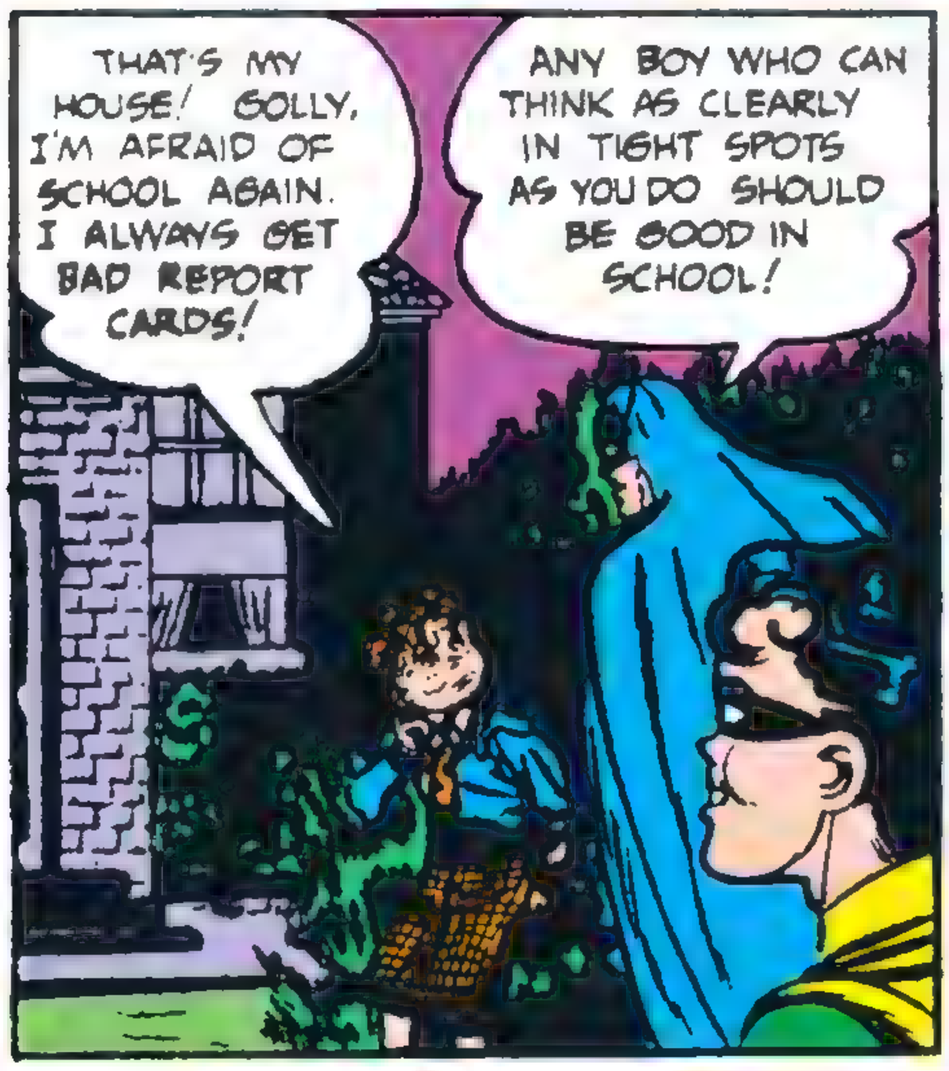
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSED MOBSTERS, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN PITCH INTO THE THUGS!
THE POLICE WON'T GET ME! BUT I'LL GET YOU BEFORE I GO!

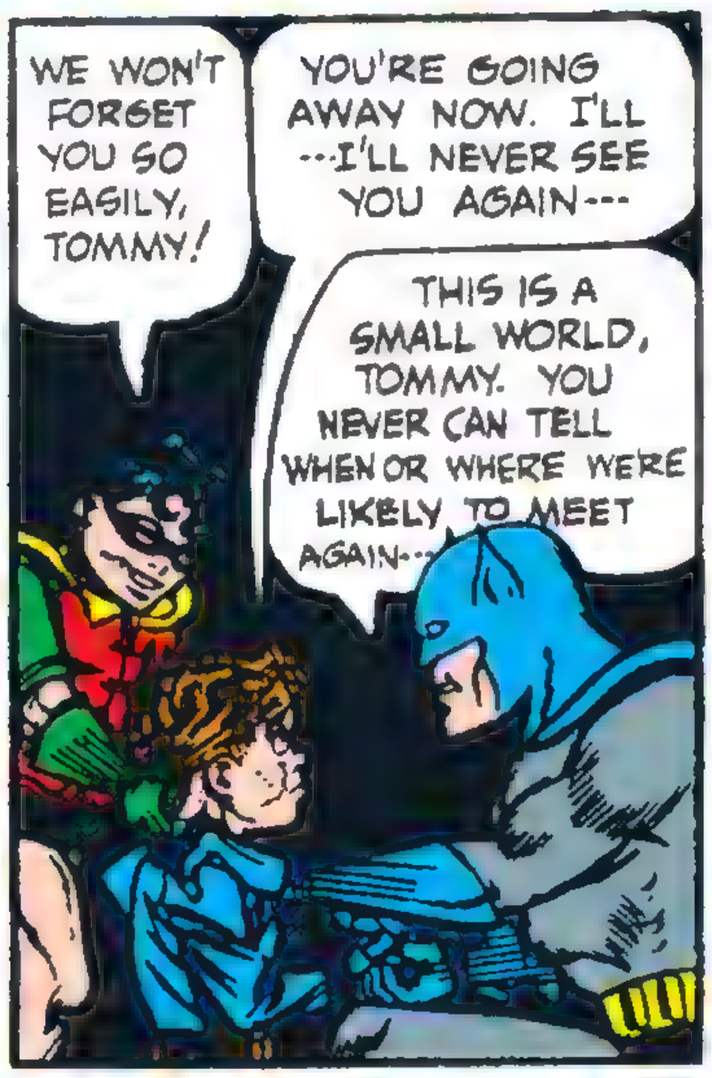

LOYALTY TO THE BATMAN DRIVES ALL THOUGHT OF PERSONAL DANGER FROM TOMMY'S HEAD---AND---
OWOO

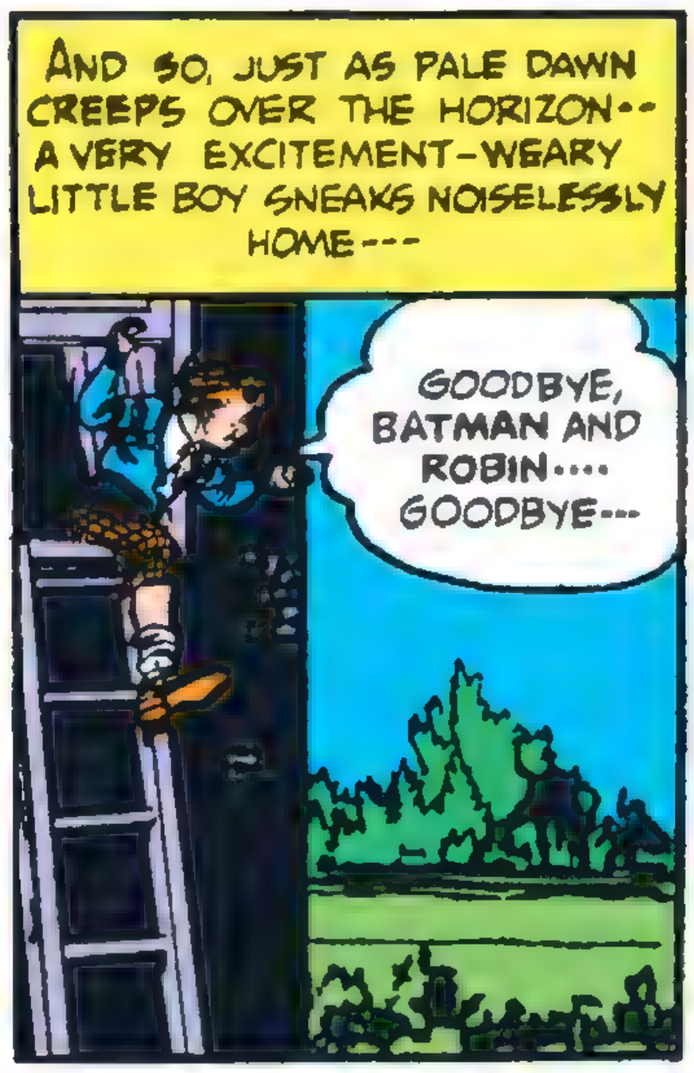
REINFORCEMENTS SUDDENLY APPEAR! A FIRE BRIGADE CHARGES IN AND QUICKLY TAKES STOCK OF THE SITUATION!
NO FIRE HERE! LOOK! BATMAN AND ROBIN FIGHTING TOUGHS! LET'S MAKE IT HOT FOR THE BUMS!


MILO AND HIS MOB ARE PUT OUT---BUT GOOD!
YOU'RE NOT SO HOT!
YOU'RE GOING TO SNIFF LILIES FROM NOW ON, MILO!

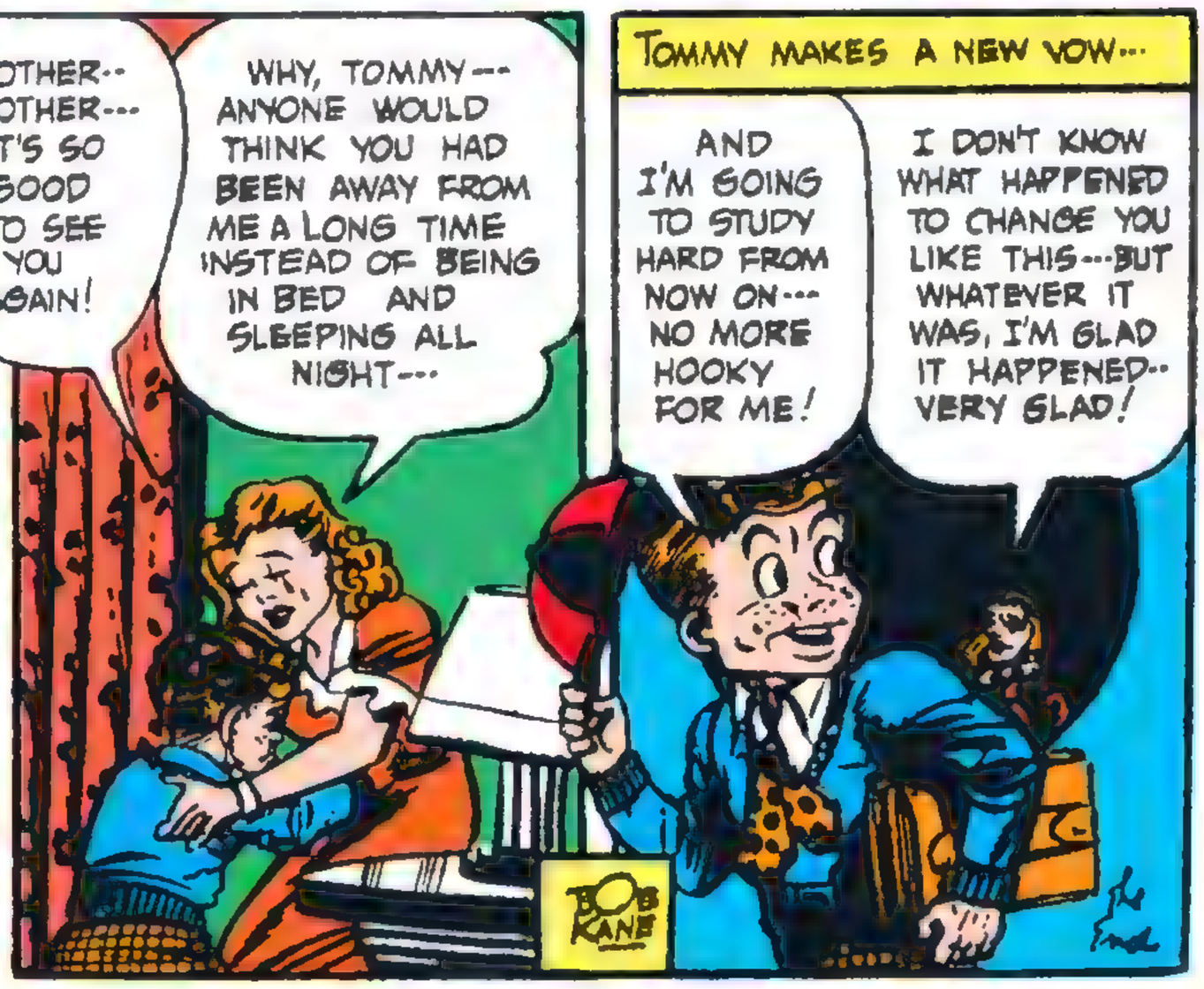
SOME TIME AFTER--- THREE FIGURES WALK DOWN A WINDING ROAD---
HOW DID YOU KNOW HEAT SETS OFF CEILING FIRE SPRINKLERS AND SENDS AN ALARM TO THE FIREHOUSE?
MY TEACHER TAUGHT ME THAT IN MY CIVICS CLASS DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK!

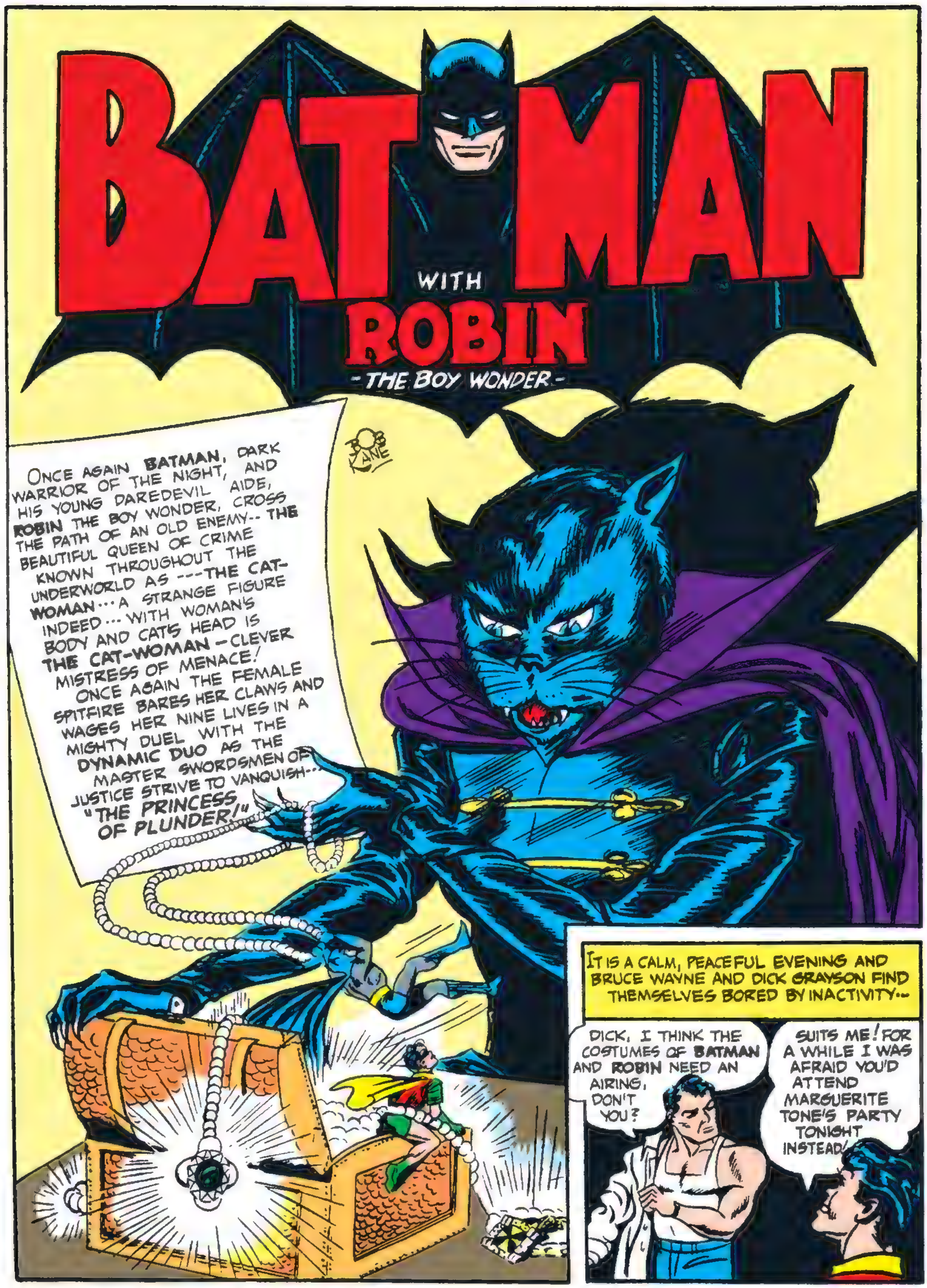

THAT'S MY HOUSE! GOLLY, I'M AFRAID OF SCHOOL AGAIN. I ALWAYS GET BAD REPORT CARDS!
ANY BOY WHO CAN THINK AS CLEARLY IN TIGHT SPOTS AS YOU DO SHOULD BE GOOD IN SCHOOL!

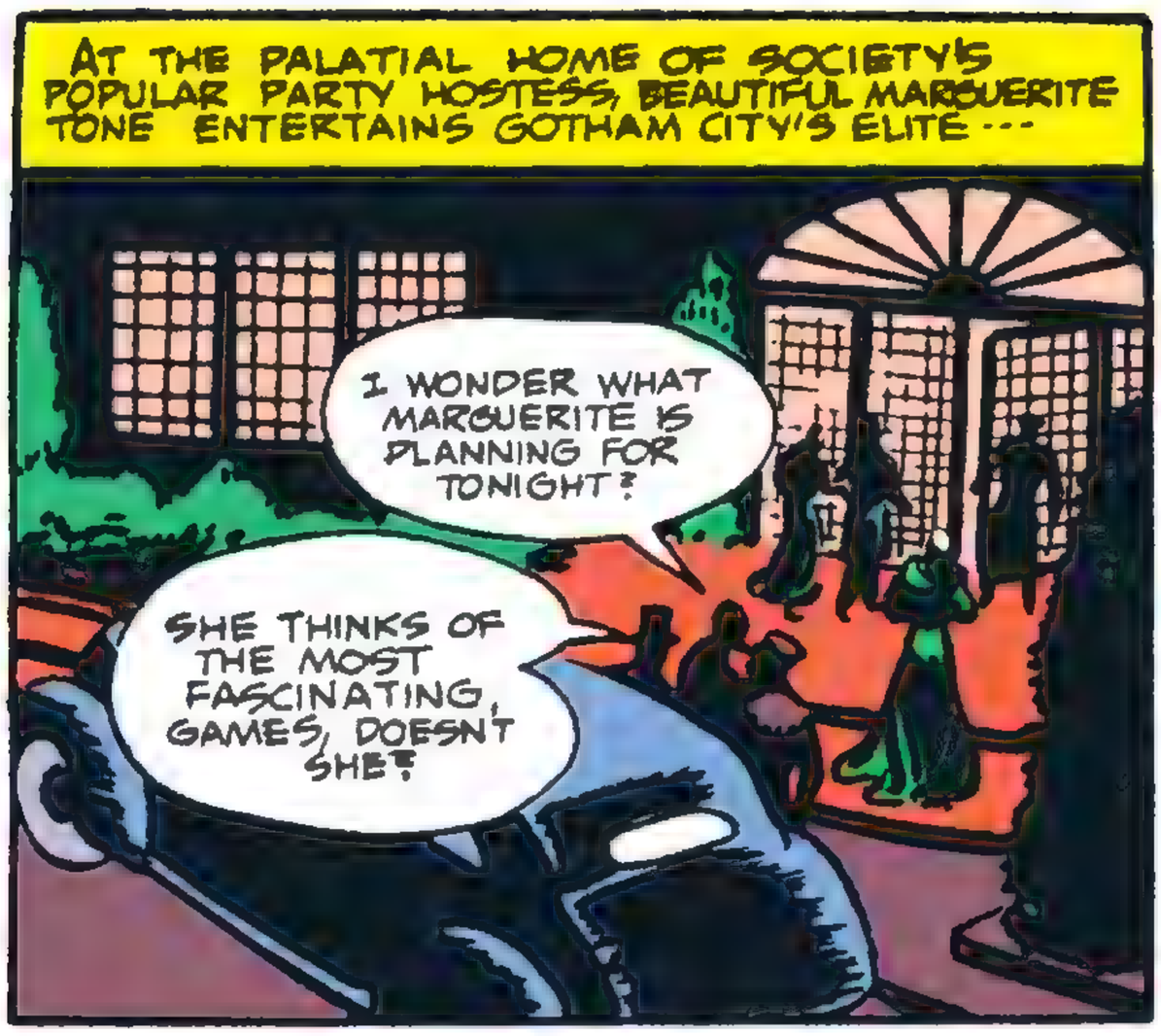

WE WON'T FORGET YOU SO EASILY, TOMMY!
YOU'RE GOING AWAY NOW. I'LL ---I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN---
THIS IS A SMALL WORLD, TOMMY. YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHEN OR WHERE WE'RE LIKELY TO MEET AGAIN---


AND SO, JUST AS PALE DAWN CREEPS OVER THE HORIZON-- A VERY EXCITEMENT-WEARY LITTLE BOY SNEAKS NOISELESSLY HOME---
GOODBYE, BATMAN AND ROBIN.... GOODBYE---

AND NOT SO LONG AFTER--
MOTHER-- MOTHER---
TOMMY, GET UP FOR SCHOOL--IT'S LA--- WHY, TOMMY--- YOU'RE UP! ALL DRESSED---
MOTHER-- MOTHER--- IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!


WHY, TOMMY--- ANYONE WOULD THINK YOU HAD BEEN AWAY FROM ME A LONG TIME INSTEAD OF BEING IN BED AND SLEEPING ALL NIGHT---
TOMMY MAKES A NEW VOW...
AND I'M GOING TO STUDY HARD FROM NOW ON--- NO MORE HOOKY FOR ME!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO CHANGE YOU LIKE THIS---BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED-- VERY GLAD!
BOB KANE


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
BOB KANE
ONCE AGAIN BATMAN, DARK WARRIOR OF THE NIGHT, AND HIS YOUNG DAREDEVIL AIDE, ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, CROSS THE PATH OF AN OLD ENEMY-- THE BEAUTIFUL QUEEN OF CRIME KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE UNDERWORLD AS ---THE CAT-WOMAN... A STRANGE FIGURE INDEED... WITH WOMAN'S BODY AND CAT'S HEAD IS THE CAT-WOMAN - CLEVER MISTRESS OF MENACE! ONCE AGAIN THE FEMALE SPITFIRE BARES HER CLAWS AND WAGES HER NINE LIVES IN A MIGHTY DUEL WITH THE DYNAMIC DUO AS THE MASTER SWORDSMEN OF JUSTICE STRIVE TO VANQUISH... "THE PRINCESS OF PLUNDER!"
IT IS A CALM, PEACEFUL EVENING AND BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON FIND THEMSELVES BORED BY INACTIVITY...
DICK, I THINK THE COSTUMES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN NEED AN AIRING, DON'T YOU?
SUITS ME! FOR A WHILE I WAS AFRAID YOU'D ATTEND MARGUERITE TONE'S PARTY TONIGHT INSTEAD!

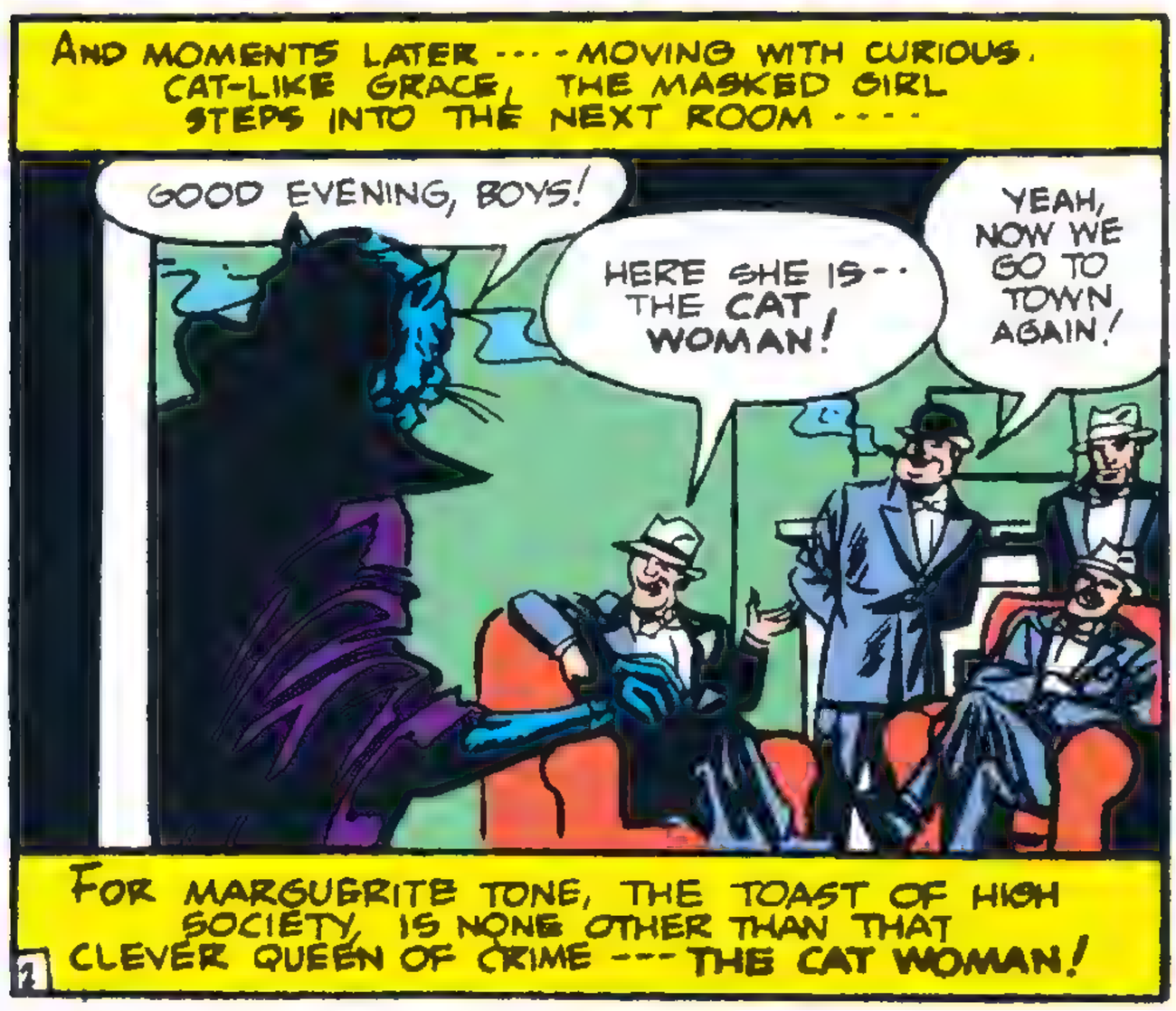

AT THE PALATIAL HOME OF SOCIETY'S POPULAR PARTY HOSTESS, BEAUTIFUL MARGUERITE TONE ENTERTAINS GOTHAM CITY'S ELITE ---
I WONDER WHAT MARGUERITE IS PLANNING FOR TONIGHT?
SHE THINKS OF THE MOST FASCINATING GAMES, DOESN'T SHE?

ATTENTION, EVERYBODY! I HAVE A REAL SURPRISE FOR YOU. TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SCAVENGER HUNT!
OH, HOW THRILLING! WE'RE TO GO OUT LOOKING FOR QUEER ITEMS!

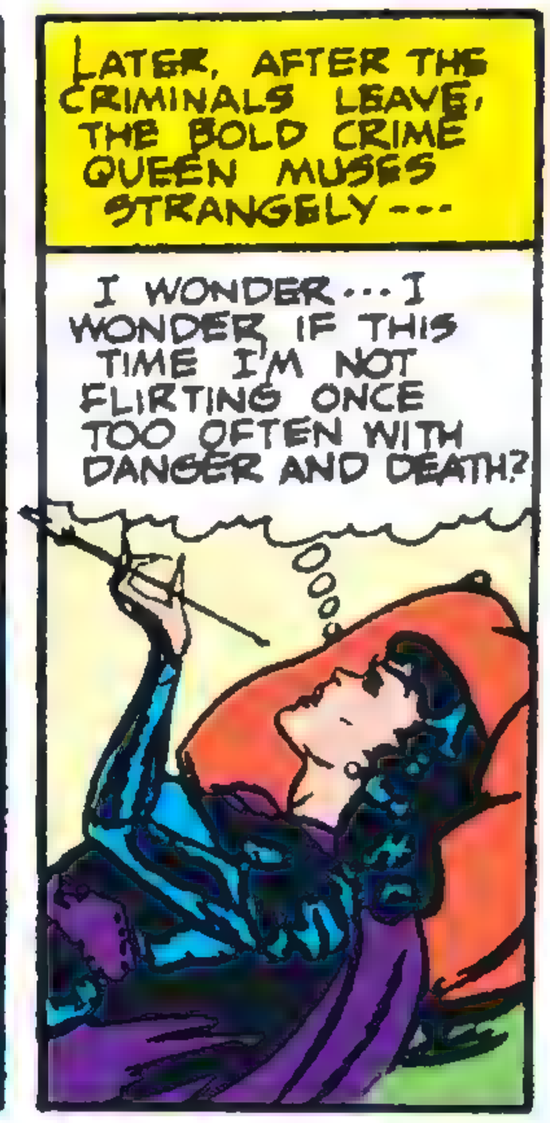
ON THE BACK OF THESE EMBLEMS ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS! YOU ARE EACH TO BRING BACK AS MANY ARTICLES AS ARE CALLED FOR! THE ONE WHO RETURNS WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER BY MIDNIGHT WINS THE GRAND PRIZE! NOW, IF YOU'LL STEP UP..

THERE, THAT'S THE LAST ONE!
OH, LOOK--- ONE OF THE THINGS I HAVE TO GET IS AN OSTRICH FEATHER! WHERE WILL I GET THAT?
I HAVE TO COLLECT AN EAGLE'S EGG ---AN OVER-RIPE TOMATO-- HOW JOLLY!

AS THE GUESTS DEPART, THE LOVELY HOSTESS GLIDES UPSTAIRS--- TO PLAN A MORE SINISTER GAME ----
THAT "SCAVENGER HUNT" IDEA WORKED LIKE A CHARM! NOW FOR MY MASK AND "WORK CLOTHES!"


AND MOMENTS LATER ---- MOVING WITH CURIOUS, CAT-LIKE GRACE, THE MASKED GIRL STEPS INTO THE NEXT ROOM ----
GOOD EVENING, BOYS!
HERE SHE IS-- THE CAT WOMAN!
YEAH, NOW WE GO TO TOWN AGAIN!
FOR MARGUERITE TONE, THE TOAST OF HIGH SOCIETY, IS NONE OTHER THAN THAT CLEVER QUEEN OF CRIME --- THE CAT WOMAN!

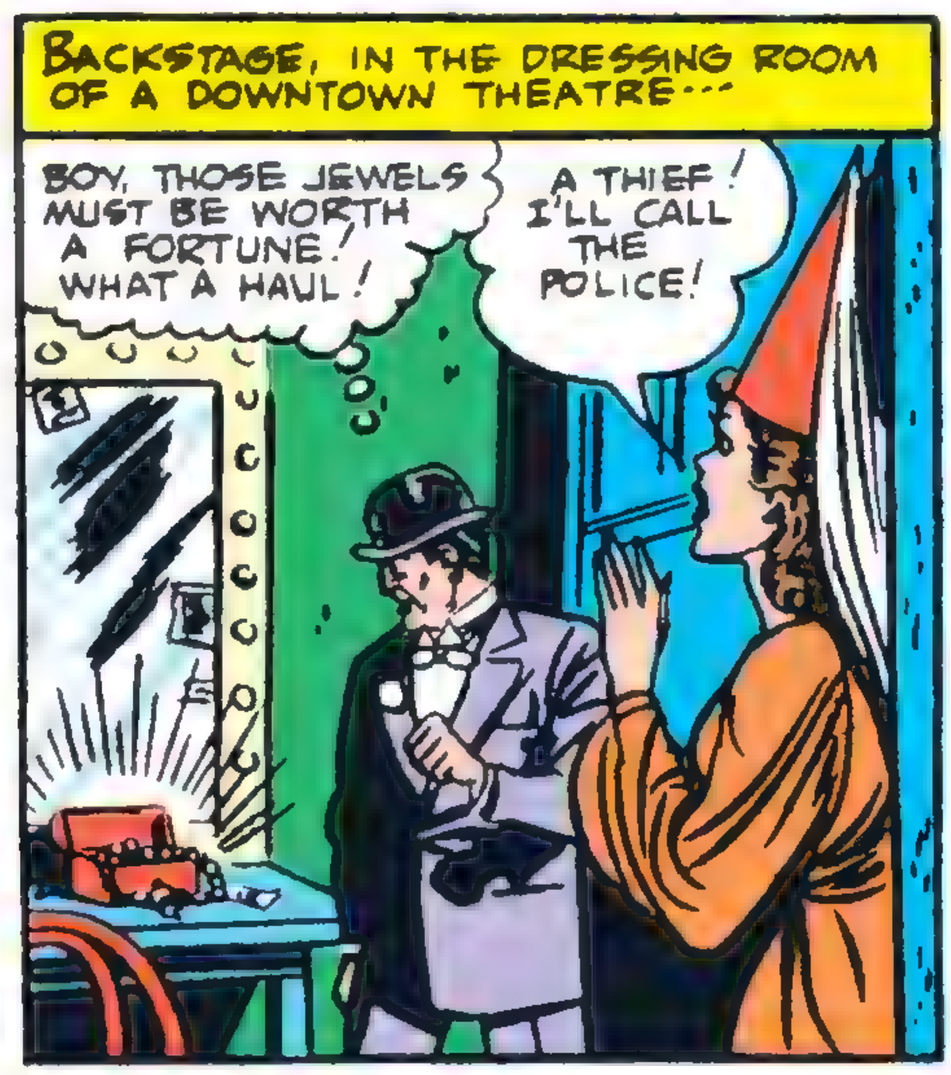
YOU'RE ALL GOING ON A SCAVENGER HUNT, TOO! HERE ARE SOME EMBLEMS WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACKS. NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY---


LATER, AFTER THE CRIMINALS LEAVE, THE BOLD CRIME QUEEN MUSES STRANGELY---
I WONDER...I WONDER IF THIS TIME I'M NOT FLIRTING ONCE TOO OFTEN WITH DANGER AND DEATH?

STILL LATER, IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM CITY.
CAN I SEE MR. VANDERWELL? I HAVE TO GET HIS AUTOGRAPH FOR MARGUERITE TONE'S SCAVENGER HUNT PARTY, SEE?
OH, MISS TONE? COME RIGHT IN! I'LL CALL THE MASTER!

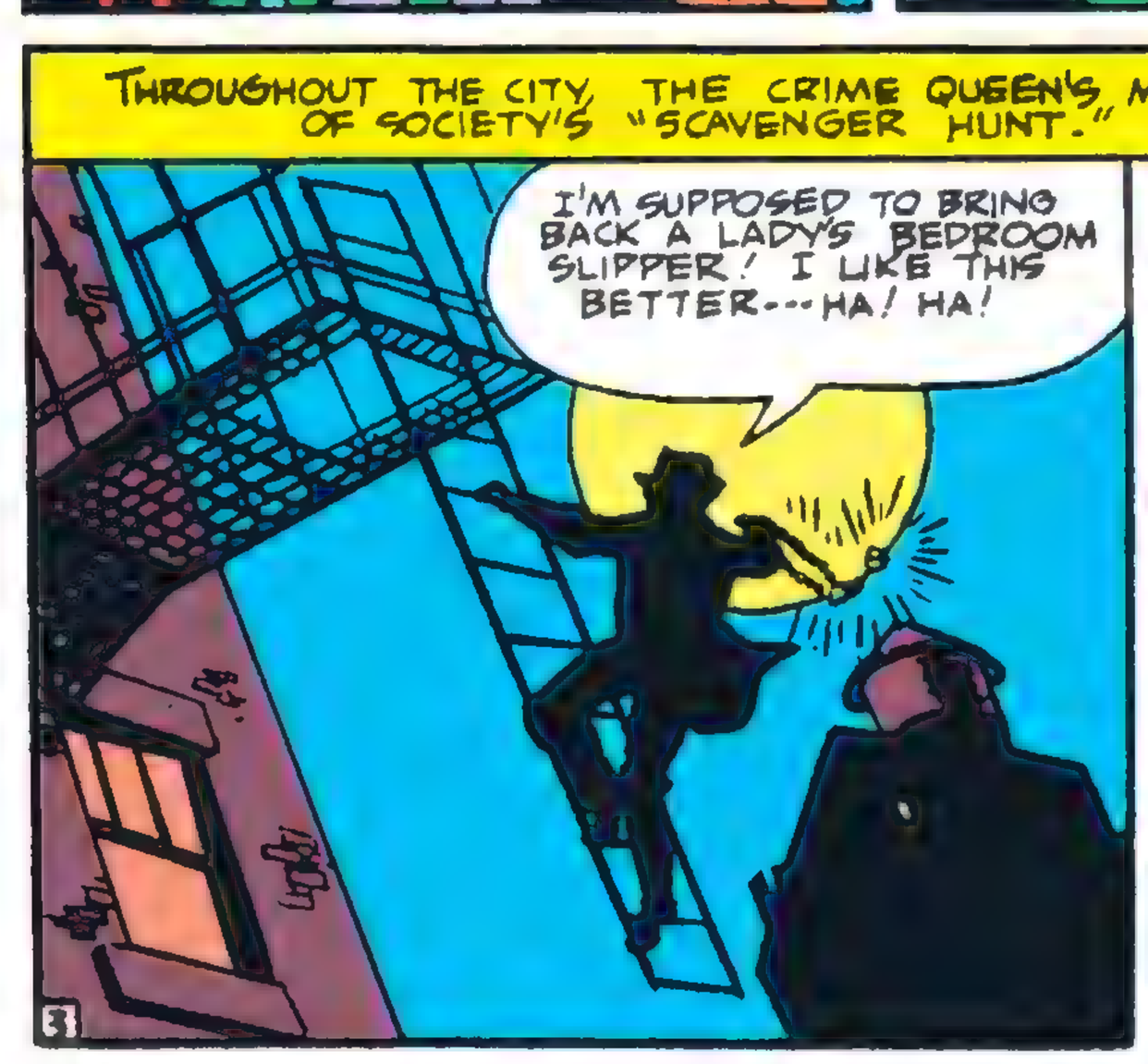
IT WORKED! NOW TO GET THAT FANCY DOODAD THE CAT-WOMAN WANTS ME TO SWIPE! THERE IT IS!

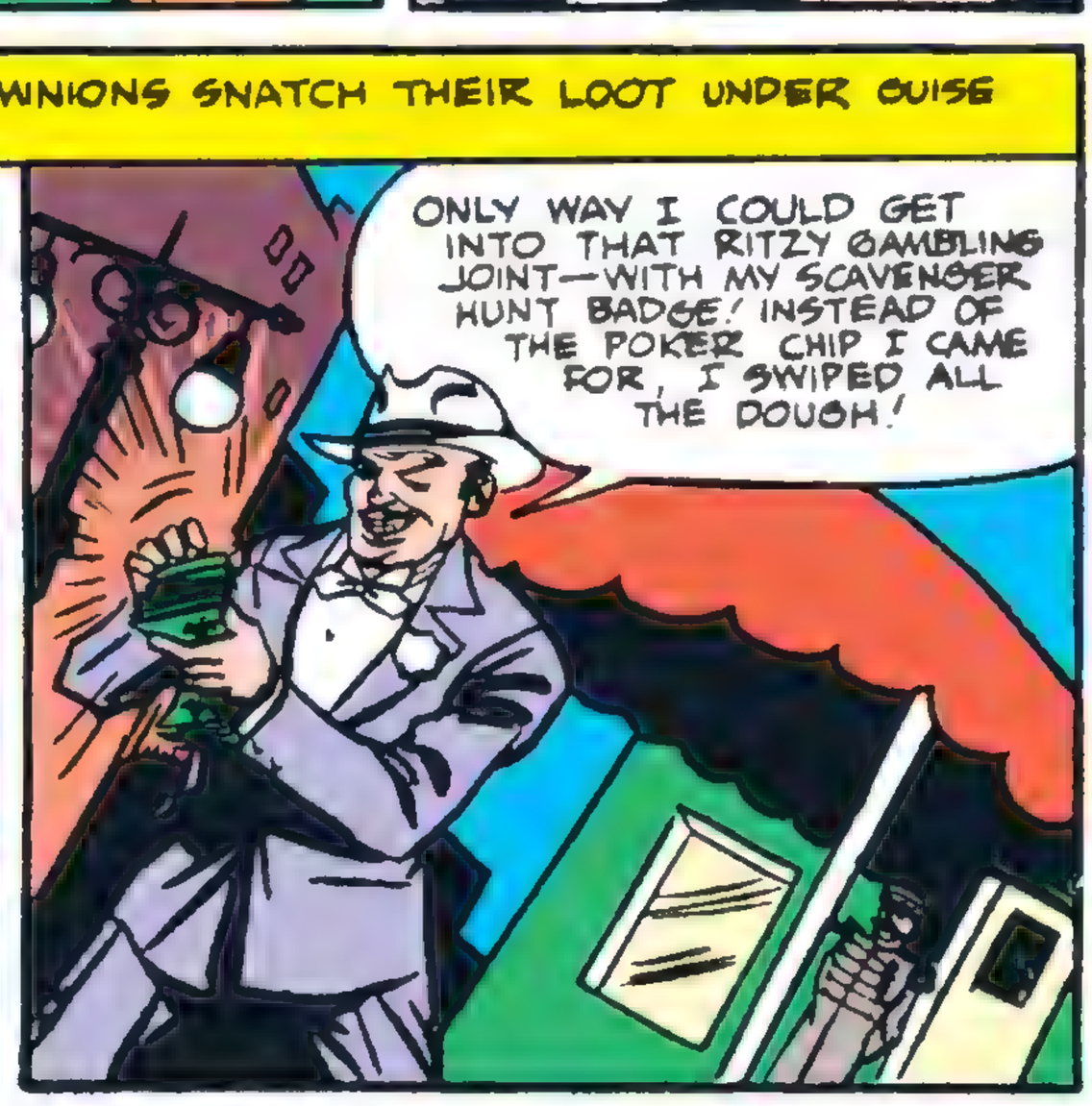
SWIFTLY, THE HENCHMAN POCKETS THE PRICELESS, JEWELED HEIRLOOM OF THE VANDERWELL FAMILY---
AH! YOU WISH MY AUTOGRAPH? IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO OBLIGE ONE OF MISS TONE'S GUESTS!
THANKS! THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!


BACKSTAGE, IN THE DRESSING ROOM OF A DOWNTOWN THEATRE---
BOY, THOSE JEWELS MUST BE WORTH A FORTUNE! WHAT A HAUL!
A THIEF! I'LL CALL THE POLICE!

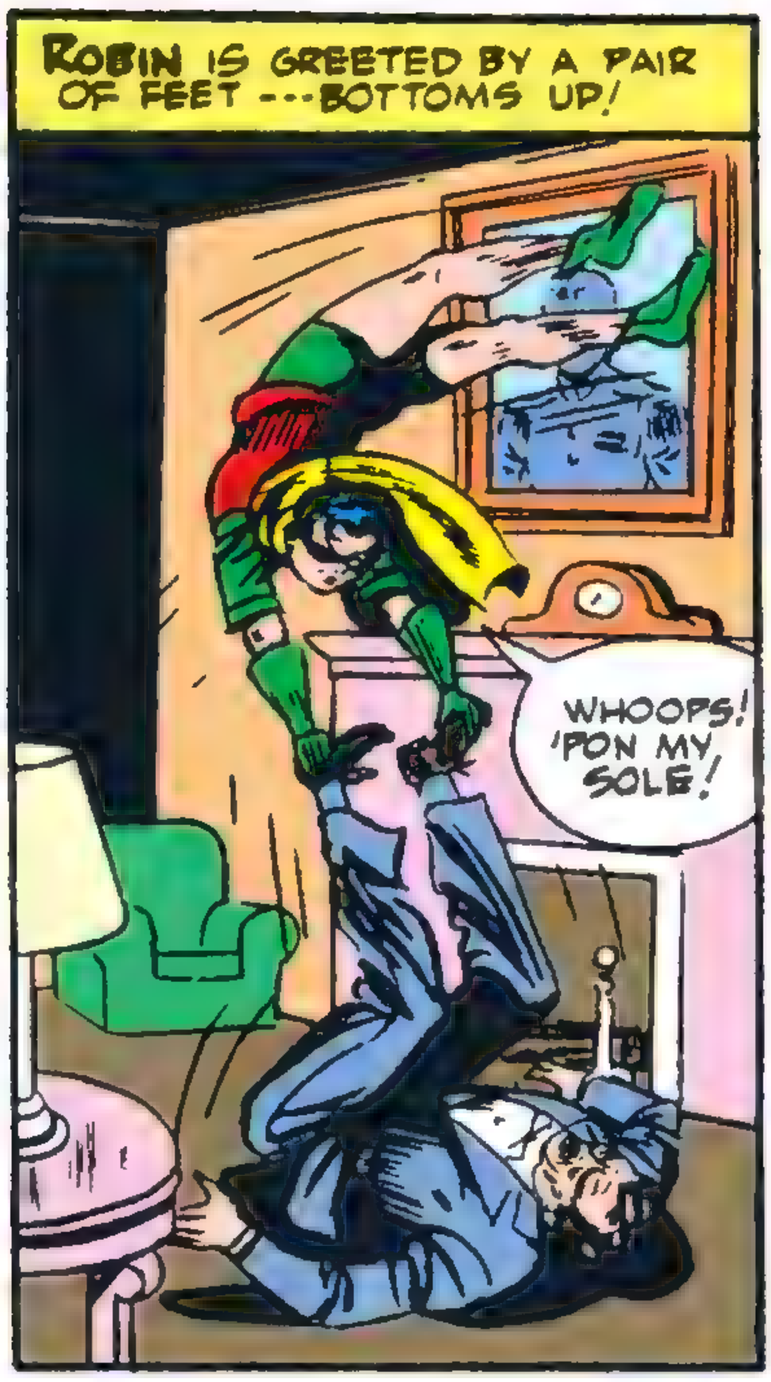
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, LADY! I'M NOT A THIEF! I'M FROM MARGUERITE TONES SCAVENGER HUNT! I'M ONLY LOOKING FOR A FAMOUS ACTRESS'S EYEBROW PENCIL! SEE--IT SAYS SO DOWN HERE ON THIS LIST!
OH, THAT'S DIFFERENT! OF COURSE YOU CAN HAVE THE PENCIL- AND GIVE MY REGARDS TO MARGUERITE!

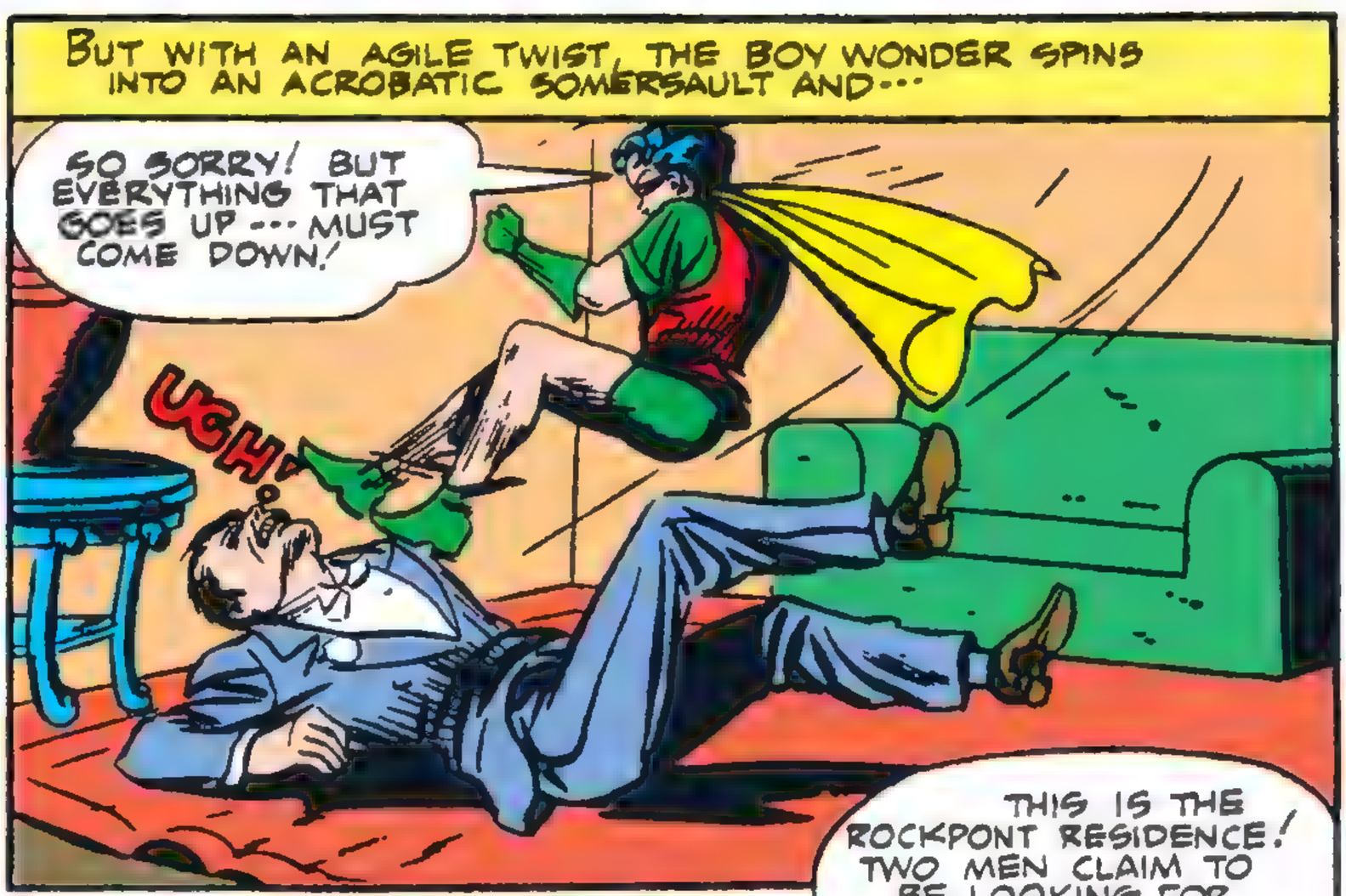
ONCE OUTSIDE--
LEAVE IT TO THE CAT-WOMAN! IF WE GET CAUGHT, WE DON'T GET NABBED! WE GOT ALIBIS! HA! HA! THAT'S RICH!

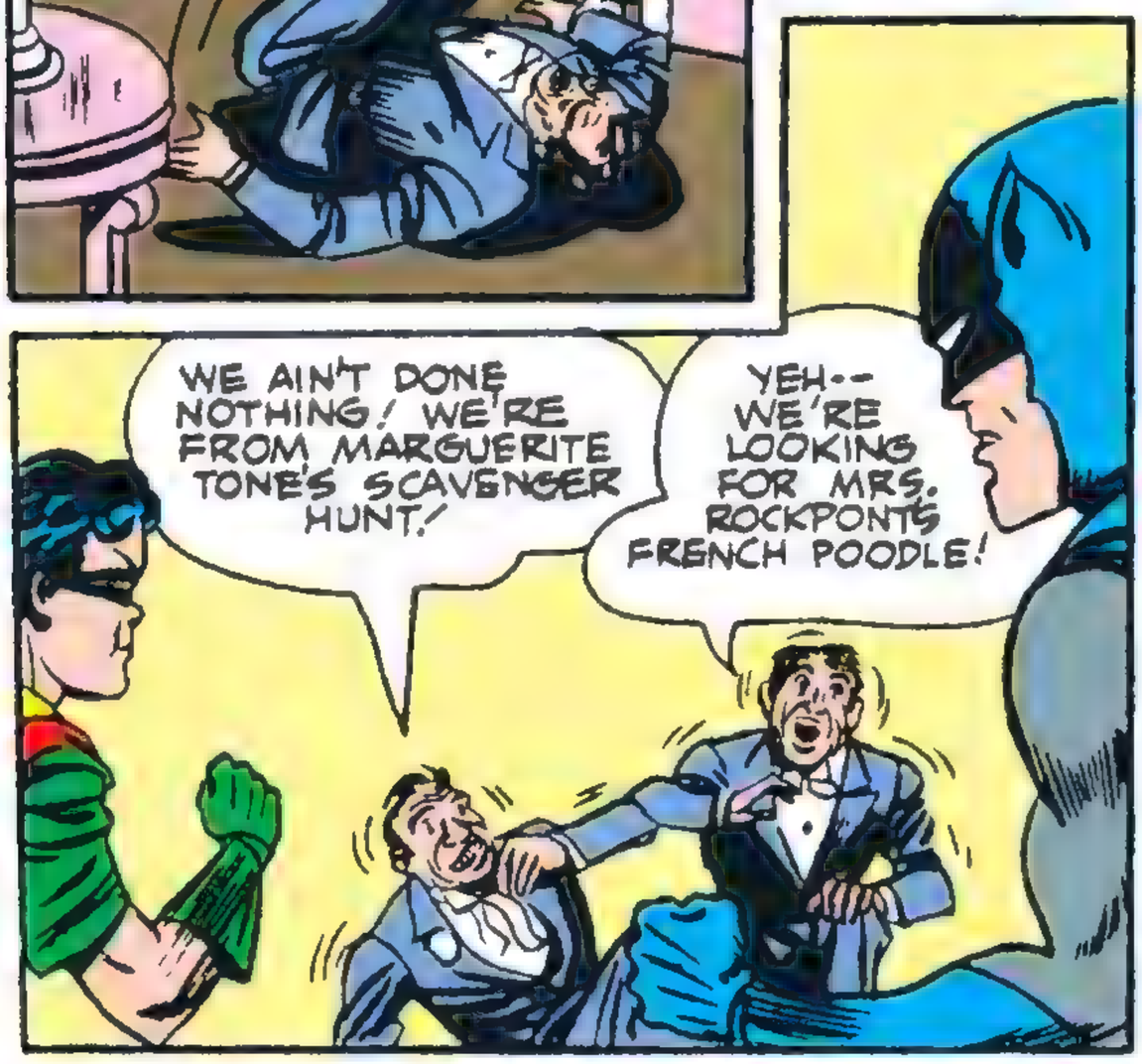

THROUGHOUT THE CITY, THE CRIME QUEEN'S MINIONS SNATCH THEIR LOOT UNDER GUISE OF SOCIETY'S "SCAVENGER HUNT."
I'M SUPPOSED TO BRING BACK A LADY'S BEDROOM SLIPPER! I LIKE THIS BETTER---HA! HA!

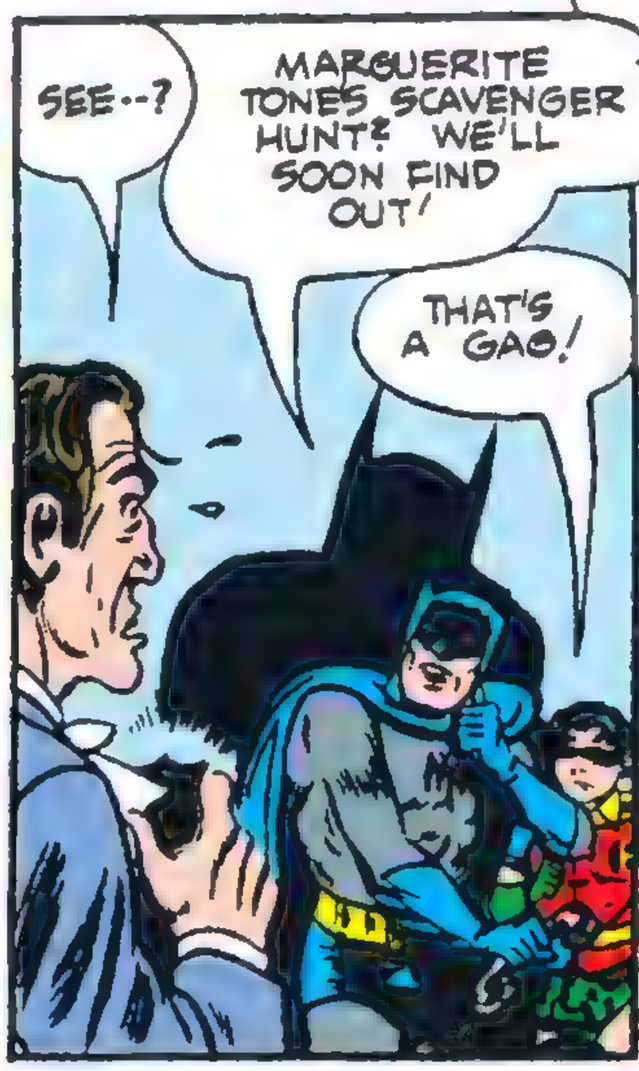

ONLY WAY I COULD GET INTO THAT RITZY GAMBLING JOINT—WITH MY SCAVENGER HUNT BADGE! INSTEAD OF THE POKER CHIP I CAME FOR, I SWIPED ALL THE DOUGH!

IN A MIDTOWN AREA, TWO LITHE, MANTLED FIGURES FLIT THRU THE NIGHT--- BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!
LOOK, ROBIN, THOSE TWO MEN ARE BURGLARS!
GOSH, IT'S ABOUT TIME ACTION POPPED! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK CRIME HAD TAKEN ANOTHER HOLIDAY!
THE TWIN GUARDIANS OF THE SLEEPING TOWN LEAP INTO DYNAMIC ACTION!
LET'S GO, ROBIN! WE'VE A JOB TO DO!
YIPPEE!
BOY, THAT CAT-WOMAN IS SURE A SMART DAME. WHAT A SCHEME! HO! HO!
YEAH! HA! HA! NOW LET'S FIND THAT SAFE!
THE BATMAN! WHA...?
PARDON ME FOR NOT RINGING!
THIS'LL FIX YA!
TSK---TSK! YOU CAN'T PITCH ON MY BASEBALL TEAM---
A FURIOUS PILE-DRIVING LUNGE ...
BUT YOU CAN BE DUMMY FOR FOOTBALL PRACTICE!
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP- OL'MAN!
4


ROBIN IS GREETED BY A PAIR OF FEET ---BOTTOMS UP!
WHOOPS! 'PON MY SOLE!


BUT WITH AN AGILE TWIST, THE BOY WONDER SPINS INTO AN ACROBATIC SOMERSAULT AND---
SO SORRY! BUT EVERYTHING THAT GOES UP --- MUST COME DOWN!
UGH!


WE AIN'T DONE NOTHING! WE'RE FROM MARGUERITE TONE'S SCAVENGER HUNT!
YEH-- WE'RE LOOKING FOR MRS. ROCKPONT'S FRENCH POODLE!

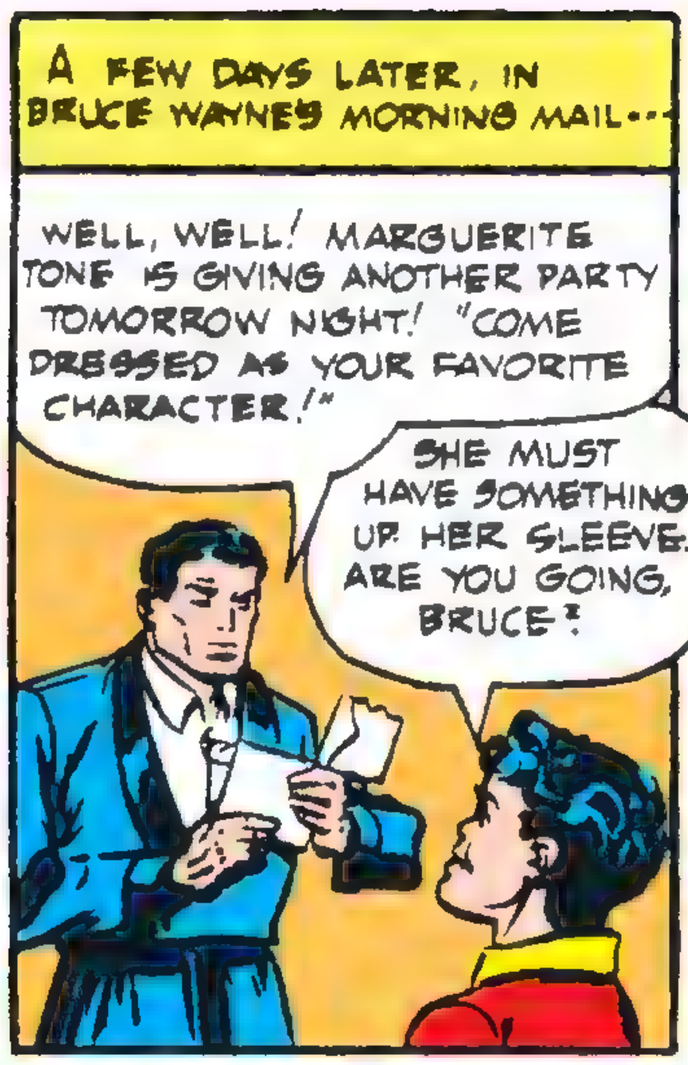

SEE--?
MARGUERITE TONE'S SCAVENGER HUNT? WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!
THAT'S A GAG!

THIS IS THE ROCKPONT RESIDENCE! TWO MEN CLAIM TO BE LOOKING FOR A FRENCH POODLE AS PART OF YOUR SCAVENGER HUNT! IS THAT TRUE?
WHY, YES! OH, I HOPE NOTHING'S WRONG! IT'S ALL IN FUN, YOU KNOW.

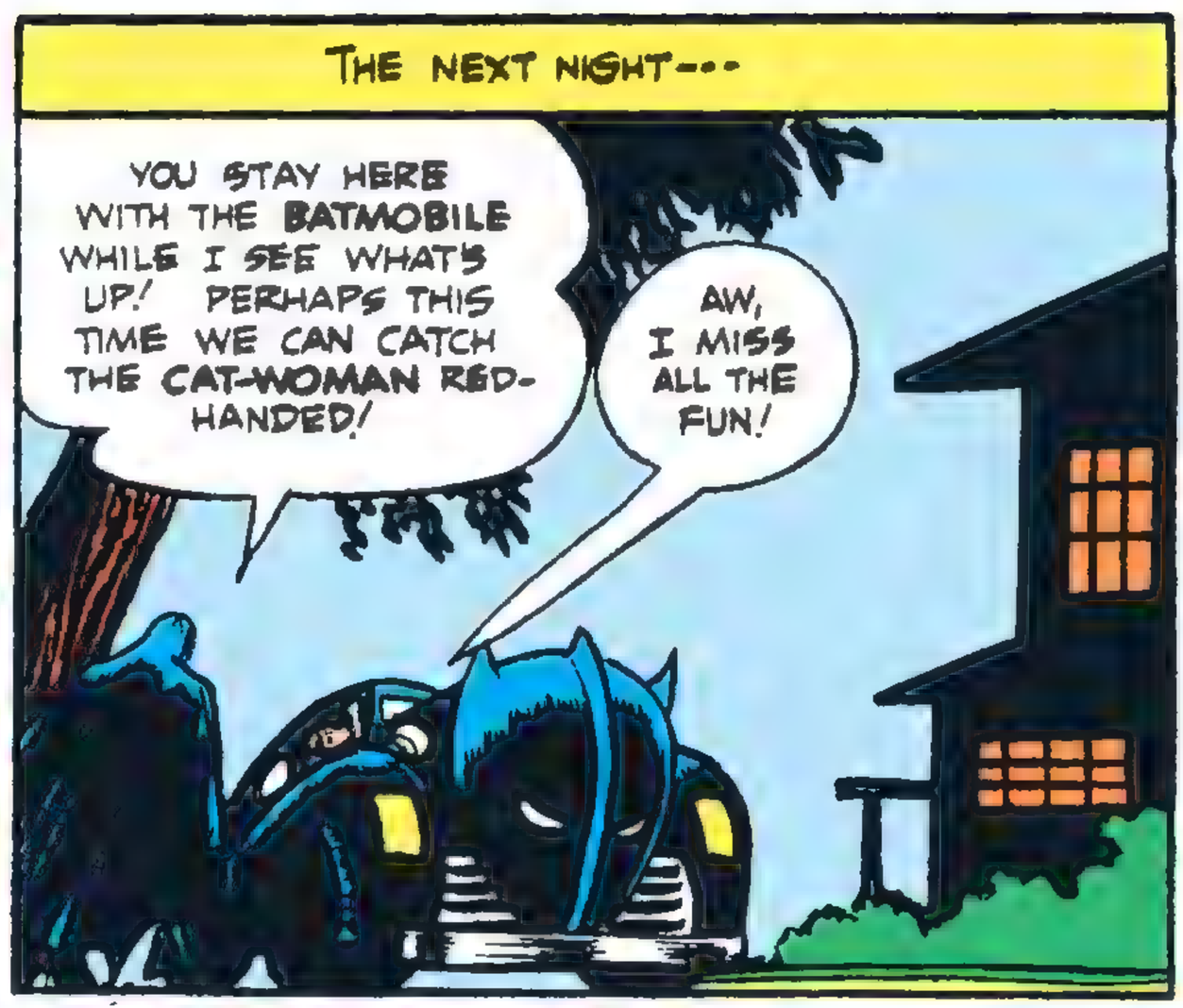
THAT VOICE! I COULD NEVER FORGET IT! IT WAS --- THE CAT-WOMAN'S!
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO CAN BEAT IT! YOUR STORY IS TRUE!
I TOLD YOU SO!
CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?
5

LATER, IN THE BATMOBILE, SPEEDING HOME...
A CLEVER SCHEME! THAT MARGUERITE TONE IS THE CAT-WOMAN, ROBIN. OUR OLD ENEMY IS ON THE PROWL AGAIN!
HMM! THAT MEANS WE HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!

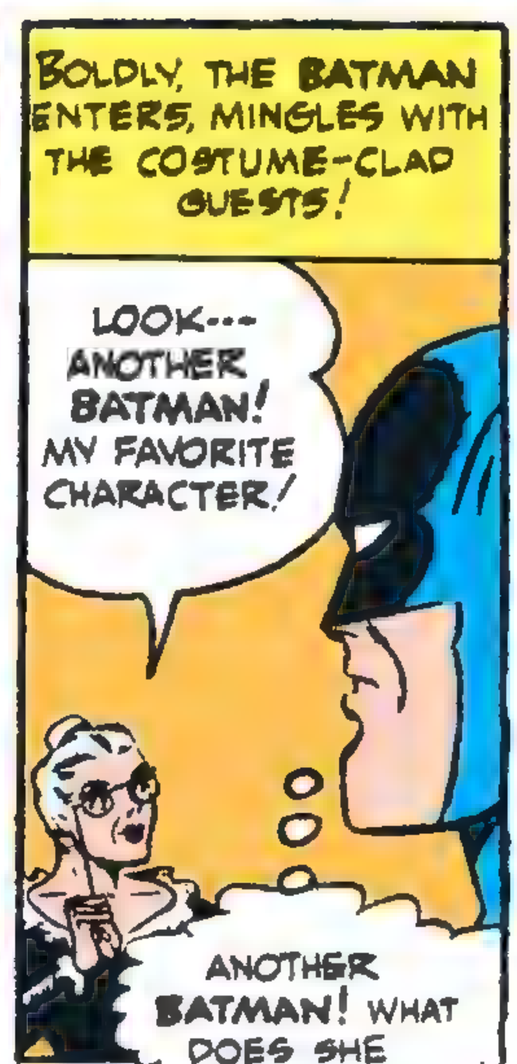
MEANWHILE, THE TWO HENCHMEN RACE BACK TO THEIR WOMAN LEADER!
THE BATMAN CAUGHT US!
THE BATMAN! WELL, I KNEW I'D CROSS HIS PATH AGAIN SOONER OR LATER ---AND YOU KNOW ---I'M RATHER LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER DUEL OF WITS WITH HIM!

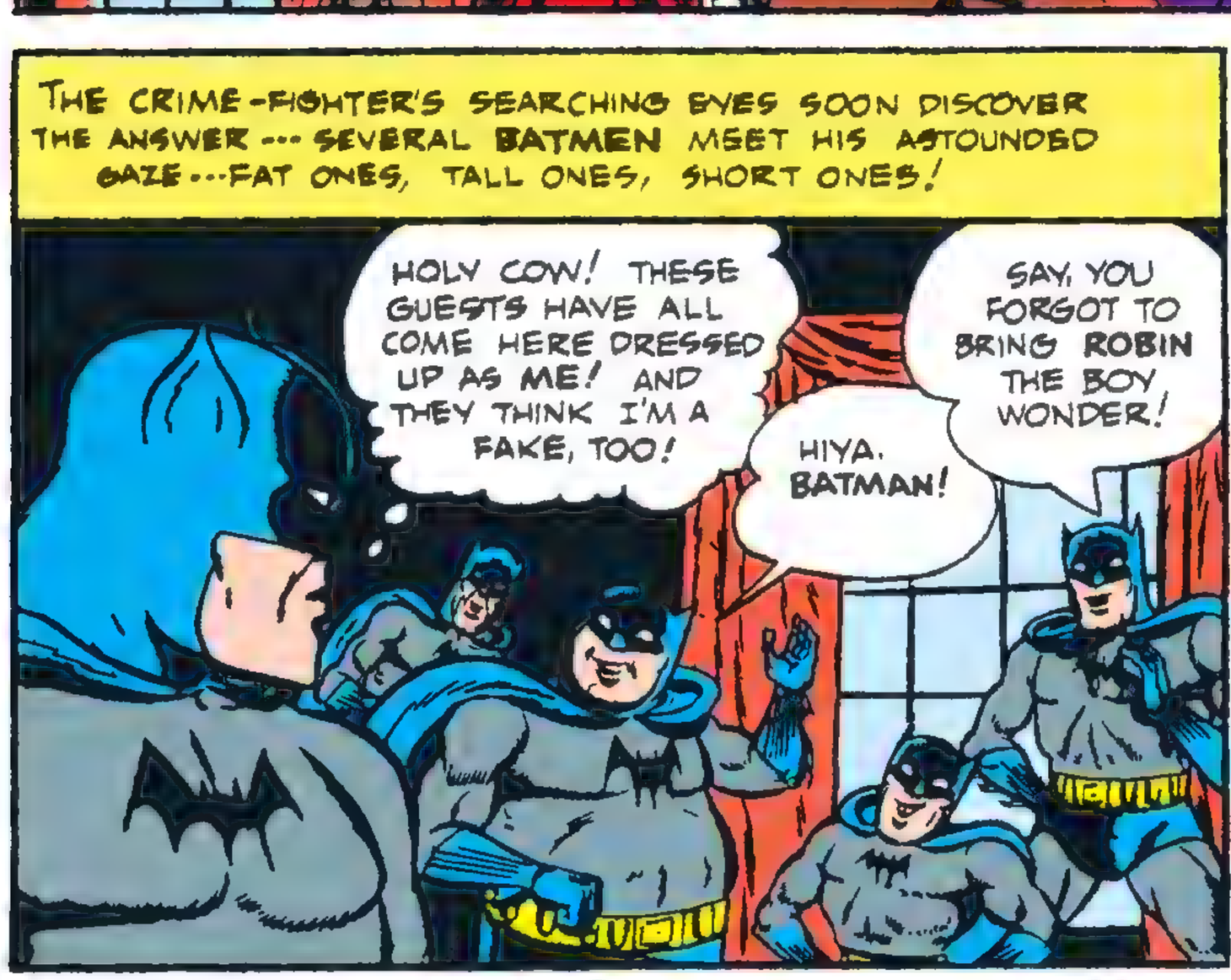

A FEW DAYS LATER, IN BRUCE WAYNE'S MORNING MAIL...
WELL, WELL! MARGUERITE TONE IS GIVING ANOTHER PARTY TOMORROW NIGHT! "COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER!"
SHE MUST HAVE SOMETHING UP HER SLEEVE. ARE YOU GOING, BRUCE?

YES...AND AS MY FAVORITE CHARACTER! GUESS WHO!

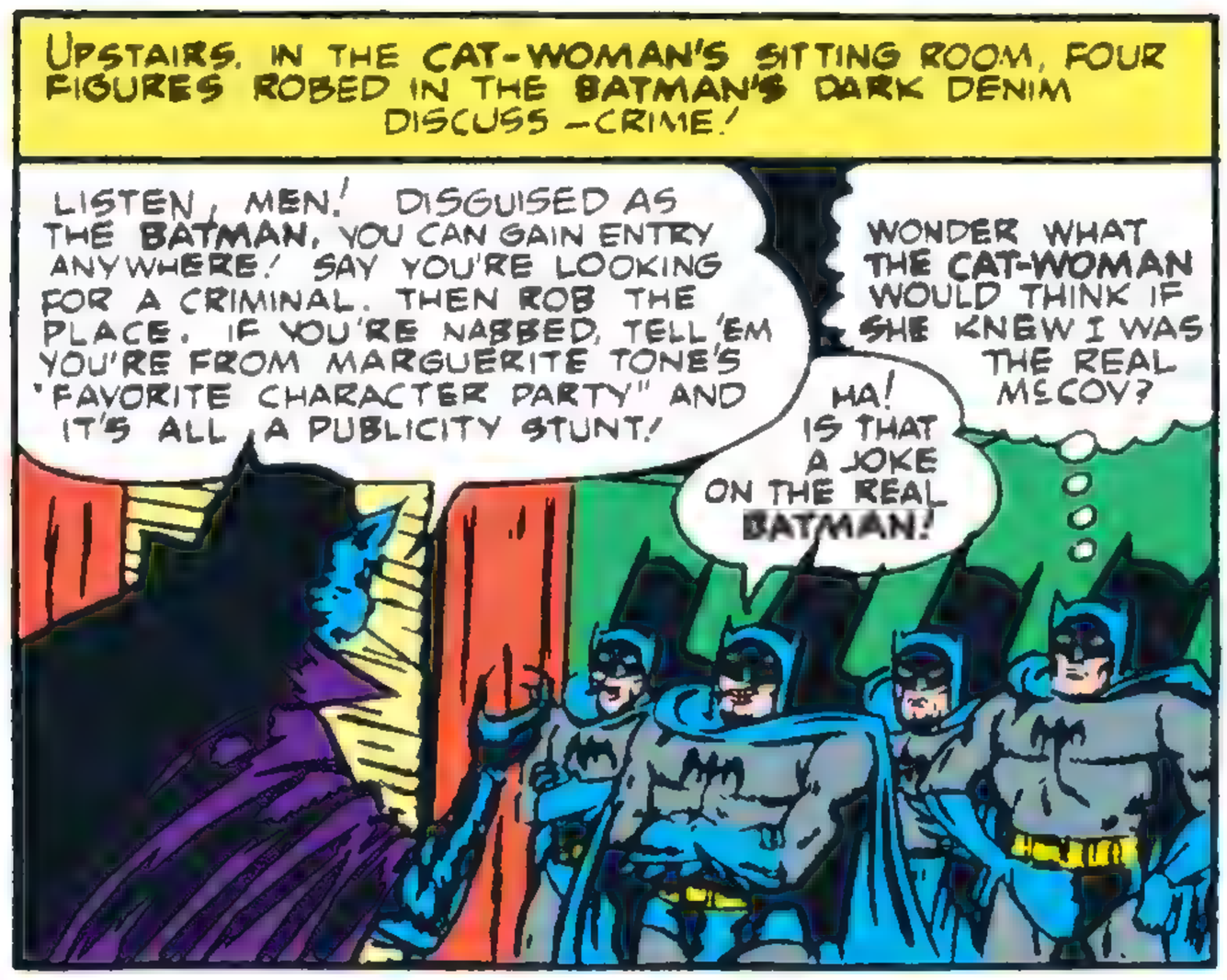

THE NEXT NIGHT...
YOU STAY HERE WITH THE BATMOBILE WHILE I SEE WHAT'S UP! PERHAPS THIS TIME WE CAN CATCH THE CAT-WOMAN RED-HANDED!
AW, I MISS ALL THE FUN!

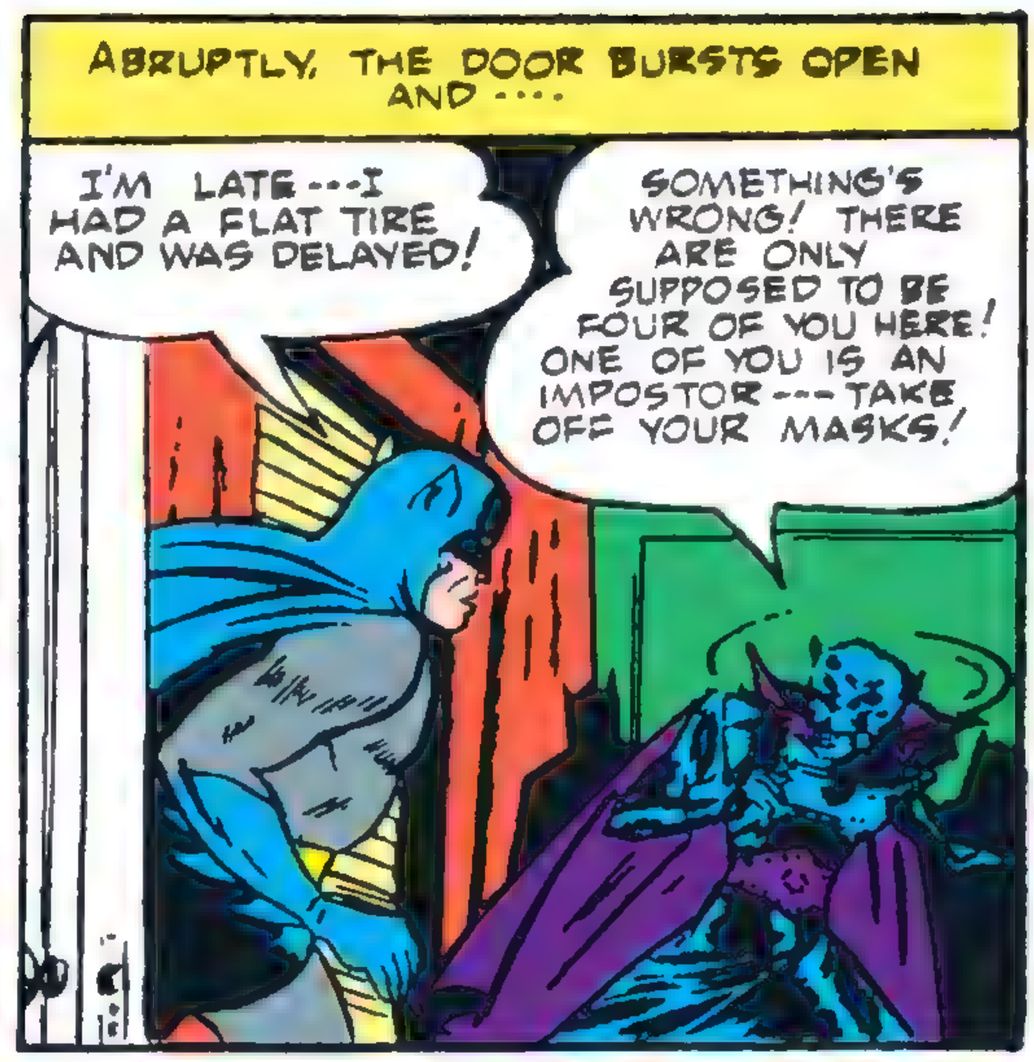
FAVORITE CHARACTERS... GEORGE WASHINGTON, SCARLETT O'HARA, ABE LINCOLN, NAPOLEON, CHARLIE CHAPLIN AND THERE'S THE CAT-WOMAN! SHE'S HAD THE NERVE TO COME DRESSED AS HERSELF!

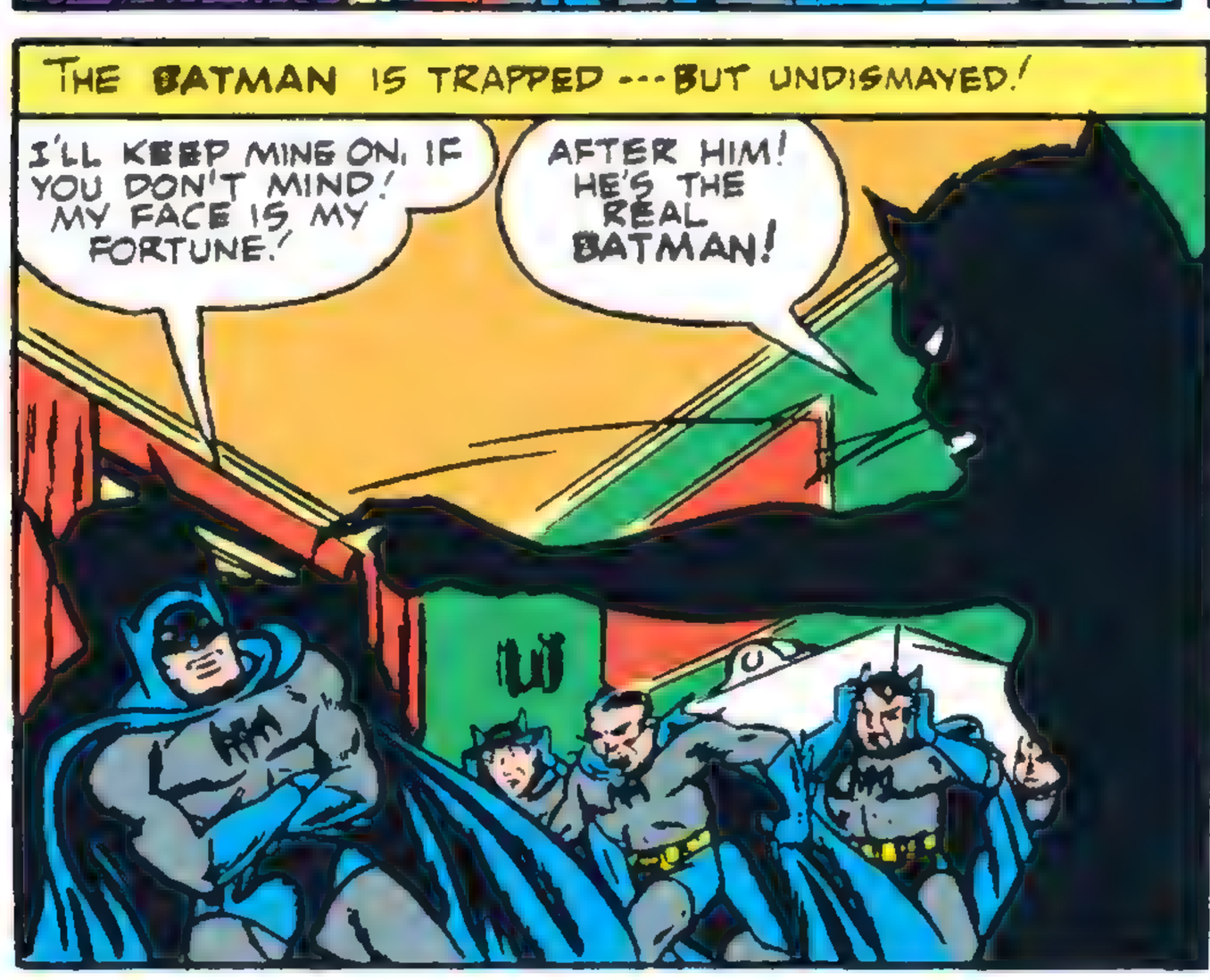

BOLDLY, THE BATMAN ENTERS, MINGLES WITH THE COSTUME-CLAD GUESTS!
LOOK... ANOTHER BATMAN! MY FAVORITE CHARACTER!
ANOTHER BATMAN! WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?


THE CRIME-FIGHTER'S SEARCHING EYES SOON DISCOVER THE ANSWER... SEVERAL BATMEN MEET HIS ASTOUNDED GAZE...FAT ONES, TALL ONES, SHORT ONES!
HOLY COW! THESE GUESTS HAVE ALL COME HERE DRESSED UP AS ME! AND THEY THINK I'M A FAKE, TOO!
HIYA, BATMAN!
SAY, YOU FORGOT TO BRING ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!

SUDDENLY, THE TALL "BATMAN" WHISPERS GRUFFLY TO THE NEW ARRIVAL-
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE, DUKE! C'MON, WE'VE GOT TO JOIN THE CAT-WOMAN! SHE'S GOING UPSTAIRS WITH THE OTHERS.
SO I WAS RIGHT! MY OLD ENEMY IS BEHIND THIS!
OKAY! LEAD ON!


UPSTAIRS, IN THE CAT-WOMAN'S SITTING ROOM, FOUR FIGURES ROBED IN THE BATMAN'S DARK DENIM DISCUSS —CRIME!
LISTEN, MEN! DISGUISED AS THE BATMAN, YOU CAN GAIN ENTRY ANYWHERE! SAY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CRIMINAL. THEN ROB THE PLACE. IF YOU'RE NABBED, TELL 'EM YOU'RE FROM MARGUERITE TONE'S "FAVORITE CHARACTER PARTY" AND IT'S ALL A PUBLICITY STUNT!
WONDER WHAT THE CAT-WOMAN WOULD THINK IF SHE KNEW I WAS THE REAL McCOY?
HA! IS THAT A JOKE ON THE REAL BATMAN!

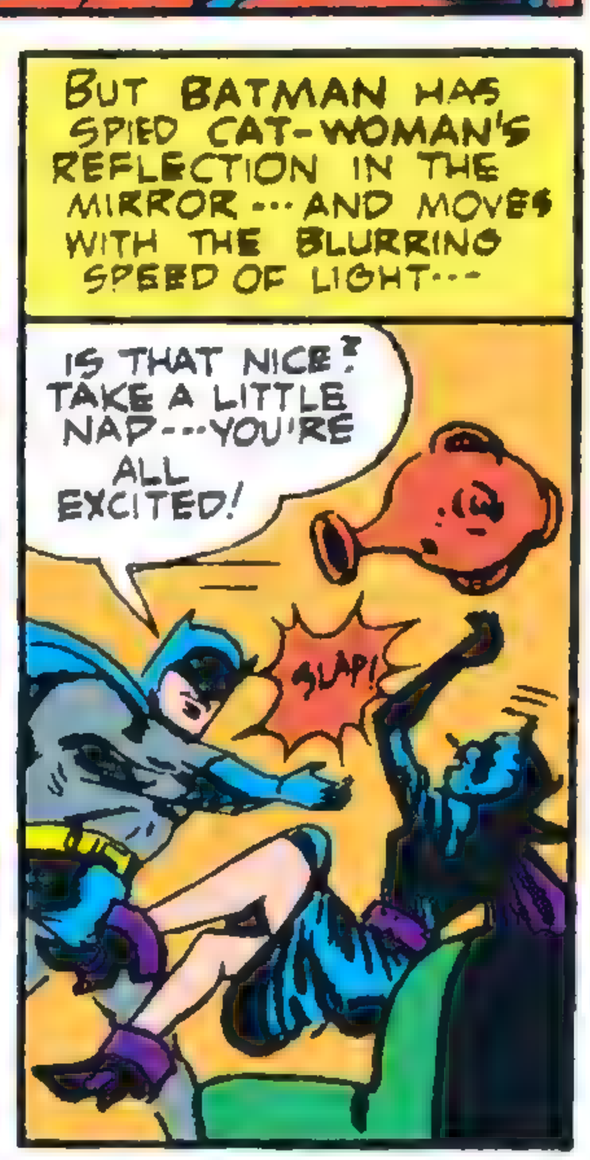

ABRUPTLY, THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN AND ....
I'M LATE---I HAD A FLAT TIRE AND WAS DELAYED!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THERE ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE FOUR OF YOU HERE! ONE OF YOU IS AN IMPOSTOR--- TAKE OFF YOUR MASKS!

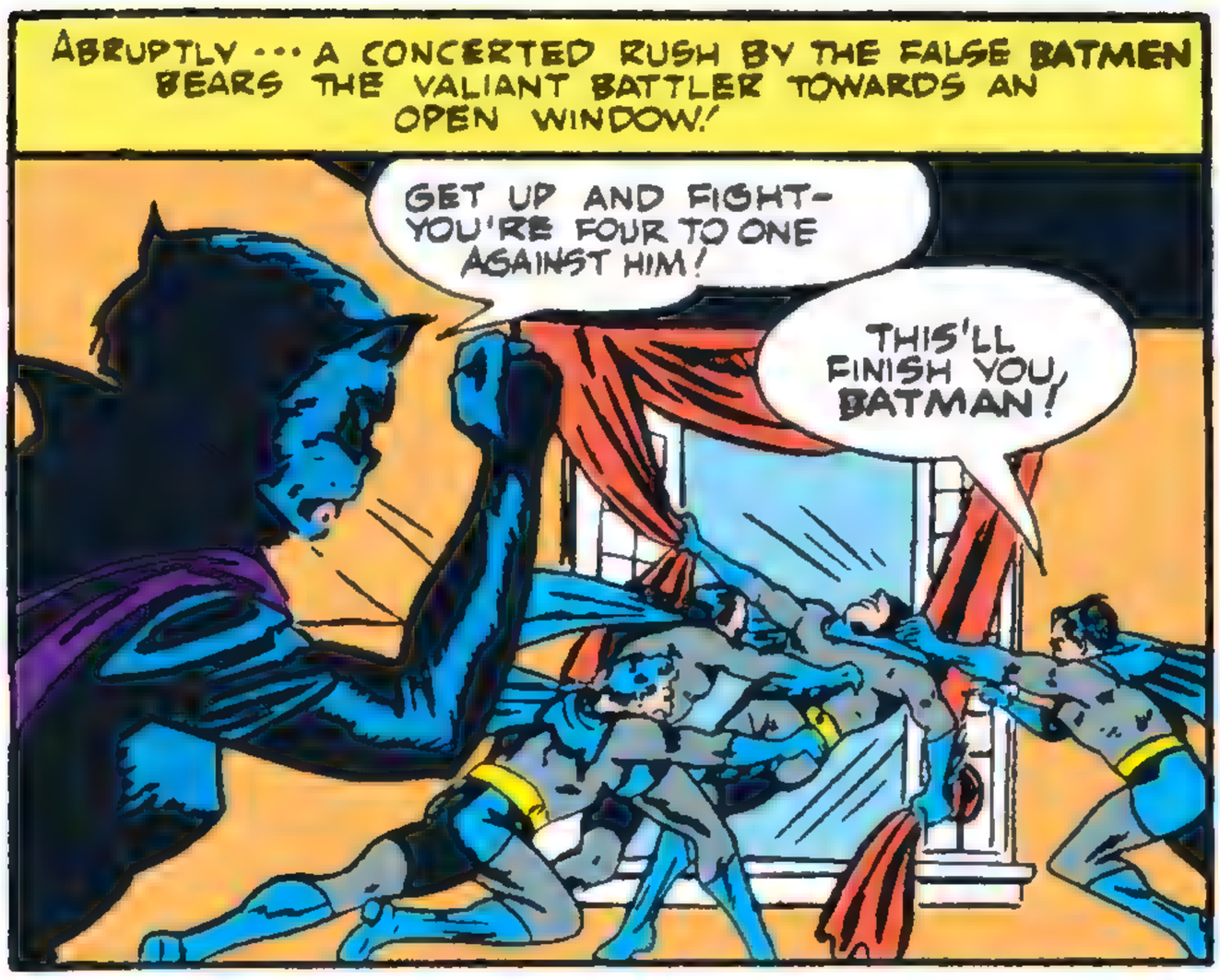

THE BATMAN IS TRAPPED---BUT UNDISMAYED!
I'LL KEEP MING ON, IF YOU DON'T MIND! MY FACE IS MY FORTUNE!
AFTER HIM! HE'S THE REAL BATMAN!

BUT LIKE A STEEL SPRING SUDDENLY RELEASED, THE CRIME-FIGHTER UNCOILS INTO ACTION!
SO YOU WANT TO BE A BATMAN? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW!

THEY'RE ALL MIXED UP BY THE COSTUMES! HERE I AM, MUGGS!

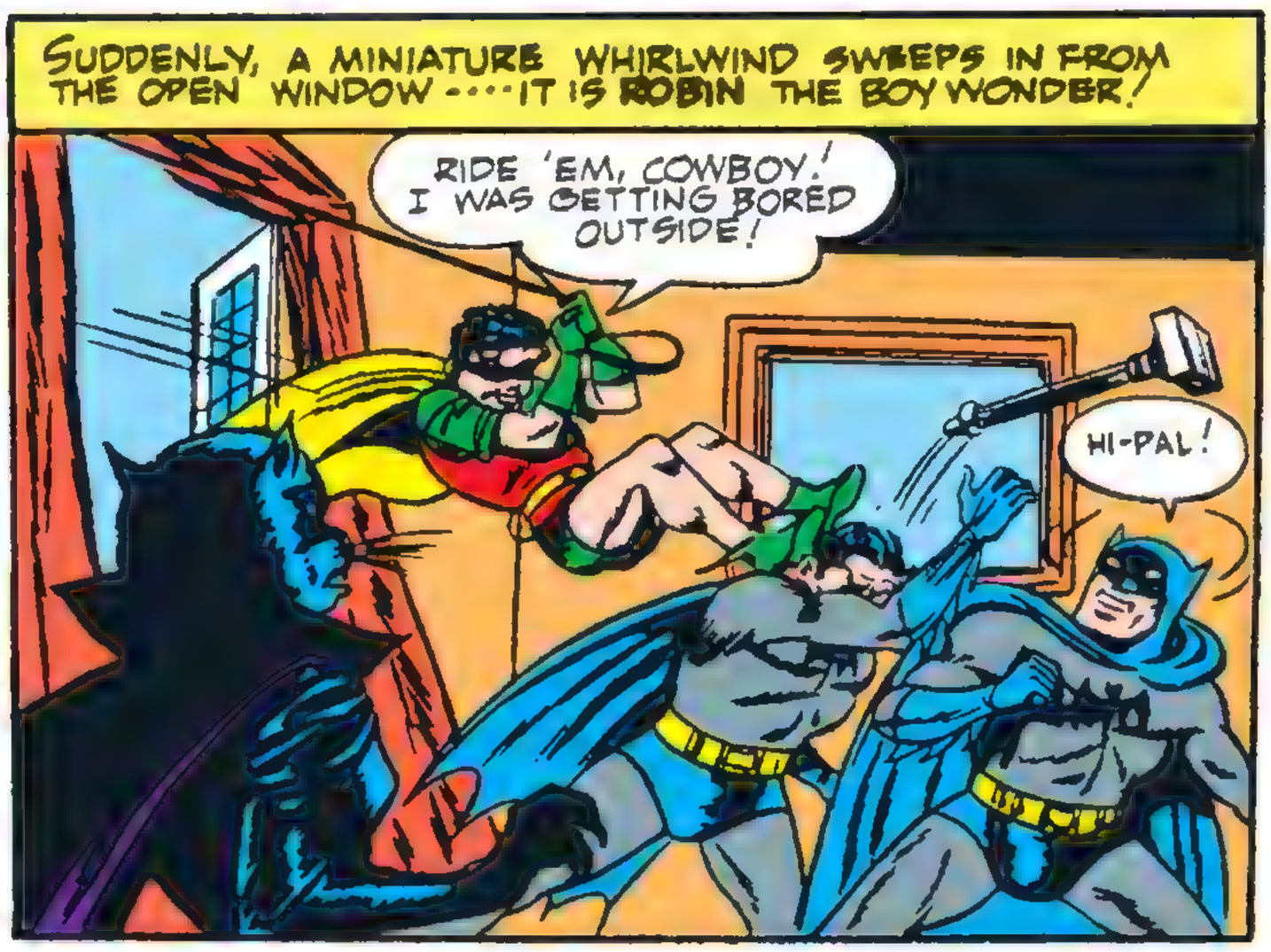
SUDDENLY, SWIFT AS A STRIKING PUMA, THE CRIME QUEEN'S SLIM HANDS STREAK OUT---
I'LL GET YOU MYSELF!

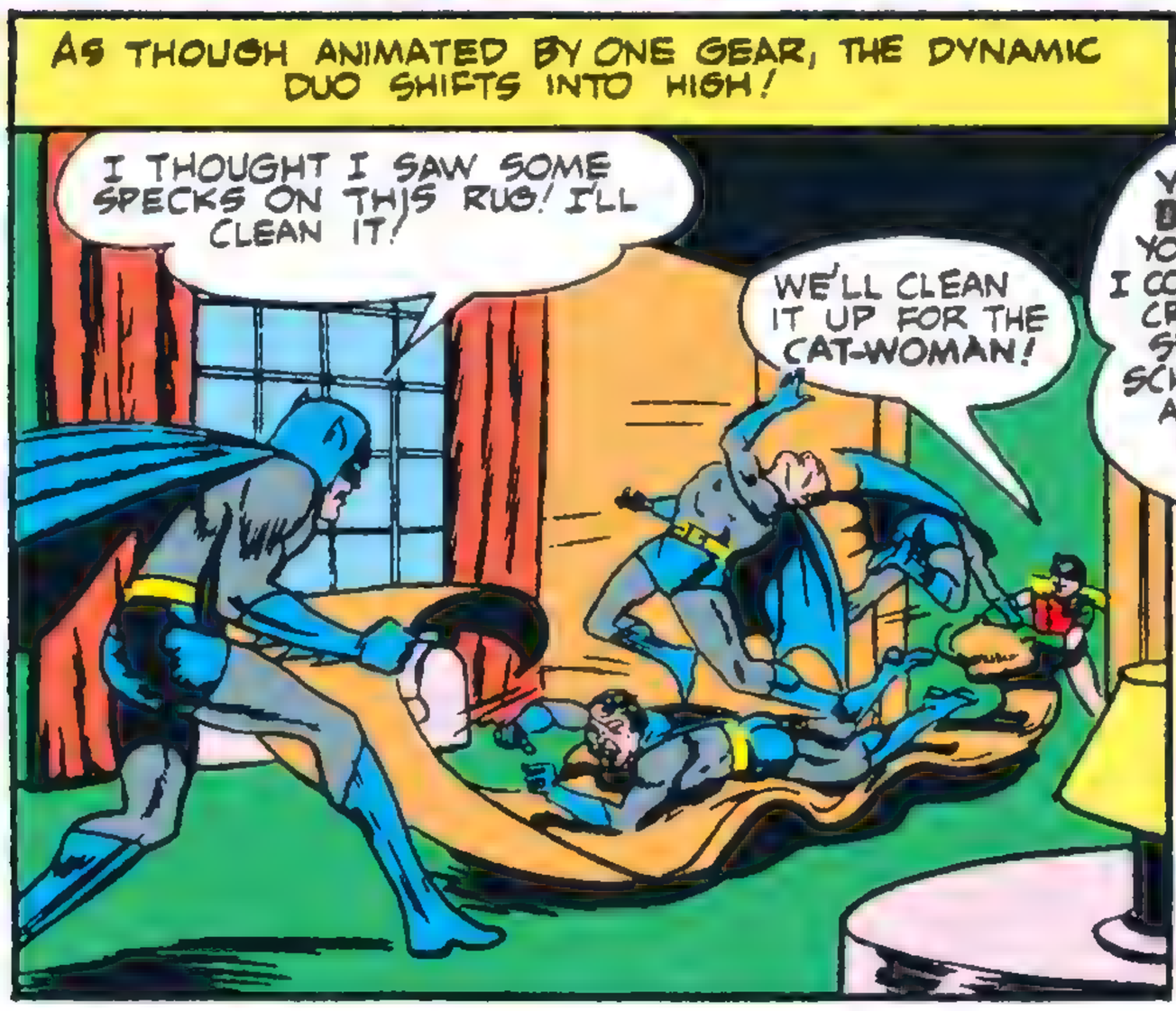

BUT BATMAN HAS SPIED CAT-WOMAN'S REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR---AND MOVES WITH THE BLURRING SPEED OF LIGHT---
IS THAT NICE? TAKE A LITTLE NAP---YOU'RE ALL EXCITED!
SLAP!


ABRUPTLY ··· A CONCERTED RUSH BY THE FALSE BATMEN BEARS THE VALIANT BATTLER TOWARDS AN OPEN WINDOW!
GET UP AND FIGHT- YOU'RE FOUR TO ONE AGAINST HIM!
THIS'LL FINISH YOU, BATMAN!

COME ON, YOU PHONIES! WE'RE JUST STARTING!

THIS IS TOO EASY! STAND UP AND FIGHT!


SUDDENLY, A MINIATURE WHIRLWIND SWEEPS IN FROM THE OPEN WINDOW ···· IT IS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!
RIDE 'EM, COWBOY! I WAS GETTING BORED OUTSIDE!
HI-PAL!


AS THOUGH ANIMATED BY ONE GEAR, THE DYNAMIC DUO SHIFTS INTO HIGH!
I THOUGHT I SAW SOME SPECKS ON THIS RUG! I'LL CLEAN IT!
WE'LL CLEAN IT UP FOR THE CAT-WOMAN!

THE TIGRESS QUEEN QUICKLY REGAINS HER POISE!
YOUR ROUND, BATMAN! BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE I COMMITTED ANY CRIME! YOU SPOILED MY SCHEME, THOUGH··· AND I WON'T FORGET THAT!
YOU'RE CLEVER, CAT! BUT YOU'LL MAKE A SLIP SOONER OR LATER.

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER TWO CAPED FIGURES MERGE INTO THE INKY NIGHT...
HOW BRAVE AND STRONG HE IS! IF ONLY HE WOULD TEAM UP WITH ME ··· NOBODY WOULD BE ABLE TO STOP US ···NOBODY!

A WEEK PASSES, AND BRUCE WAYNE WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR THE CAT-WOMAN'S NEXT MOVE...
THAT WOMAN IS TOO QUIET! IT'S LIKE THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM!
MAYBE SHE GOT FRIGHTENED AND DECIDED TO END HER CRIME CAREER!

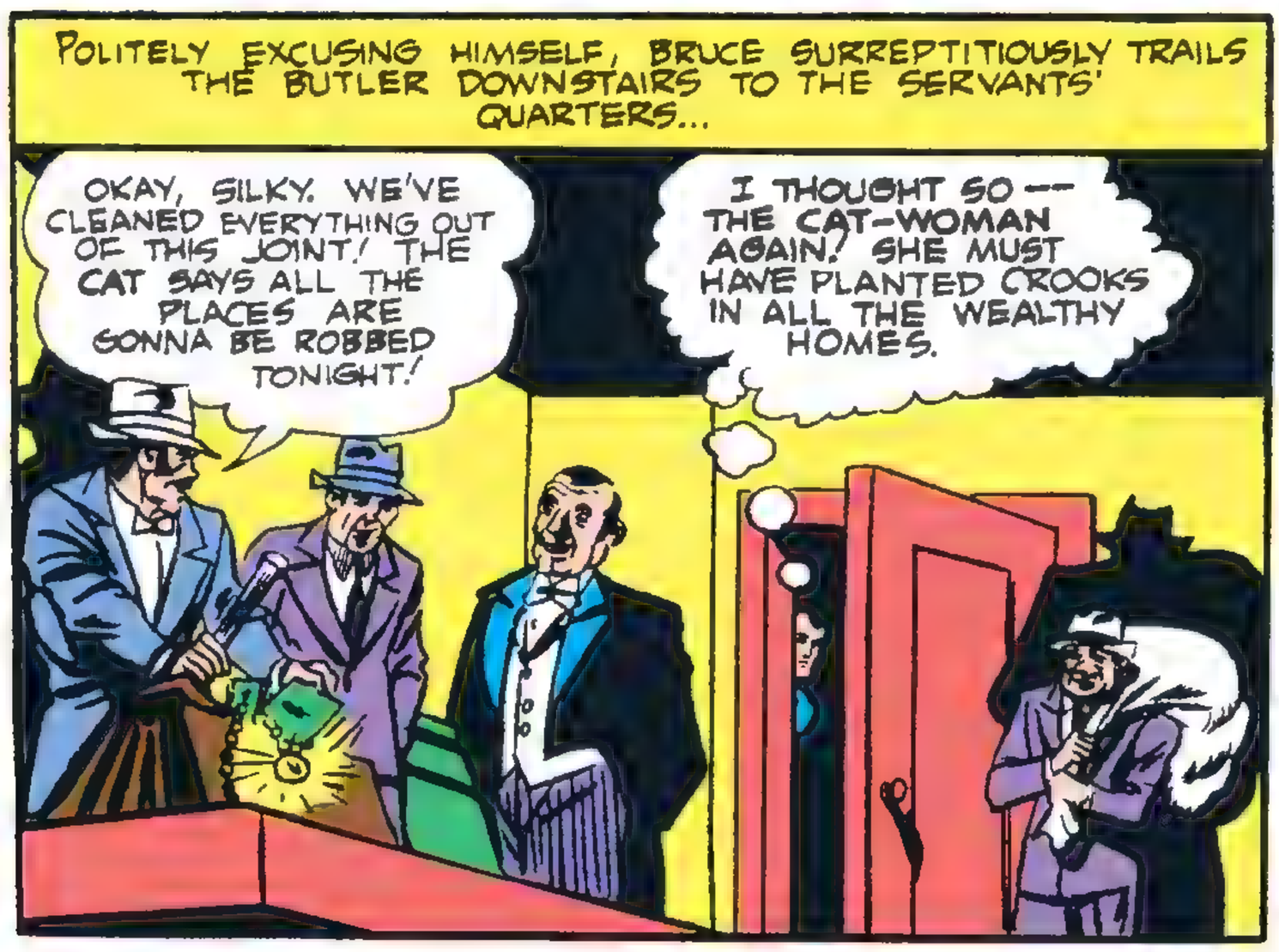
BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, THE CUNNING ADVENTURESS IS PLOTTING HER GREATEST COUP!
NOW, MARGUERITE, YOU MUST TELL US WHERE YOU HIRE YOUR SERVANTS! THEY'RE PERFECTLY GROOMED!
CERTAINLY!

LATER, AT THE ACE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE... IN THE BACK ROOM.
HURRY UP AND FINISH THOSE LESSONS. YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW TO ACT AS SERVANTS. WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN ORDERS!
DINNER IS SOIVED-- I MEAN SERVED!
I BEG YOUR PAWDON, MRS. FITSBUILT. THE MARSTER IS NOT HEAH! HA! HA! I'M LOINING!

PRESENTLY .... UNSUSPECTING SOCIETY OPENS ITS HOMES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CAT-WOMAN'S GANG!
MY NEW BUTLER... ISN'T HE MARVELOUS? MARGUERITE TONE RECOMMENDED HIM!

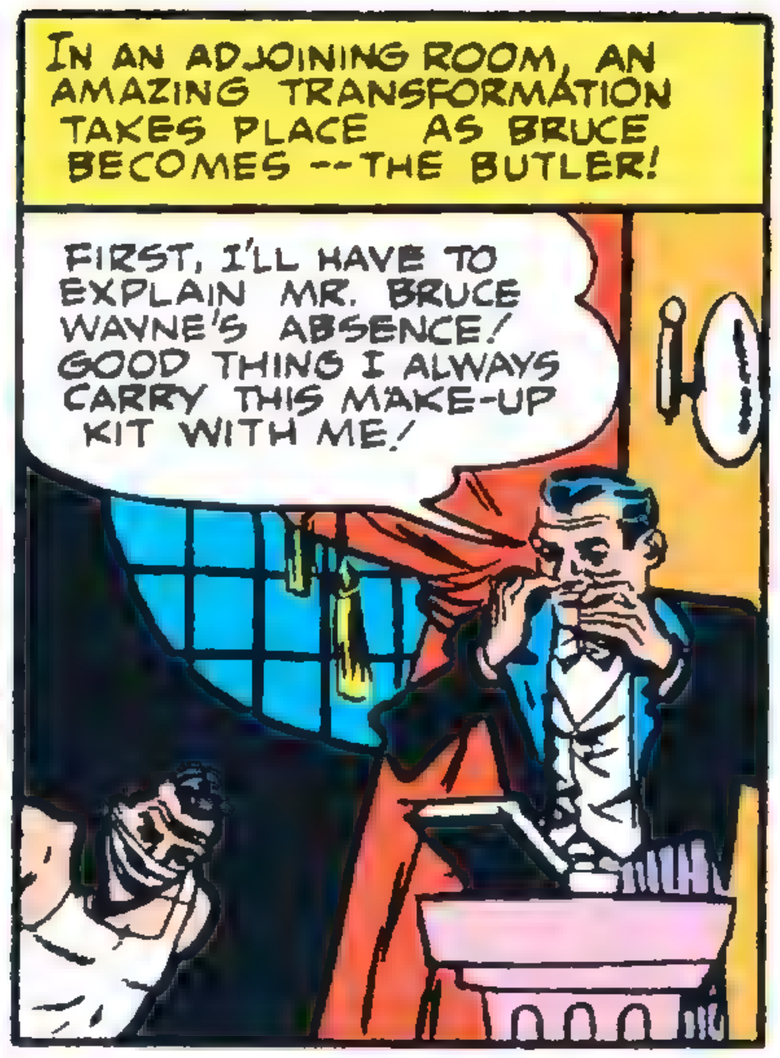
HE'S A BIT ECCENTRIC, BUT MARGUERITE TONE CAN'T BE WRONG! HE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SERVANTS, IT'S A RELIEF!

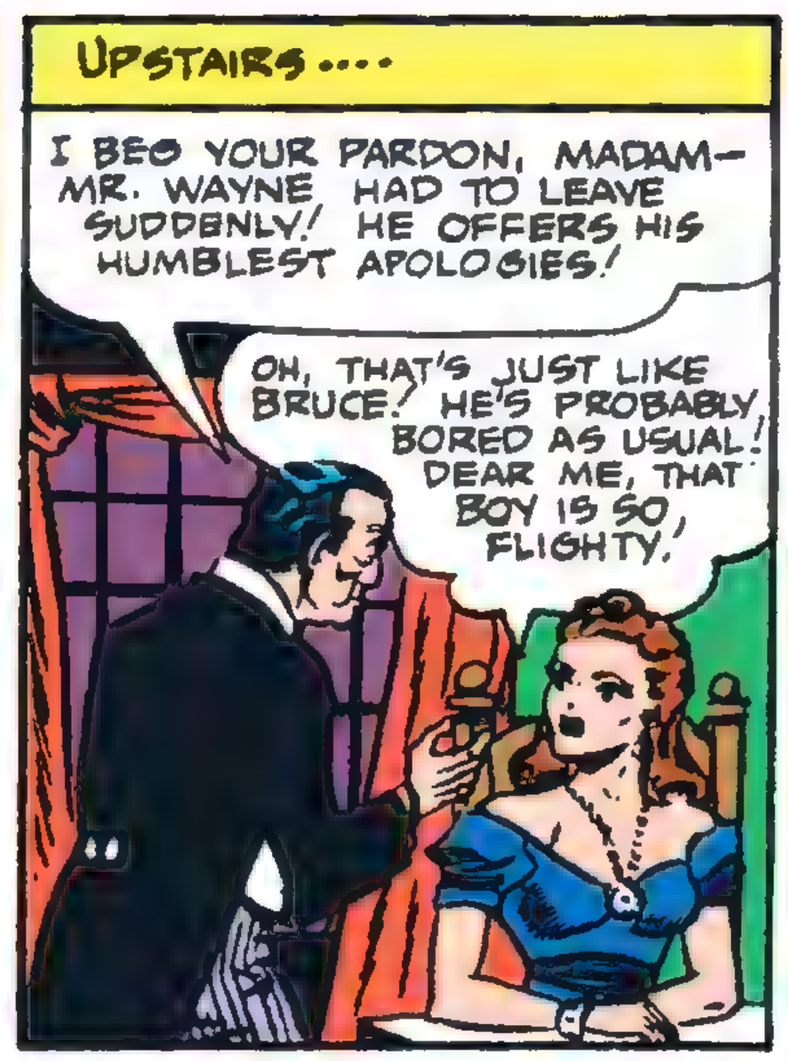
AND, DURING A FESTIVE DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE OF ONE OF HIS FRIENDS, BRUCE WAYNE IS STARTLED TO SEE ....
SILKY DAVIS! WHAT'S THAT CROOK DOING HERE AS A BUTLER?


POLITELY EXCUSING HIMSELF, BRUCE SURREPTITIOUSLY TRAILS THE BUTLER DOWNSTAIRS TO THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS...
OKAY, SILKY. WE'VE CLEANED EVERYTHING OUT OF THIS JOINT! THE CAT SAYS ALL THE PLACES ARE GONNA BE ROBBED TONIGHT!
I THOUGHT SO -- THE CAT-WOMAN AGAIN! SHE MUST HAVE PLANTED CROOKS IN ALL THE WEALTHY HOMES.

IN A FEW MINUTES, FOLLOW ME UPSTAIRS! YOU CAN ROB THOSE RICH MUGGS AT THE DINNER TABLE AND THEN JOIN THE CAT-WOMAN! AND DON'T FORGET TO FRISK THAT PLAY-BOY, BRUCE WAYNE. HE MUST BE CARRYING A BIG ROLL!
9

BUT AS SILKY DAVIS ENTERS THE CORRIDOR, AN IRON FIST CRASHES INTO HIS JAW!
NO TIME FOR CEREMONIES!

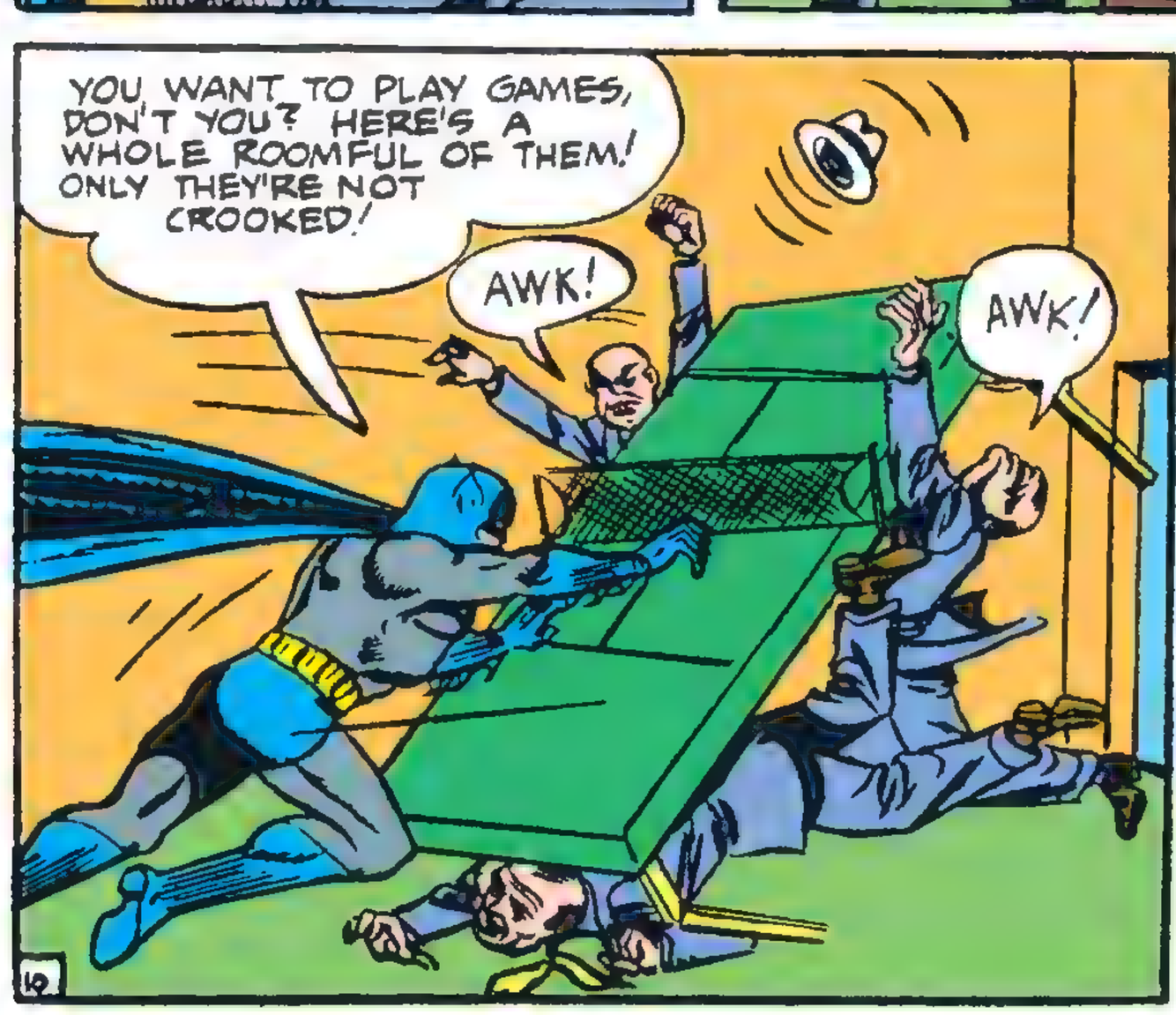

IN AN ADJOINING ROOM, AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE AS BRUCE BECOMES --THE BUTLER!
FIRST, I'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN MR. BRUCE WAYNE'S ABSENCE! GOOD THING I ALWAYS CARRY THIS MAKE-UP KIT WITH ME!


UPSTAIRS....
I BEG YOUR PARDON, MADAM— MR. WAYNE HAD TO LEAVE SUDDENLY! HE OFFERS HIS HUMBLEST APOLOGIES!
OH, THAT'S JUST LIKE BRUCE! HE'S PROBABLY BORED AS USUAL! DEAR ME, THAT BOY IS SO FLIGHTY!

PAUSING ONLY A BRIEF MOMENT TO SUMMON ROBIN, BRUCE RACES TO THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS AGAIN!
SH-H! I'VE GOT A BETTER PLAN! COME THIS WAY!
OKAY, SILKY! YOU KNOW THIS JOINT BETTER!

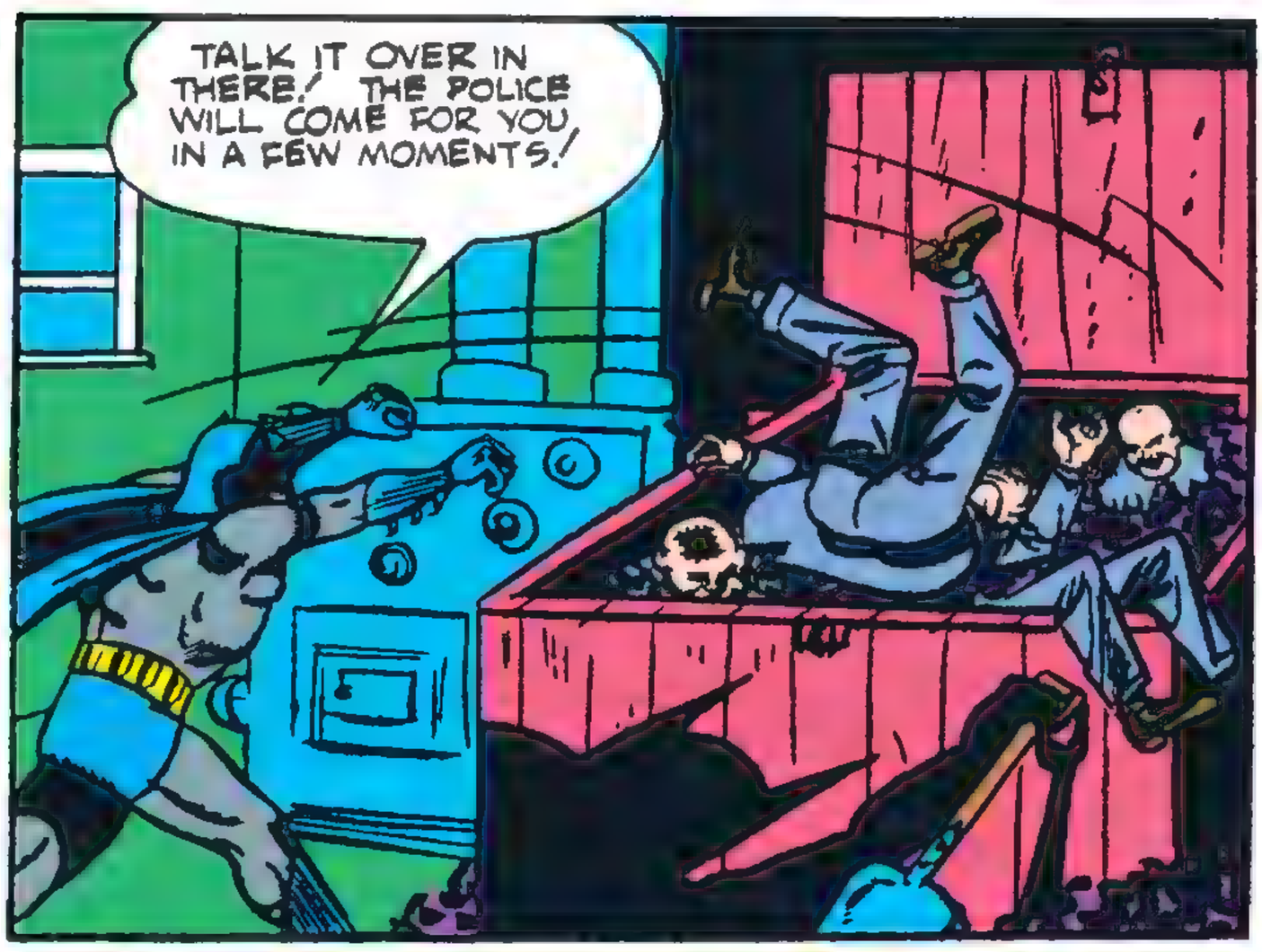
THE DISGUISED BRUCE WAYNE LEADS THE TRUSTING THIEVES TO A BASEMENT GAME ROOM.
HEY, SILKY— WHAT' RE WE DOING DOWN HERE?
YOU'LL FIND OUT!

SUDDENLY, DARKNESS DESCENDS BUT...THE CLICK OF A SWITCH BRINGS THE UNDERWORLD'S DREADED FOE INTO SIGHT —BATMAN!
IT WASN'T SILKY! THAT'S THE BATMAN!
HE TRAPPED US- LET'S GET OUT!

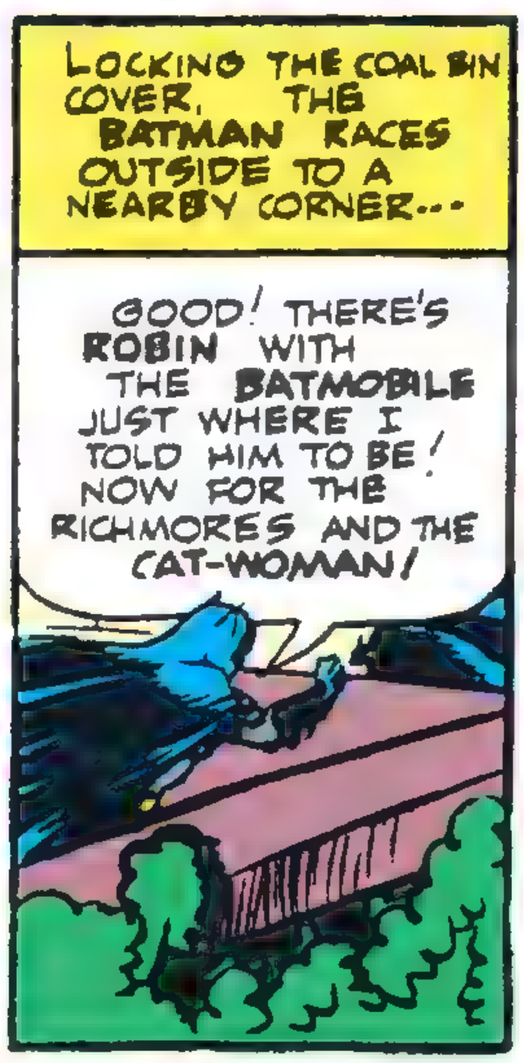

YOU WANT TO PLAY GAMES, DON'T YOU? HERE'S A WHOLE ROOMFUL OF THEM! ONLY THEY'RE NOT CROOKED!
AWK!
AWK!

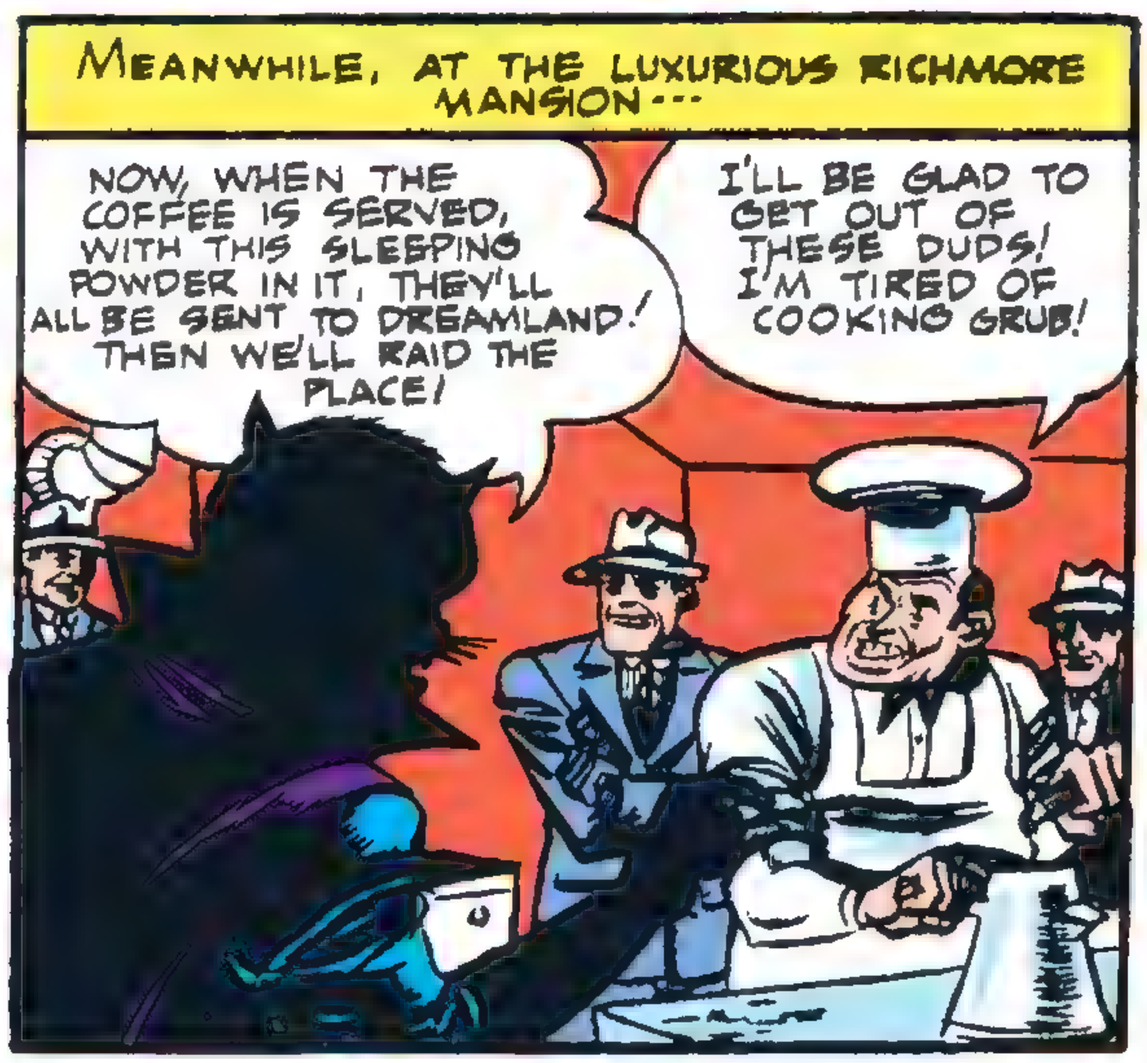
HOW ABOUT SOME BASKETBALL?

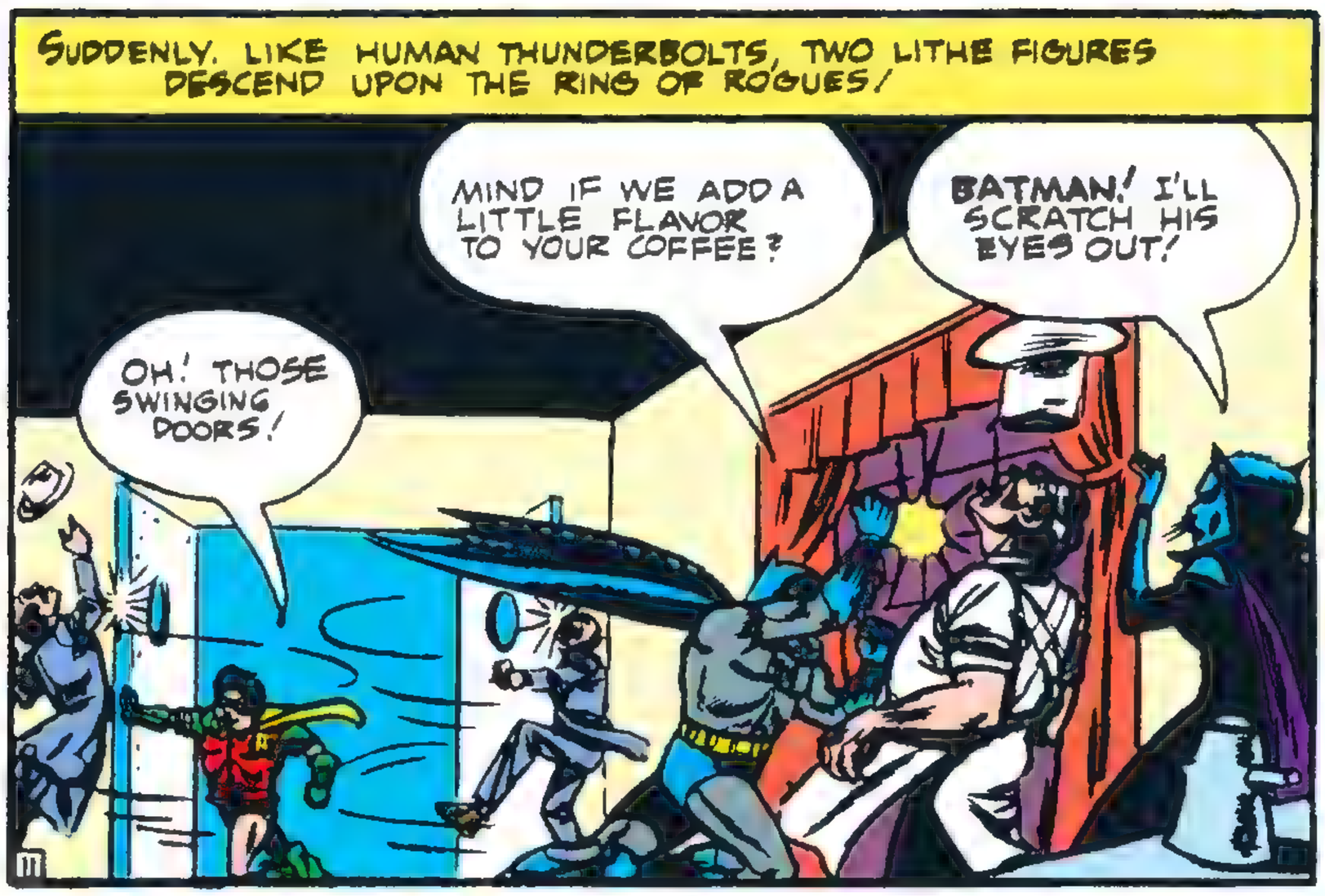
THIS IS YOUR CUE TO GO TO SLEEP!


TALK IT OVER IN THERE! THE POLICE WILL COME FOR YOU IN A FEW MOMENTS!

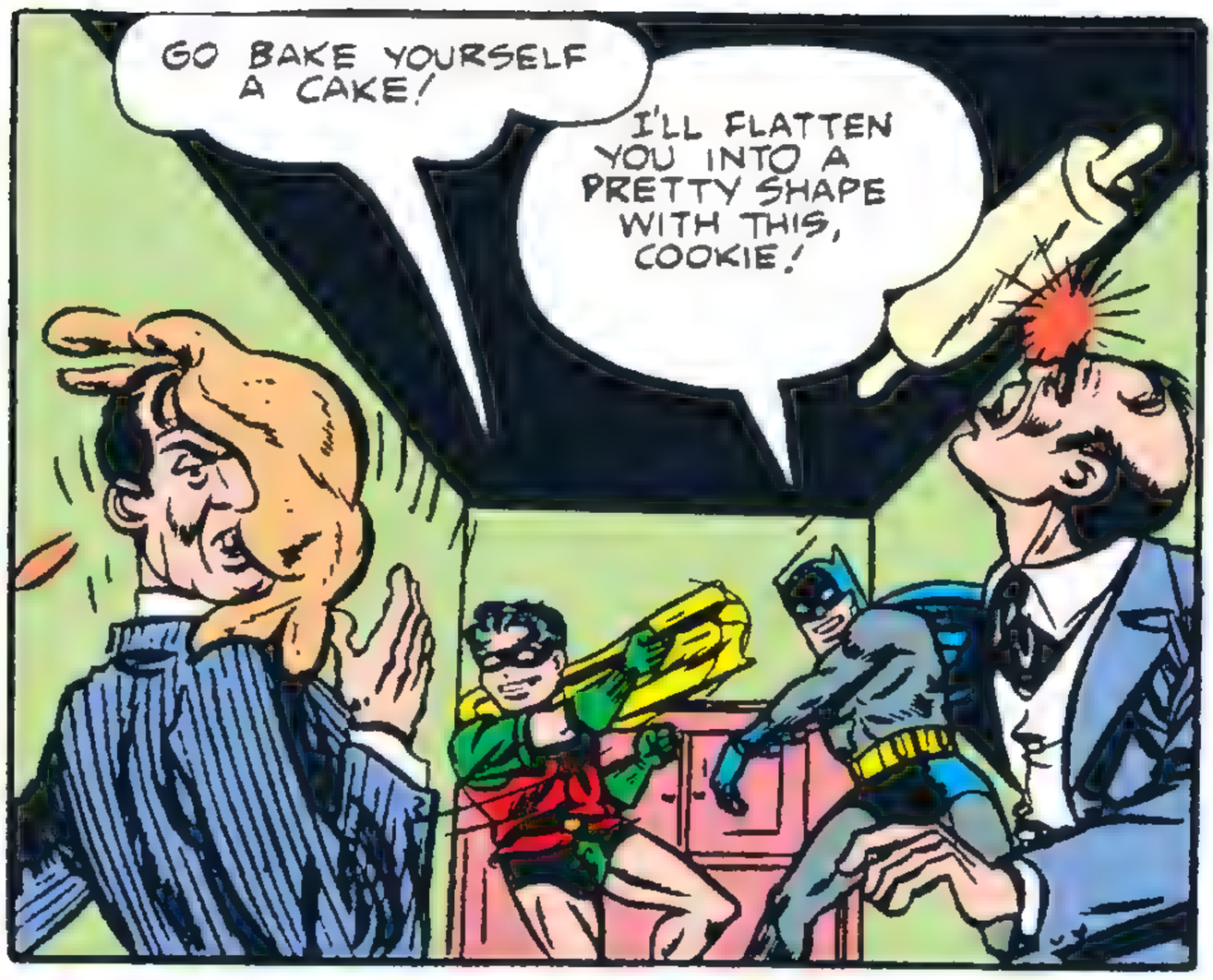
WHERE ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO MEET THE CAT-WOMAN? TALK!
AT... MRS. RICHMORE'S HOUSE!


LOCKING THE COAL BIN COVER, THE BATMAN RACES OUTSIDE TO A NEARBY CORNER...
GOOD! THERE'S ROBIN WITH THE BATMOBILE JUST WHERE I TOLD HIM TO BE! NOW FOR THE RICHMORES AND THE CAT-WOMAN!

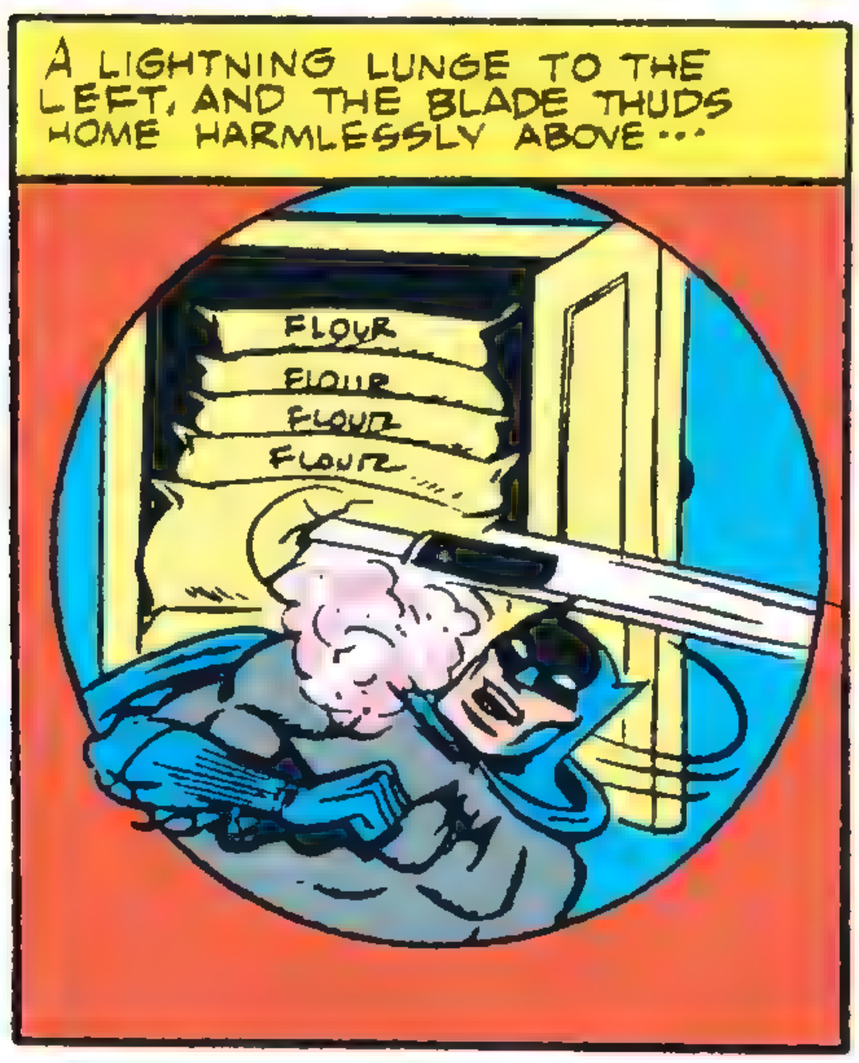

MEANWHILE, AT THE LUXURIOUS RICHMORE MANSION...
NOW, WHEN THE COFFEE IS SERVED, WITH THIS SLEEPING POWDER IN IT, THEY'LL ALL BE SENT TO DREAMLAND! THEN WE'LL RAID THE PLACE!
I'LL BE GLAD TO GET OUT OF THESE DUDS! I'M TIRED OF COOKING GRUB!

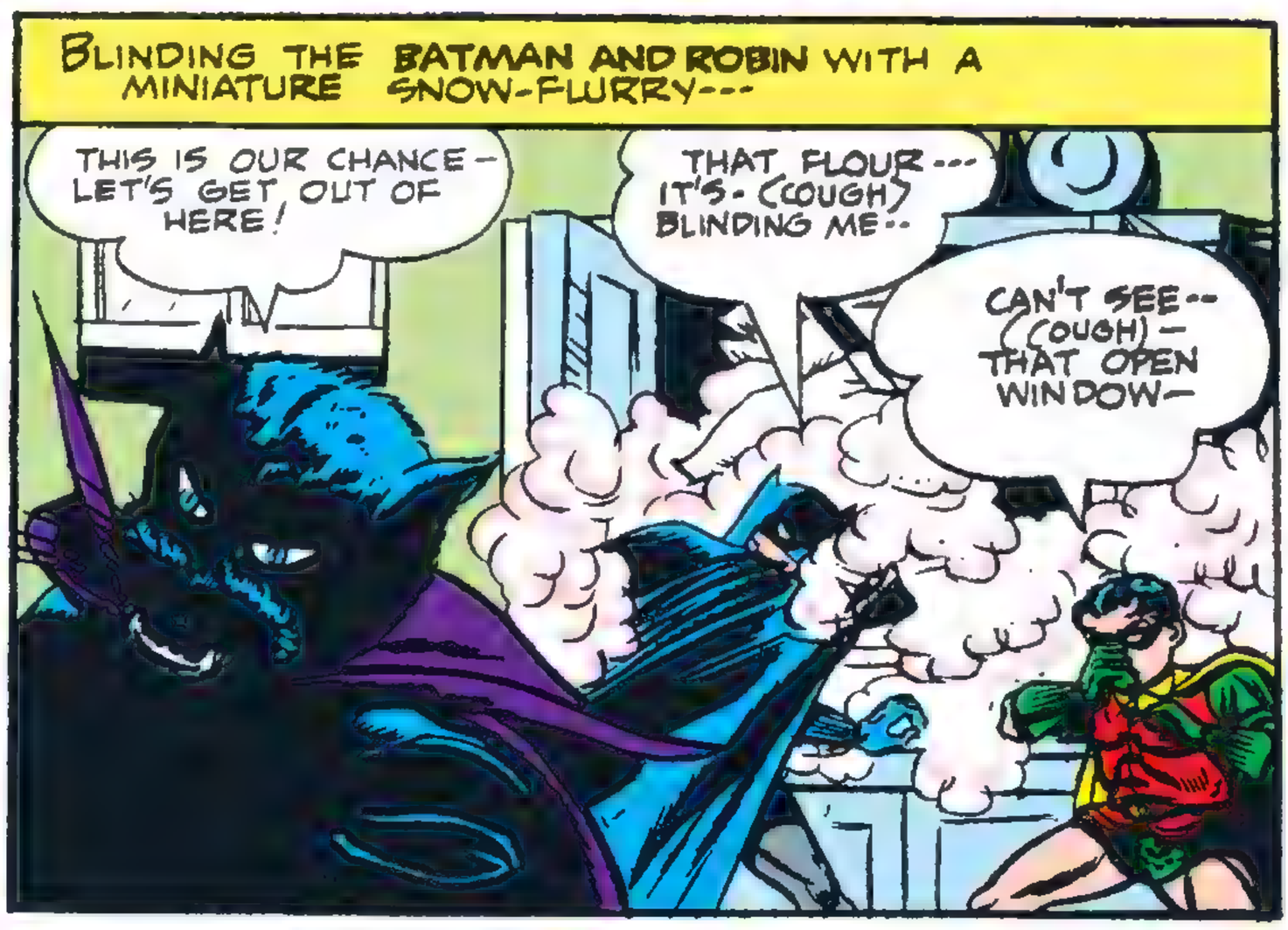

SUDDENLY, LIKE HUMAN THUNDERBOLTS, TWO LITHE FIGURES DESCEND UPON THE RING OF ROGUES!
MIND IF WE ADD A LITTLE FLAVOR TO YOUR COFFEE?
BATMAN! I'LL SCRATCH HIS EYES OUT!
OH! THOSE SWINGING DOORS!

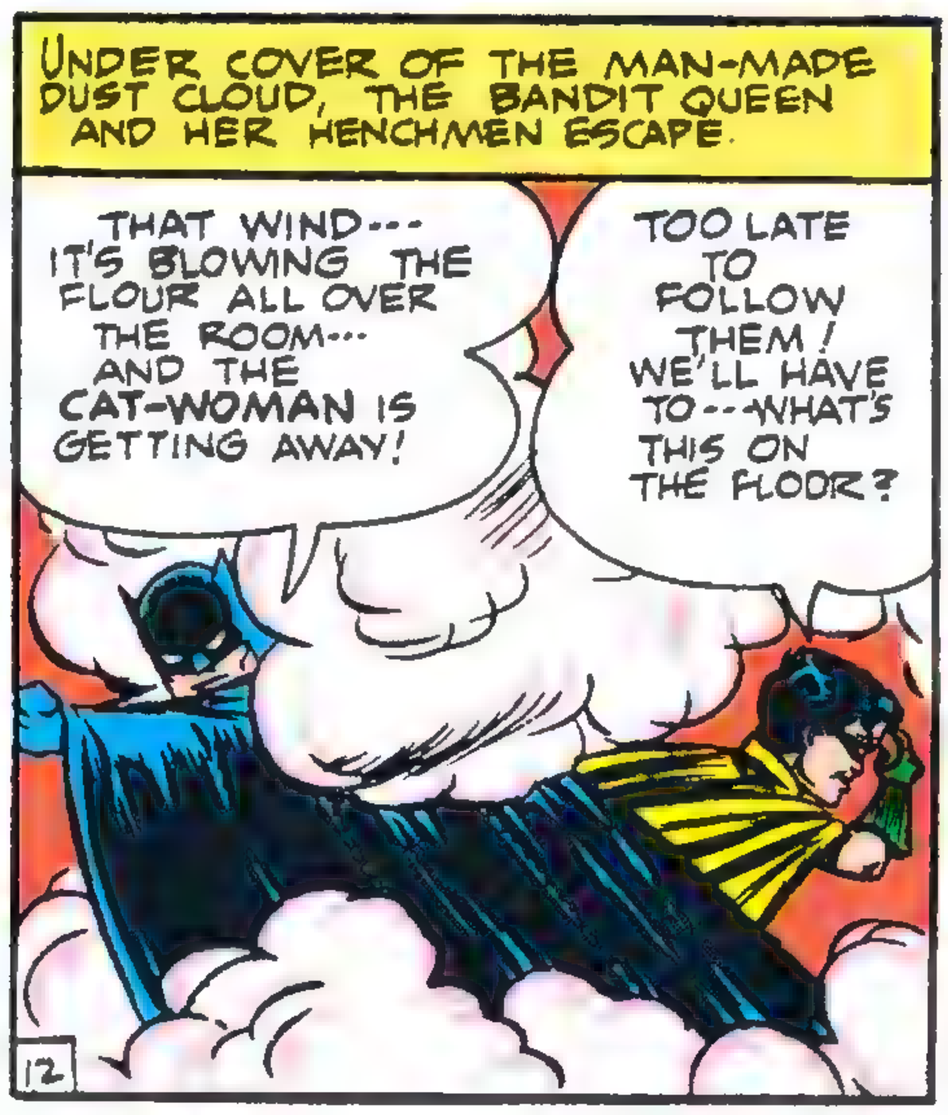
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR EGGS, YEGGS?


GO BAKE YOURSELF A CAKE!
I'LL FLATTEN YOU INTO A PRETTY SHAPE WITH THIS, COOKIE!

SUDDENLY ---- THE VICIOUS GLEAM OF FLASHING STEEL ---
ULP!
LOW BRIDGE, BATMAN!


A LIGHTNING LUNGE TO THE LEFT, AND THE BLADE THUDS HOME HARMLESSLY ABOVE ...
FLOUR
FLOUR
FLOUR
FLOUR

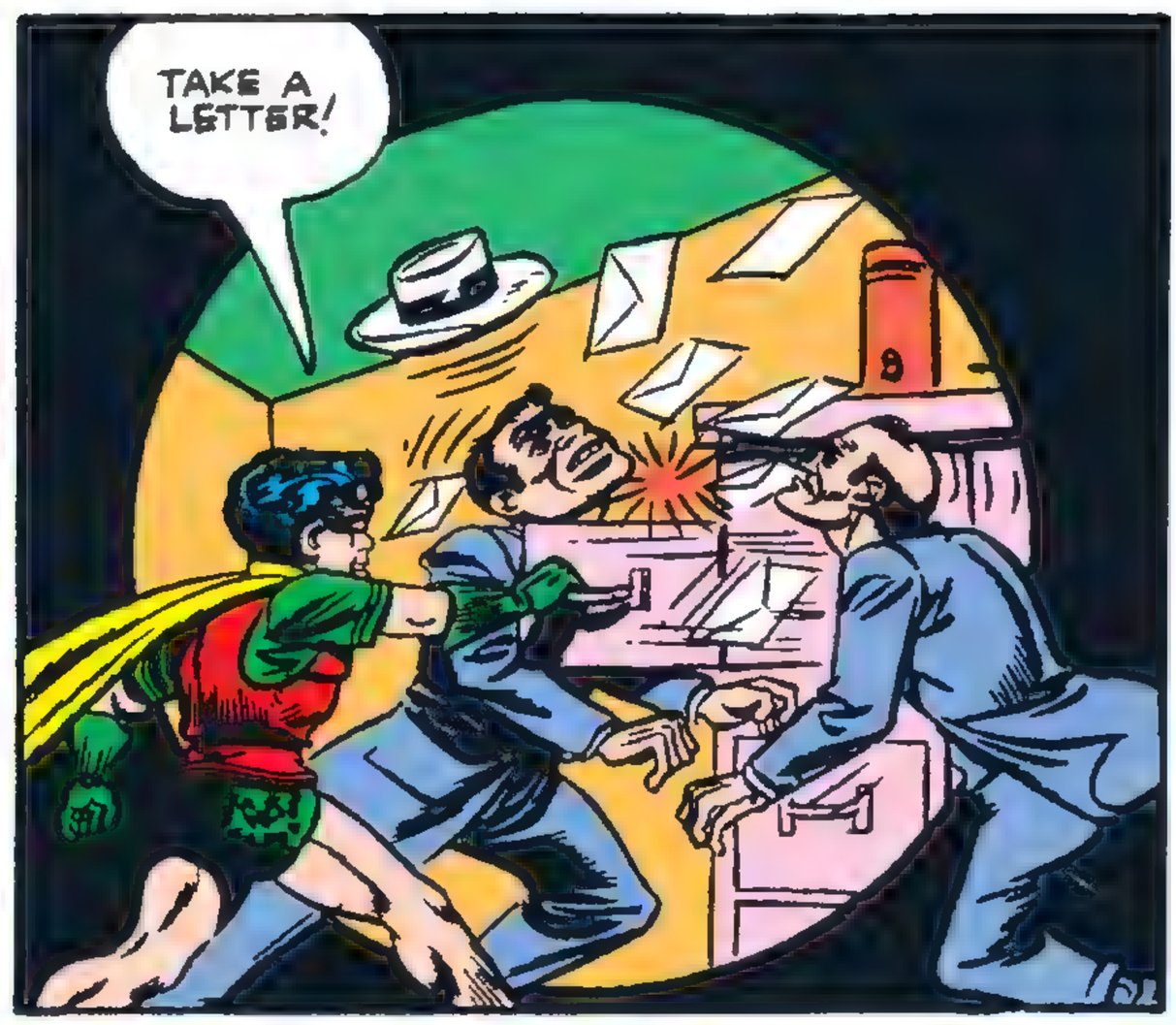

BLINDING THE BATMAN AND ROBIN WITH A MINIATURE SNOW-FLURRY---
THIS IS OUR CHANCE - LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
THAT FLOUR --- IT'S - (COUGH) BLINDING ME --
CAN'T SEE -- (COUGH) - THAT OPEN WINDOW -

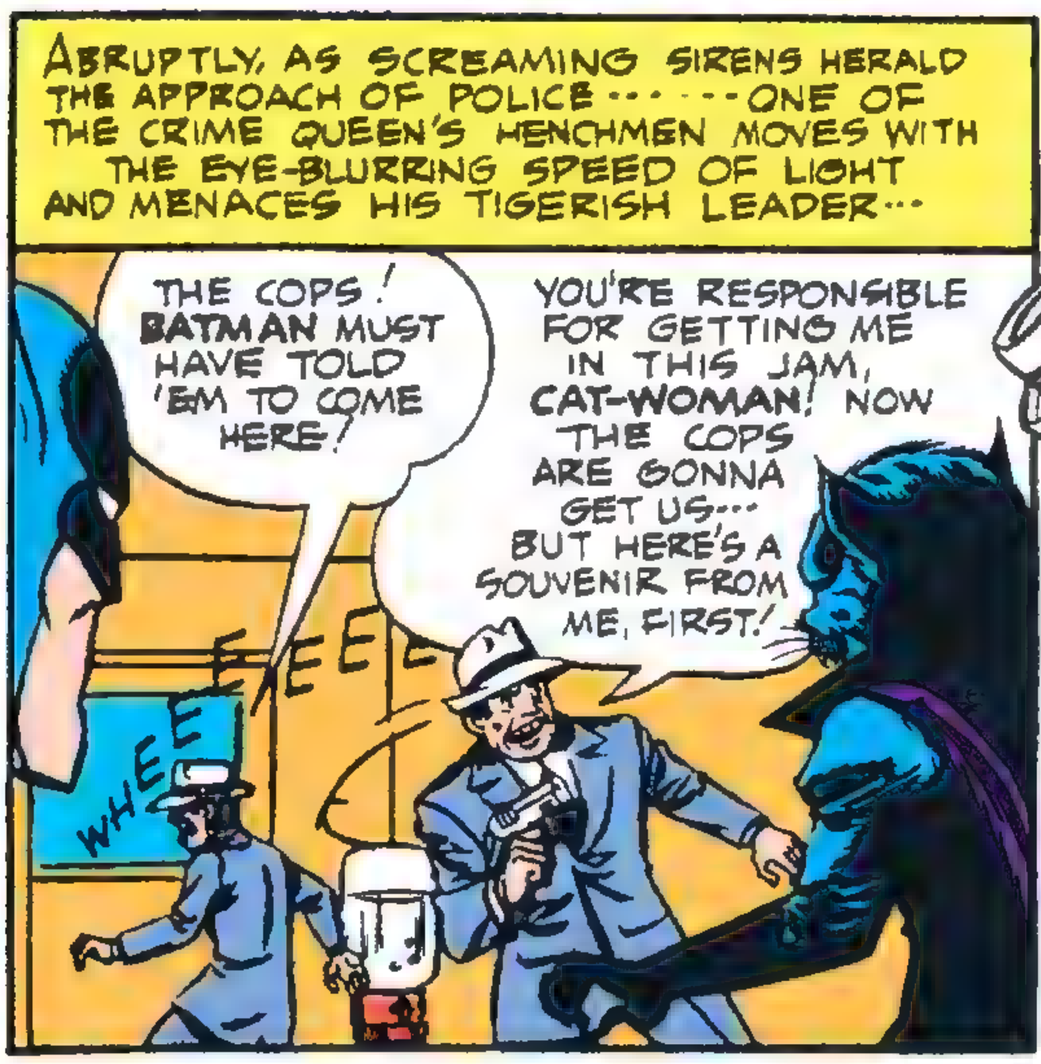

UNDER COVER OF THE MAN-MADE DUST CLOUD, THE BANDIT QUEEN AND HER HENCHMEN ESCAPE.
THAT WIND --- IT'S BLOWING THE FLOUR ALL OVER THE ROOM --- AND THE CAT-WOMAN IS GETTING AWAY!
TOO LATE TO FOLLOW THEM! WE'LL HAVE TO -- WHAT'S THIS ON THE FLOOR?
12

"LOST AND FOUND -- CONFIDENTIAL AGENCY. VALUABLES RETRIEVED FOR A SUITABLE REWARD!" HMM! A NEAT LITTLE RACKET! THE CAT-WOMAN OPERATES A LOST AND FOUND BUREAU -
-- AND HOLDS UP THE PEOPLE SHE ROBBED FOR A SUM OF MONEY TO GET THEIR JEWELS AND THINGS BACK! WE'VE GOT TO BREAK IT UP, BATMAN!

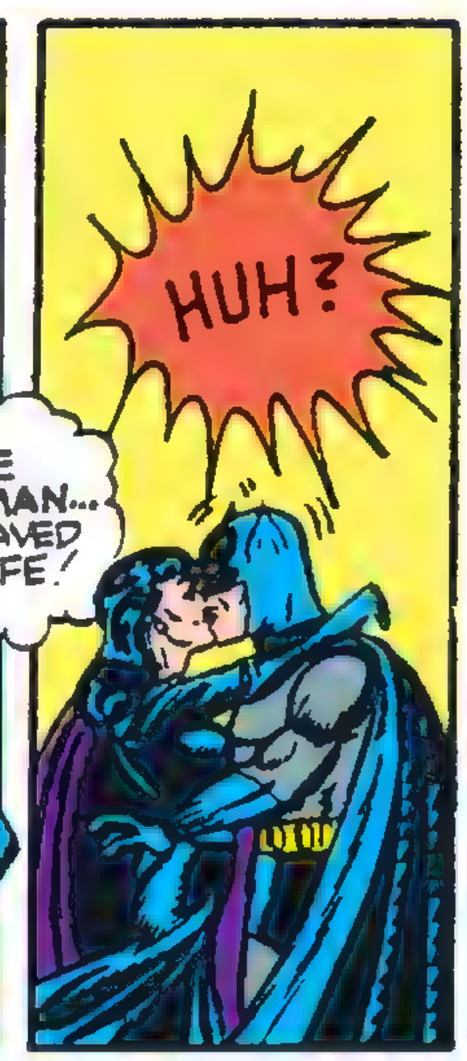
DOWN AT THE CONFIDENTIAL AGENCY, A BLAZE OF EXCITEMENT IS IGNITED ---
YES, MR. VANDERWELL. FOR THE SLIGHT SUM OF $5000 WE WILL RECOVER YOUR HEIRLOOM!
EVERYBODY CLEAR OUT OF HERE! WE'RE LEAVING TOWN! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE TOO CLOSE TO US!

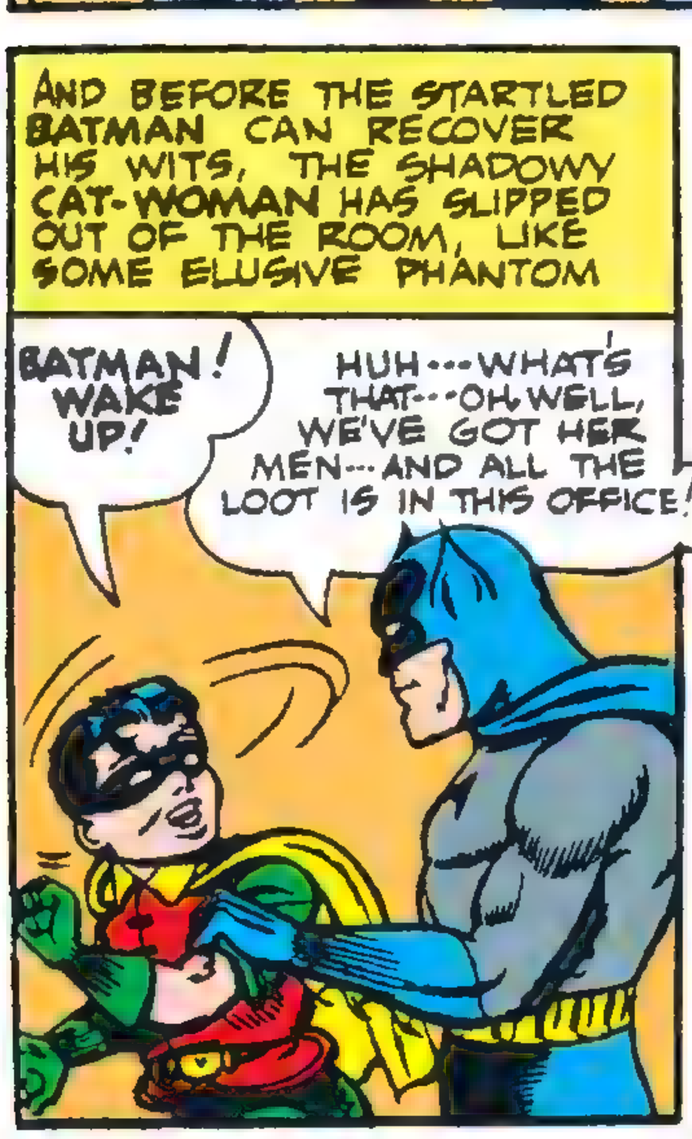
LIKE AN ANSWERING ECHO, THE TWIN FOES OF CRIME HURTLE FORWARD!
THE BATMAN!
SORRY ---BUT YOU DIDN'T FURNISH ME WITH A KEY!


TAKE A LETTER!


ABRUPTLY, AS SCREAMING SIRENS HERALD THE APPROACH OF POLICE ------ ONE OF THE CRIME QUEEN'S HENCHMEN MOVES WITH THE EYE-BLURRING SPEED OF LIGHT AND MENACES HIS TIGERISH LEADER---
THE COPS! BATMAN MUST HAVE TOLD 'EM TO COME HERE!
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING ME IN THIS JAM, CAT-WOMAN! NOW THE COPS ARE GONNA GET US--- BUT HERE'S A SOUVENIR FROM ME, FIRST!
WHEE

BUT BEFORE THE MUTINOUS CRIMINAL CAN PULL THE TRIGGER---
AND HERE'S SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY!
THE BATMAN... HE SAVED MY LIFE!


HUH?


AND BEFORE THE STARTLED BATMAN CAN RECOVER HIS WITS, THE SHADOWY CAT-WOMAN HAS SLIPPED OUT OF THE ROOM, LIKE SOME ELUSIVE PHANTOM
BATMAN! WAKE UP!
HUH---WHAT'S THAT---OH, WELL, WE'VE GOT HER MEN---AND ALL THE LOOT IS IN THIS OFFICE!

PRESENTLY---
THANKS FOR CATCHING THE GANG AND RECOVERING THE LOOT, BATMAN. BUT WHERE'S THEIR LEADER--- THE CAT-WOMAN?
SHE--- ER---SHE GOT AWAY--- SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS---

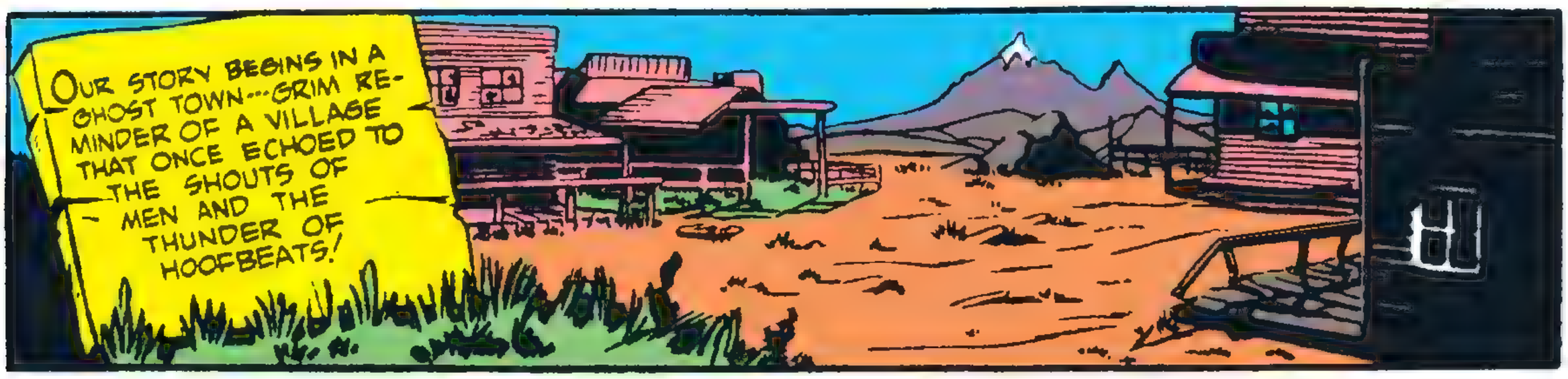
SOME TIME LATER, IN BRUCE WAYNE'S APARTMENT---
YOU KNOW, BRUCE, I'VE A FEELING YOU LET THE CAT-WOMAN ESCAPE!
WHY, DICK, HOW CAN YOU SAY A THING LIKE THAT! SHE'S CLEVER AND BEAUTIFUL, YES---AND IT'S A SHAME THAT WE BOTH WORK ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE LAW BUT I HOPE-- I MEAN I KNOW WE'LL MEET AGAIN --SOON! AND THEN IT WILL BE MY ROUND!
CATWOMAN STILL AT LARGE

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

by BOB KANE

THEY ALL WANDERED INTO THE FORGOTTEN VILLAGE--- AN OLD PROSPECTOR--- AN ORPHANED YOUTH---A HOMELESS COUPLE---AND A DOCTOR TOO OLD TO SERVE MAN. FORSAKEN FOLK, WANTED BY NO ONE, THEY REBUILT THIS RAMSHACKLE COMMUNITY INTO--- **SUNSHINE CITY!** BUT SUDDENLY DESCEND MEN WITH THE SOULS OF VULTURES TO STEAL THE FRUITS OF HONEST LABOR... AND THERE ARE DARK DAYS IN SUNSHINE CITY UNTIL THE MIGHTY **BATMAN** SWOOPS DOWN FROM THE SKIES TO FIGHT SIX-GUN PERIL WHEN HE RUNS FOR THE POST OF --- "THE **SHERIFF OF GHOST TOWN!**"



INTO THIS FORGOTTEN VILLAGE ONE DAY STRAY TWO DUSTY TRAVELERS··· CACTUS TOM, AN OLD PROSPECTOR, AND YOUNG JOE JEFFERS, THE SON OF HIS DEAD PARTNER

CACTUS TOM, WHY IS THIS TOWN DESERTED?

IT'S CITIZENS WERE CURSED WITH GOLD FEVER, LAD! WHEN THEY HEARD OF RICHER STRIKES ELSEWHERE, THEY LIT OUT AND NEVER CAME BACK!

THERE'S STILL SOME GOLD HEREABOUTS, SON. WE'RE SETTLIN' DOWN TO MAKE A STAKE TO SEND YOU TO SCHOOL!

SCHOOL! AN···WELL·· WHATEVER YOU SAY··

IN TIME, A FAMILY DRIVEN FROM A DUST-BOWL FARM JOINS THE PAIR···

OUT OF GAS? SORRY··· WE AIN'T GOT NONE···· BUT WHY NOT START FARMIN' AGAIN HERE? THERE'S PLENTY OF GOOD LAND AND HOUSES GALORE!

BY GUM, I BELIEVE WE WILL! MY NAME'S SIMMONS···

A DOCTOR JOINS THE REBORN COMMUNITY···

I'M A DOCTOR, LOOKING FOR A PRACTICE·· TOO MANY YOUNGER DOCTORS WHERE I COME FROM!

A DOCTOR? GLORY BE! SIMMONS' WIFE IS SICK, AN' MY RHEUMATIZ IS SOMETHIN' FIERCE, AN'···

IN WEEKS TO COME, OTHER WAYFARERS SETTLE DOWN TO START LIFE ANEW···

PLENTY DOING IN THE CARPENTRY LINE···AN' AM I GLAD! HOW'RE YOU DOIN', BARBER?

NOT MUCH BUSINESS YET··· BUT IT'LL COME!

GRATEFUL FOR THE PROSPERITY THAT HAS REWARDED THEIR LABORS, THE EX-WANDERERS CHRISTEN THE NAMELESS TOWN··

MOST OF US WAS OLD FOLKS, WITH CLOUDS OVER US, TILL WE RAN INTO CLEAR SKIES HERE! SINCE YUH MADE ME MAYOR, MEBBE I KIN SUGGEST A NAME FER OUR TOWN! HOW 'BOUT SUNSHINE CITY?

SUNSHINE CITY IT IS!

HOORAY!

BUT EVEN AS THE GARDEN OF EDEN HAD ITS SERPENT·· INTO SUNSHINE CITY ONE DAY RIDES "FIVE ACES" FROGEL, GAMBLER AND CROOK, WITH SOME CRONIES··

TAKE A LOOK, BULLET AN' BLACKIE! QUITE A BUSTLIN' LITTLE COMMUNITY WE GOT HERE!

AND READY FOR US TO TAKE OVER!

YEAH·· LET'S CALL IN THE REST OF THE BOYS, AN'··

VIOLENCE FLARES···AND BLAZING GUNS AND FLASHING KNIVES TAKE A WANTON TOLL OF LIFE AS FROGEL'S FOLLOWERS POUR INTO TOWN!

THAT WHEEL'S CROOKED! I WANT··· OHHH···

THIS'LL TEACH YUH T' SQUAWK!

TAKE A CHANCE

PLENTY GOLD DUST IN THESE SADDLE-BAGS!

OUGHTTA BE··· IT'S THE MONTH'S OUTPUT OF THE WHOLE TOWN!

HURRY! MY HUSBAND! THEY'VE STABBED HIM!

HE SHOULDA MINDED HIS OWN BUSINESS, LADY!

HOPING TO PRESERVE THEIR NEW-FOUND HAPPINESS, THE FOUNDERS OF SUNSHINE CITY MEET IN THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE···

FELLER CITIZENS, WE WAS DOIN' FINE TILL THEM CROOKS CAME! WE GOT TO GET RID O' THE VARMINTS!

THAT'S RIGHT, MAYOR!

BUT THE WILY FROGEL SHOWS HIS DEFIANCE OF LAW AND ORDER!

THAT'S RIGHT, BLACKIE-BURN HER DOWN TO THE GROUND!

SUNSH SCHOOL

BOSS, YOU'RE HOT STUFF! HAW, HAW!

PRESENTLY·····INSIDE THE SCHOOLHOUSE····

WE GOTTA GIT TO-GETHER, AN'···WHAT'S THIS?

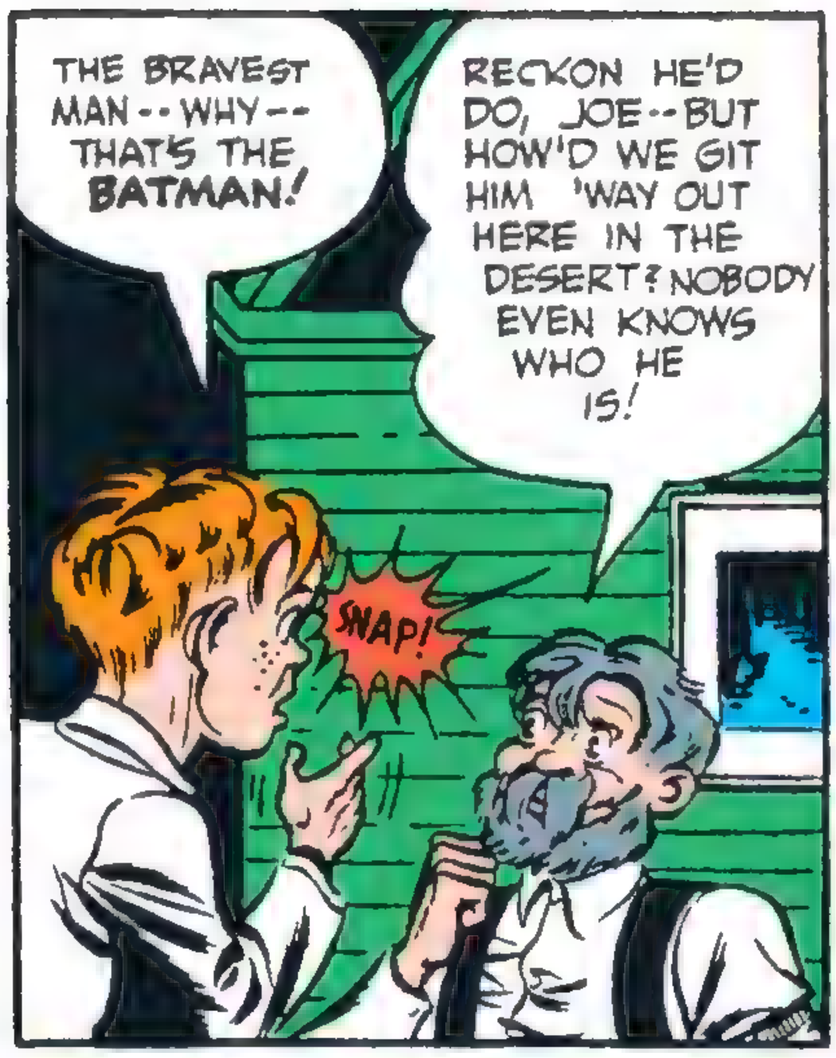
FIRE!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

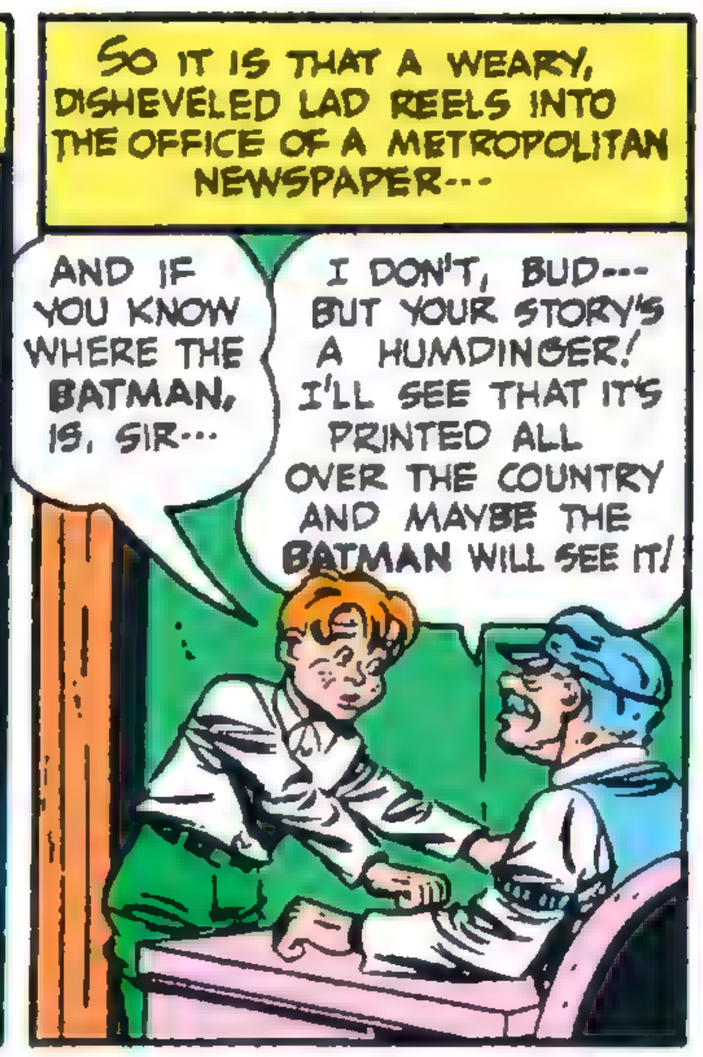
LATER, IN THE TINY SHACK CACTUS TOM SHARES WITH JOE···

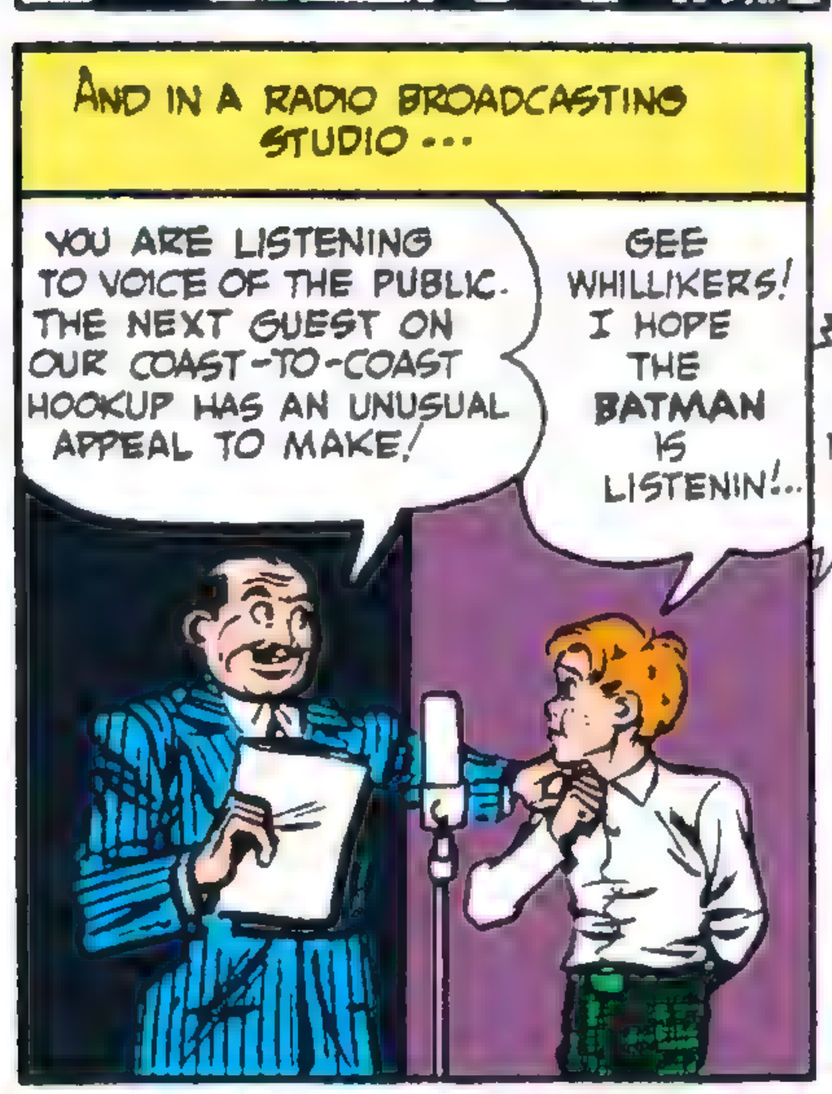
DON'T FEEL SO BAD, CACTUS TOM!

IT AIN'T ME I'M FRETTED 'BOUT···IT'S ALL THE OLD FOLKS THAT COME HERE FER A NEW LIFE! AN OLD COOT LIKE ME CAN'T HELP 'EM! WHAT WE NEED IS THE BRAVEST MAN IN THE COUNTRY TO CLEAR OUT THEM BUZZARDS!


THE BRAVEST MAN -- WHY -- THAT'S THE BATMAN!
RECKON HE'D DO, JOE -- BUT HOW'D WE GIT HIM 'WAY OUT HERE IN THE DESERT? NOBODY EVEN KNOWS WHO HE IS!
SNAP!

A DESPERATE HOPE SPURS A LONE RIDER THROUGH THE NIGHT...
MAYBE THERE'S A WAY OF REACHING THE BATMAN -- SOMEONE IN STATE CITY OUGHT TO KNOW!

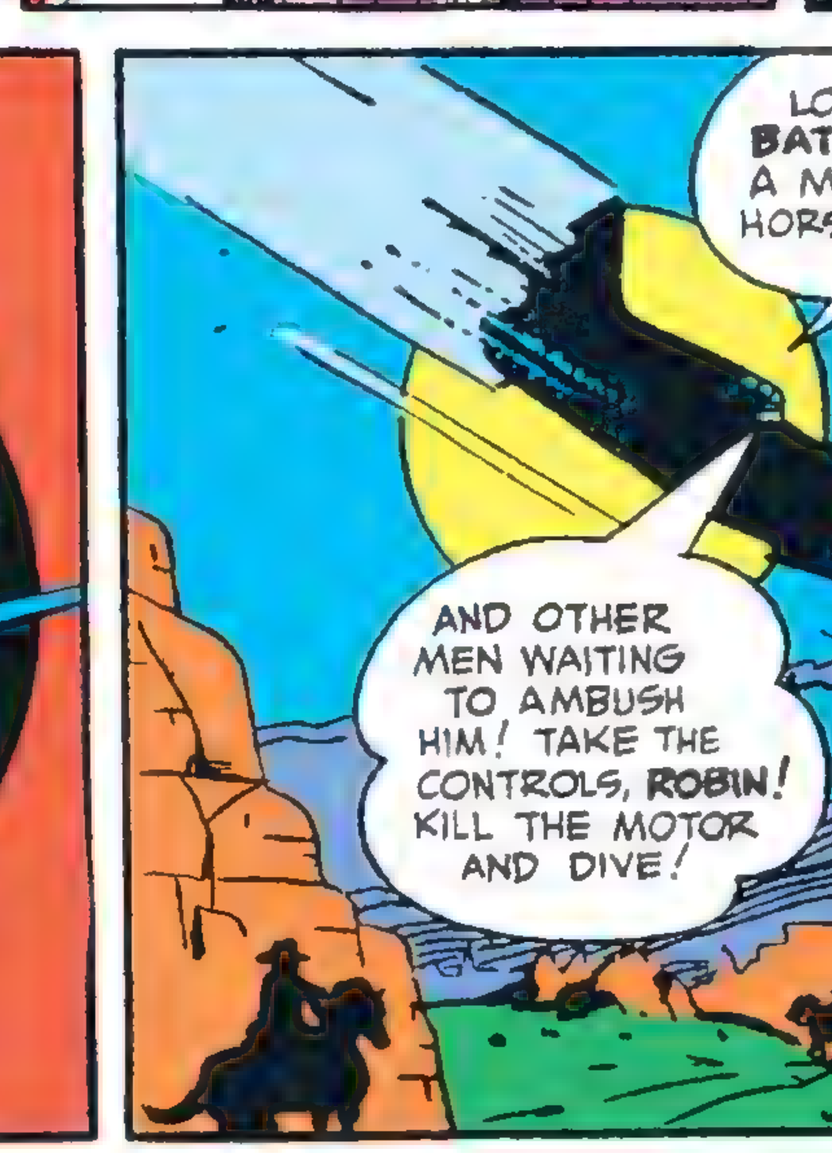

SO IT IS THAT A WEARY, DISHEVELED LAD REELS INTO THE OFFICE OF A METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER...
AND IF YOU KNOW WHERE THE BATMAN, IS, SIR...
I DON'T, BUD... BUT YOUR STORY'S A HUMDINGER! I'LL SEE THAT IT'S PRINTED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND MAYBE THE BATMAN WILL SEE IT!

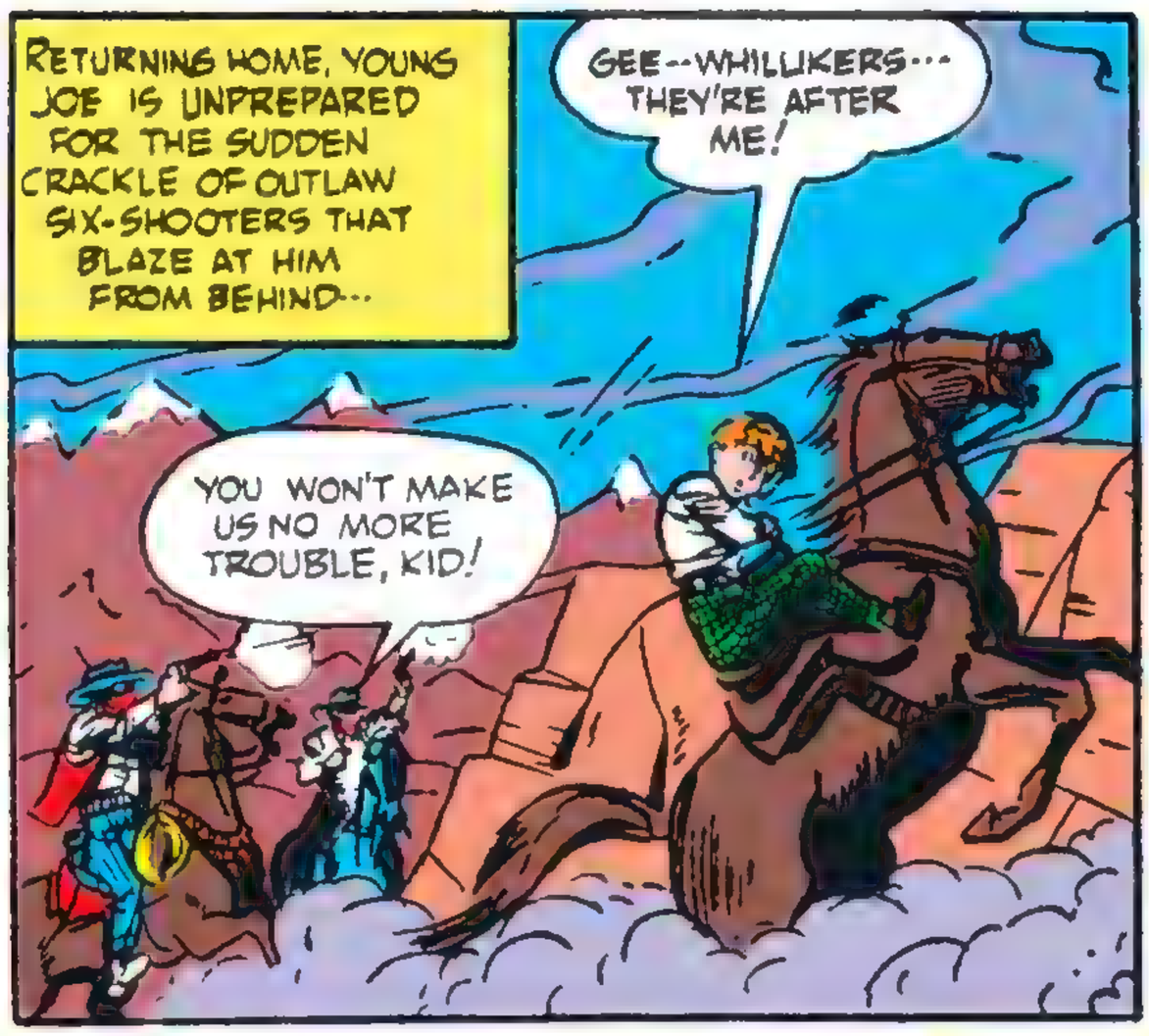

AND IN A RADIO BROADCASTING STUDIO...
YOU ARE LISTENING TO VOICE OF THE PUBLIC. THE NEXT GUEST ON OUR COAST-TO-COAST HOOKUP HAS AN UNUSUAL APPEAL TO MAKE!
GEE WHILLIKERS! I HOPE THE BATMAN IS LISTENIN!..

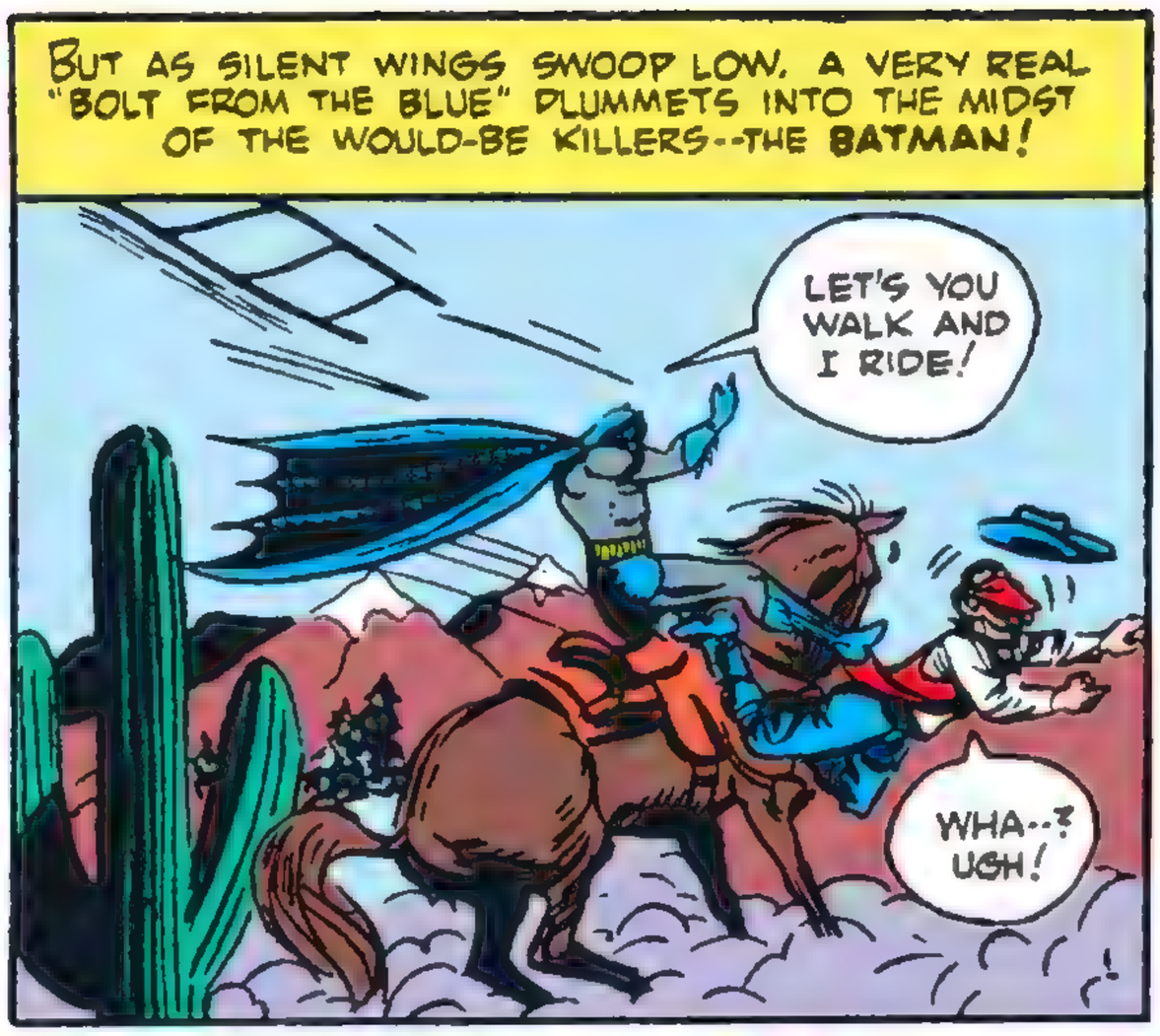
THE LAD'S ANXIOUS VOICE RINGS EARNESTLY IN THE DISTANT HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
...BECAUSE OUT IN SUNSHINE CITY WE'VE HEARD THAT THE BATMAN NEVER REFUSES TO HELP FOLKS IN TROUBLE --AND I'VE SURE GOT TROUBLE!
THAT SETTLES IT, DICK!
GHOST TOWN PLEADS FOR BATMAN AID

HERE WE GO AGAIN! COULDN'T EVER LOOK OURSELVES IN THE FACE IF WE LET THAT KID DOWN!
THE BATPLANE IS FUELED AND READY!

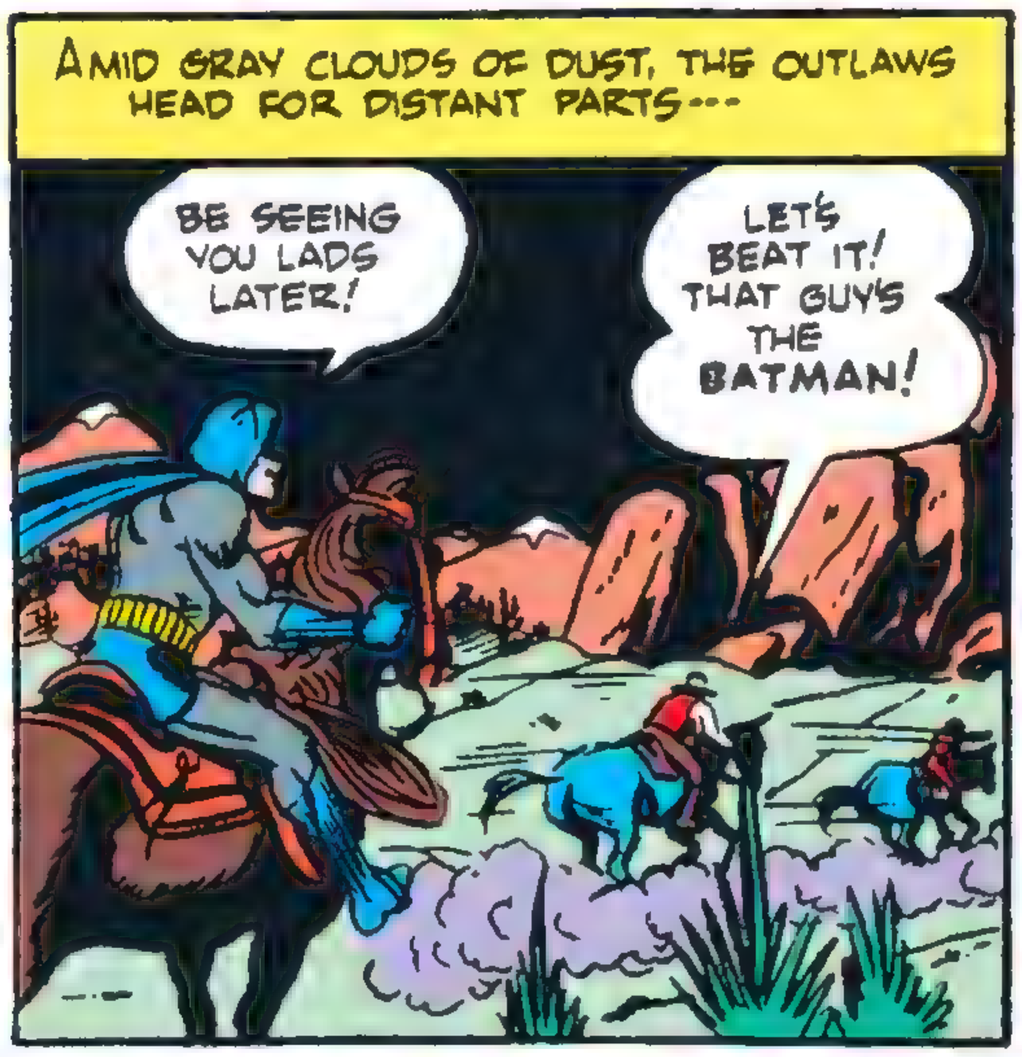
MINUTES LATER, AN EERIE CRAFT STREAKS FROM A SECRET HANGAR INTO THE MIDNIGHT SKY -- THE BATPLANE!

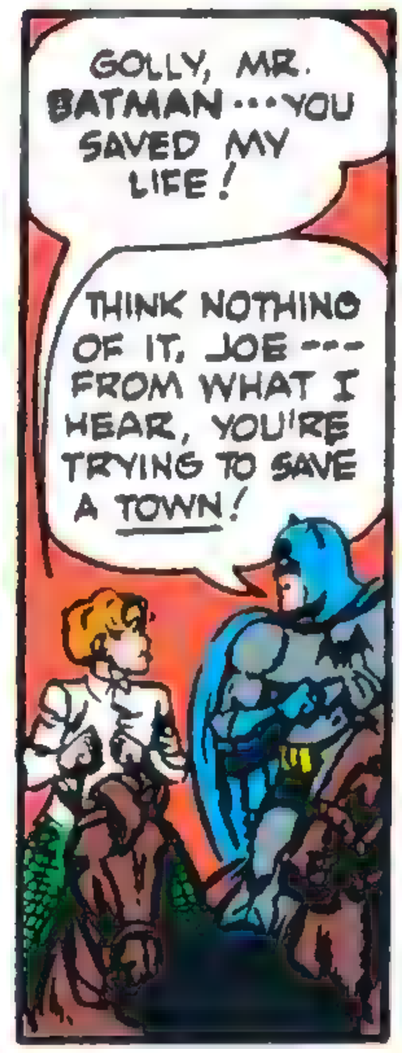

LOOK, BATMAN -- A MAN ON HORSEBACK!
DAWN SEES THE BLACK SHAPE SOARING ABOVE THE RIM OF THE DESERT.
AND OTHER MEN WAITING TO AMBUSH HIM! TAKE THE CONTROLS, ROBIN! KILL THE MOTOR AND DIVE!

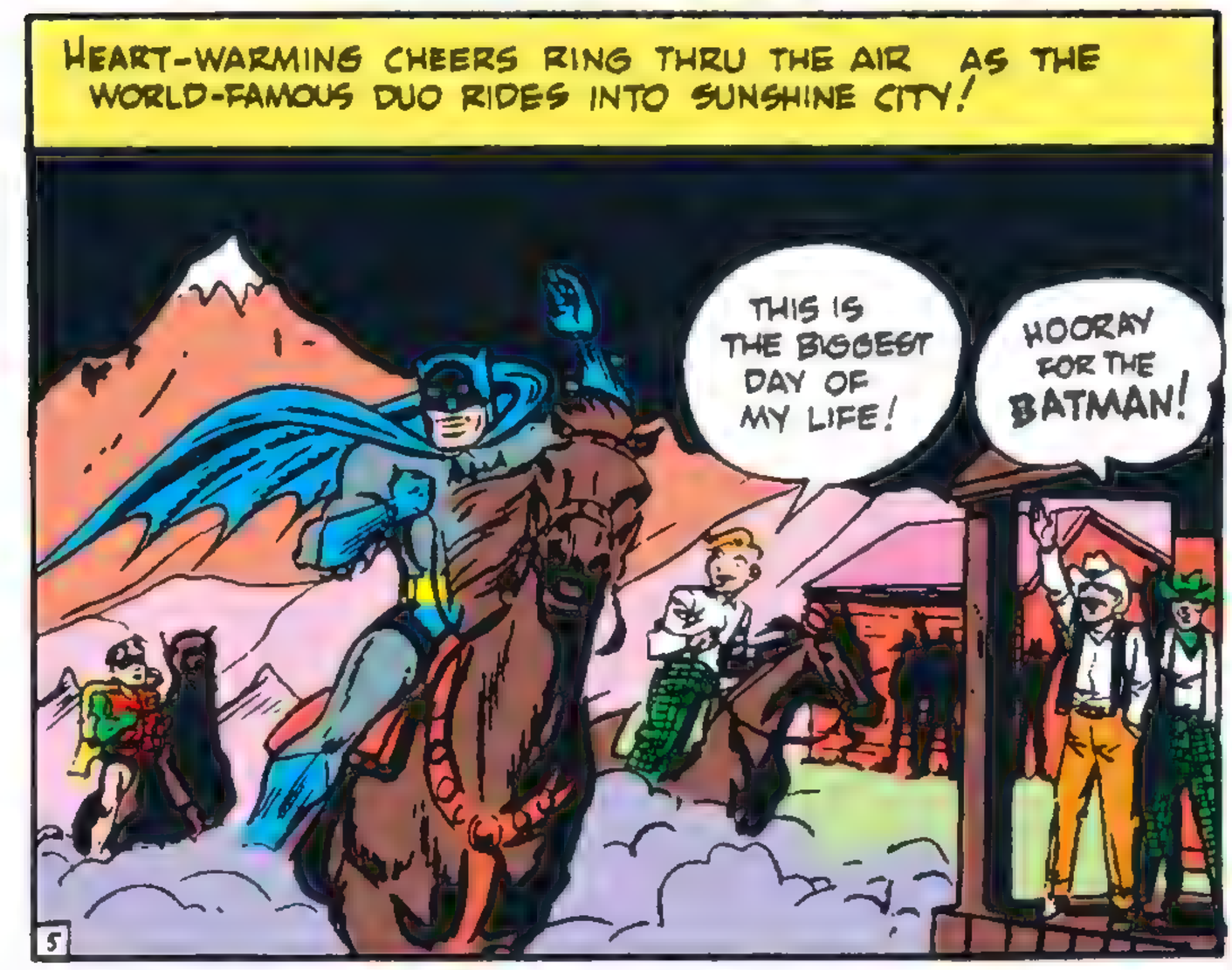

RETURNING HOME, YOUNG JOE IS UNPREPARED FOR THE SUDDEN CRACKLE OF OUTLAW SIX-SHOOTERS THAT BLAZE AT HIM FROM BEHIND...
GEE--WHILLIKERS... THEY'RE AFTER ME!
YOU WON'T MAKE US NO MORE TROUBLE, KID!


BUT AS SILENT WINGS SWOOP LOW, A VERY REAL "BOLT FROM THE BLUE" PLUMMETS INTO THE MIDST OF THE WOULD-BE KILLERS--THE BATMAN!
LET'S YOU WALK AND I RIDE!
WHA--? UGH!

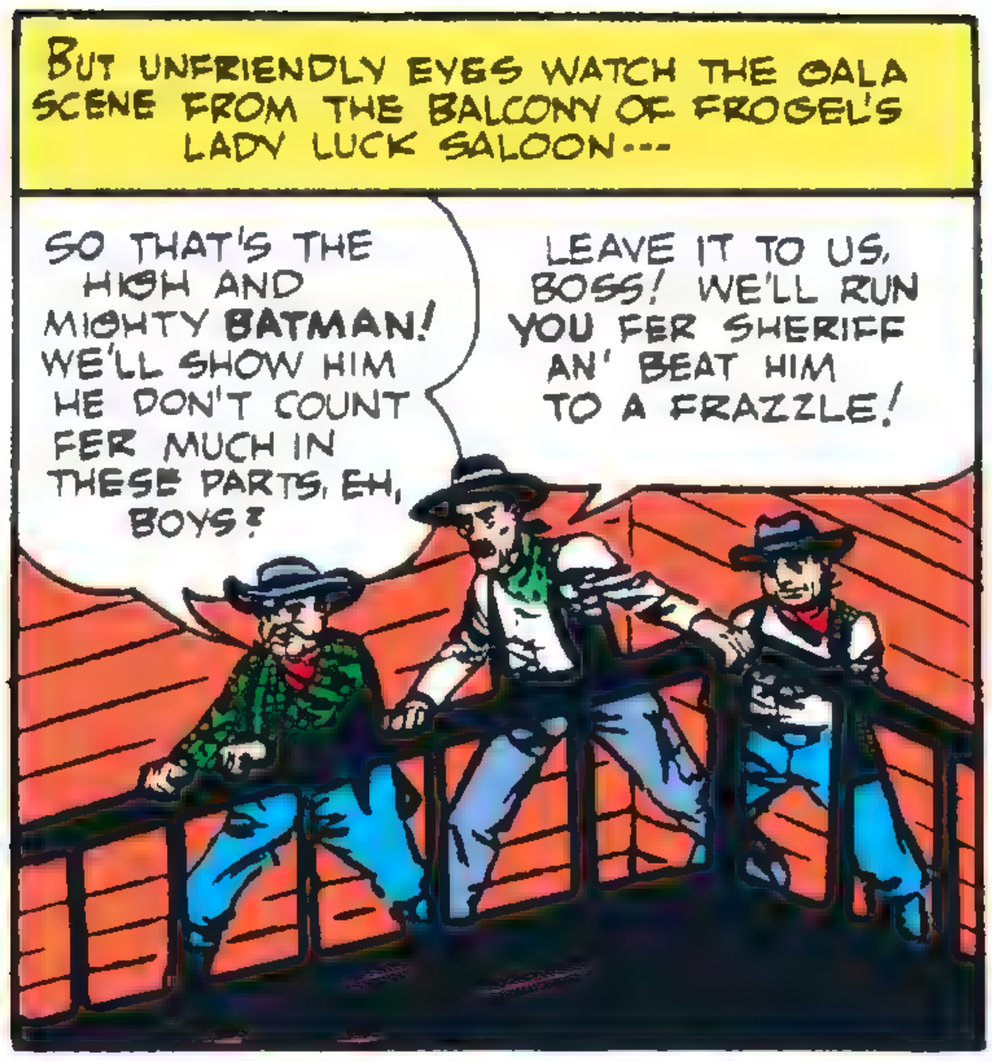
I'M JUST A ROPIN' COWBOY, YIPPEE!
I'M SLIPPIN'! OW!

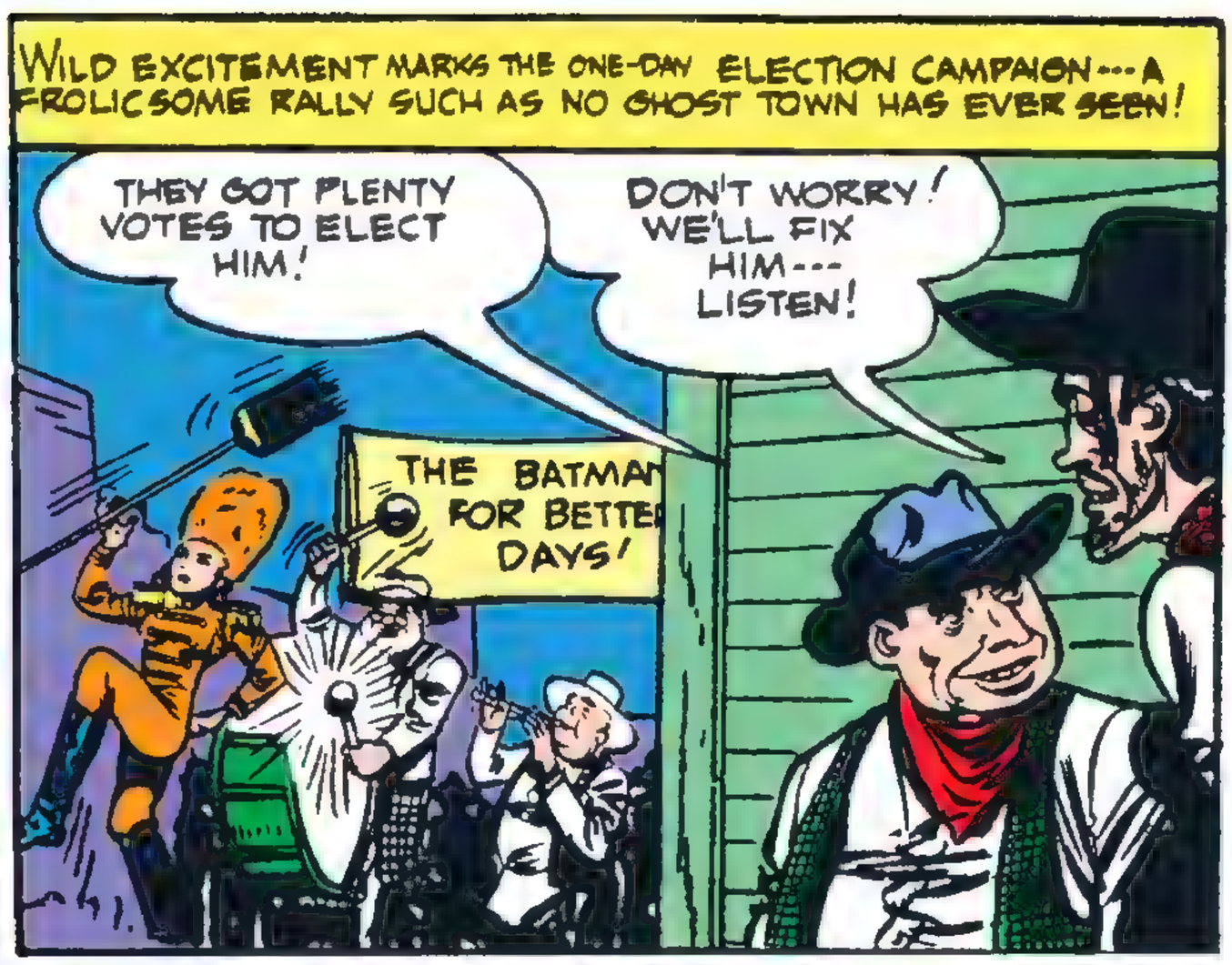

AMID GRAY CLOUDS OF DUST, THE OUTLAWS HEAD FOR DISTANT PARTS...
BE SEEING YOU LADS LATER!
LET'S BEAT IT! THAT GUY'S THE BATMAN!


GOLLY, MR. BATMAN...YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
THINK NOTHING OF IT, JOE--- FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE A TOWN!


HEART-WARMING CHEERS RING THRU THE AIR AS THE WORLD-FAMOUS DUO RIDES INTO SUNSHINE CITY!
THIS IS THE BIGGEST DAY OF MY LIFE!
HOORAY FOR THE BATMAN!
5

FOLKS, I NOMINATE THE BATMAN FOR SHERIFF!
AS SHERIFF, I'D HAVE THE LAW ON MY SIDE...
THANKS, CACTUS TOM!
THE BATMAN FOR SHERIFF!
HALL

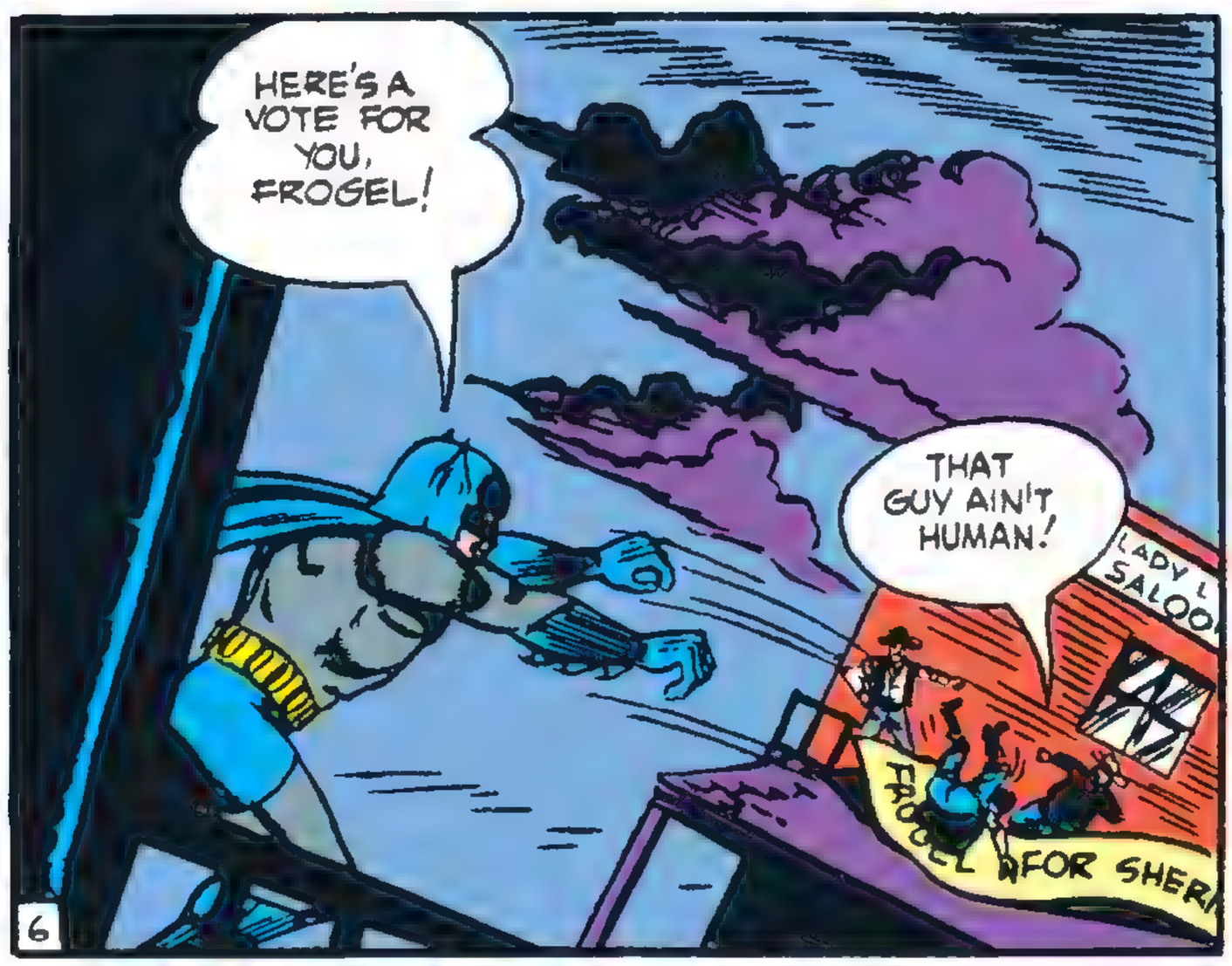

BUT UNFRIENDLY EYES WATCH THE GALA SCENE FROM THE BALCONY OF FROGEL'S LADY LUCK SALOON---
SO THAT'S THE HIGH AND MIGHTY BATMAN! WE'LL SHOW HIM HE DON'T COUNT FER MUCH IN THESE PARTS, EH, BOYS?
LEAVE IT TO US, BOSS! WE'LL RUN YOU FER SHERIFF AN' BEAT HIM TO A FRAZZLE!

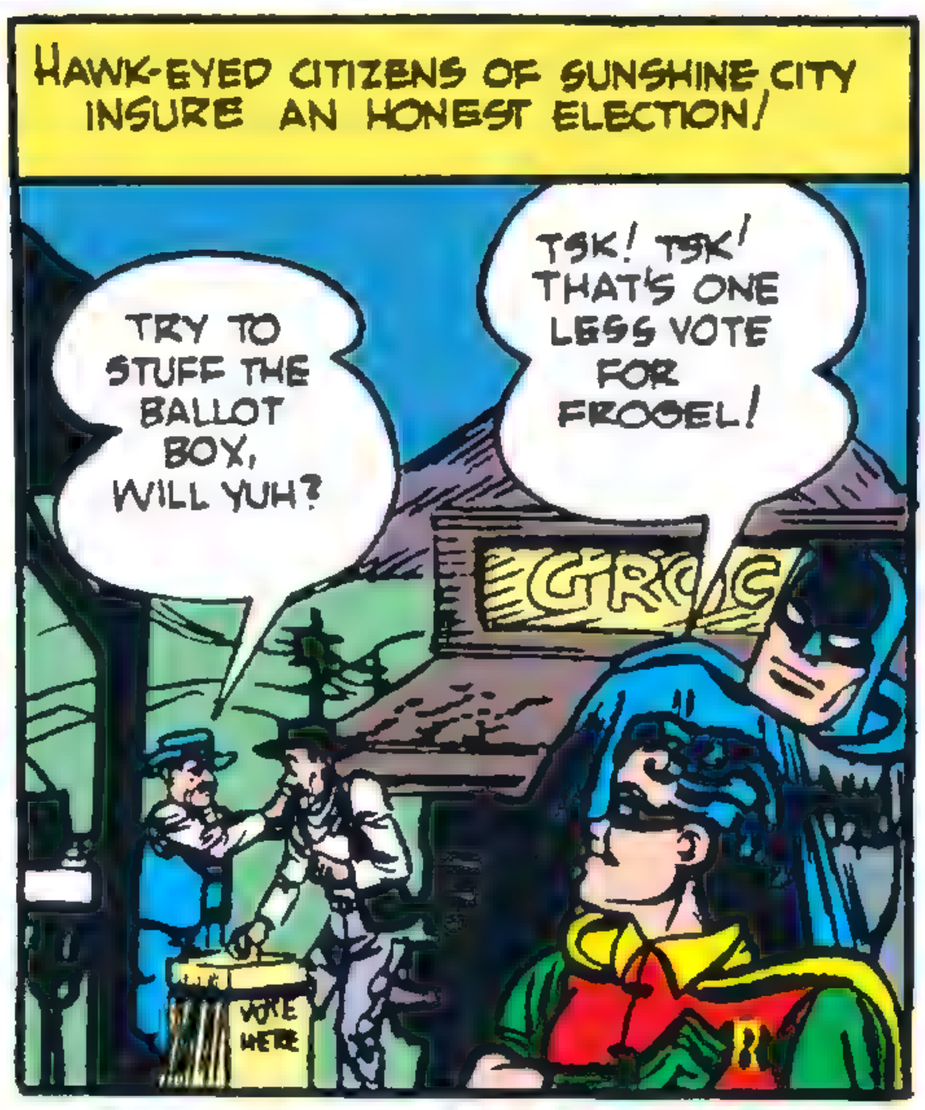

WILD EXCITEMENT MARKS THE ONE-DAY ELECTION CAMPAIGN---A FROLICSOME RALLY SUCH AS NO GHOST TOWN HAS EVER SEEN!
THEY GOT PLENTY VOTES TO ELECT HIM!
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL FIX HIM--- LISTEN!
THE BATMAN FOR BETTER DAYS!

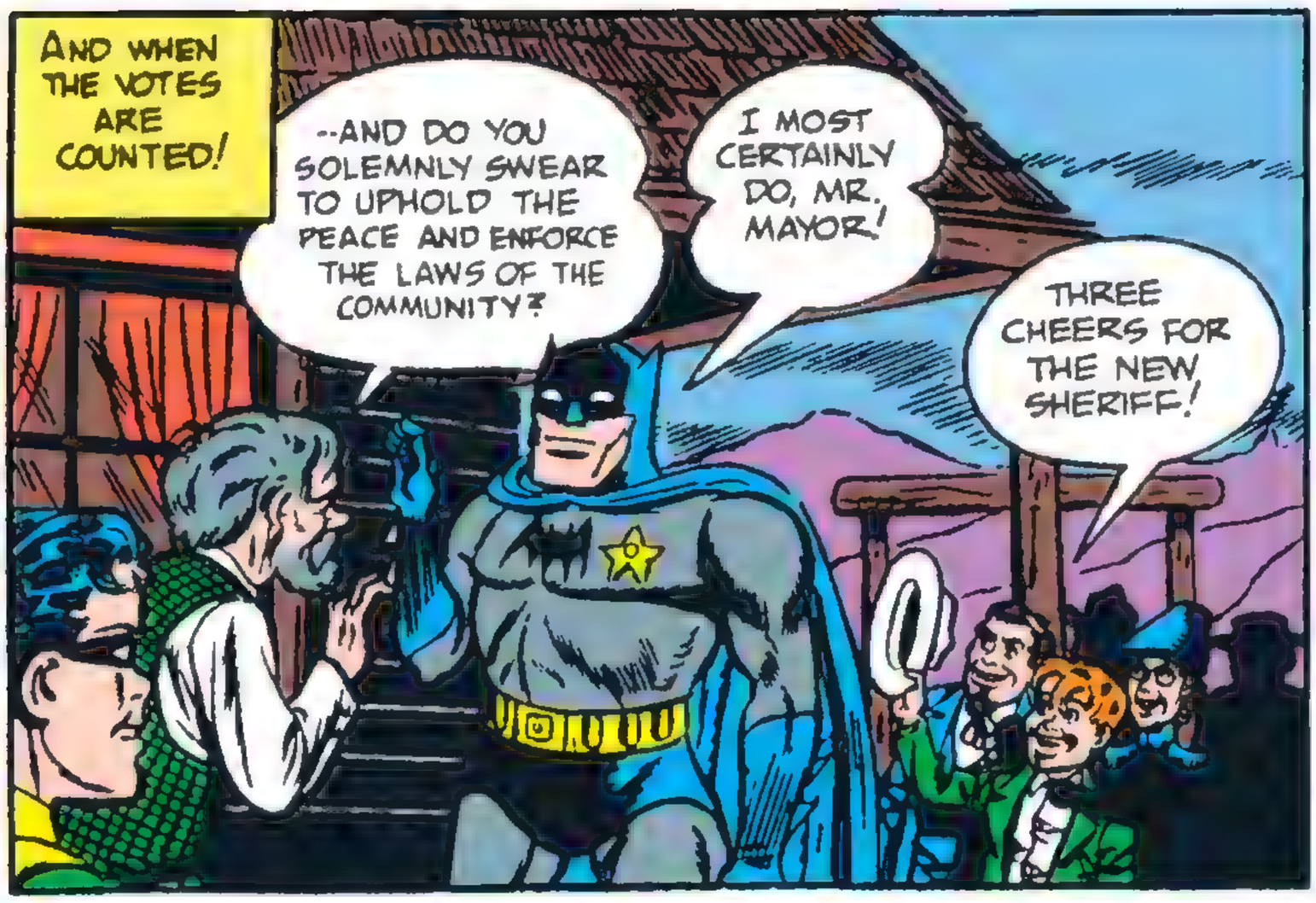
LATER---
LOOK OUT, BATMAN! DUCK!
---AND IF I AM ELECTED, I PROMISE ...

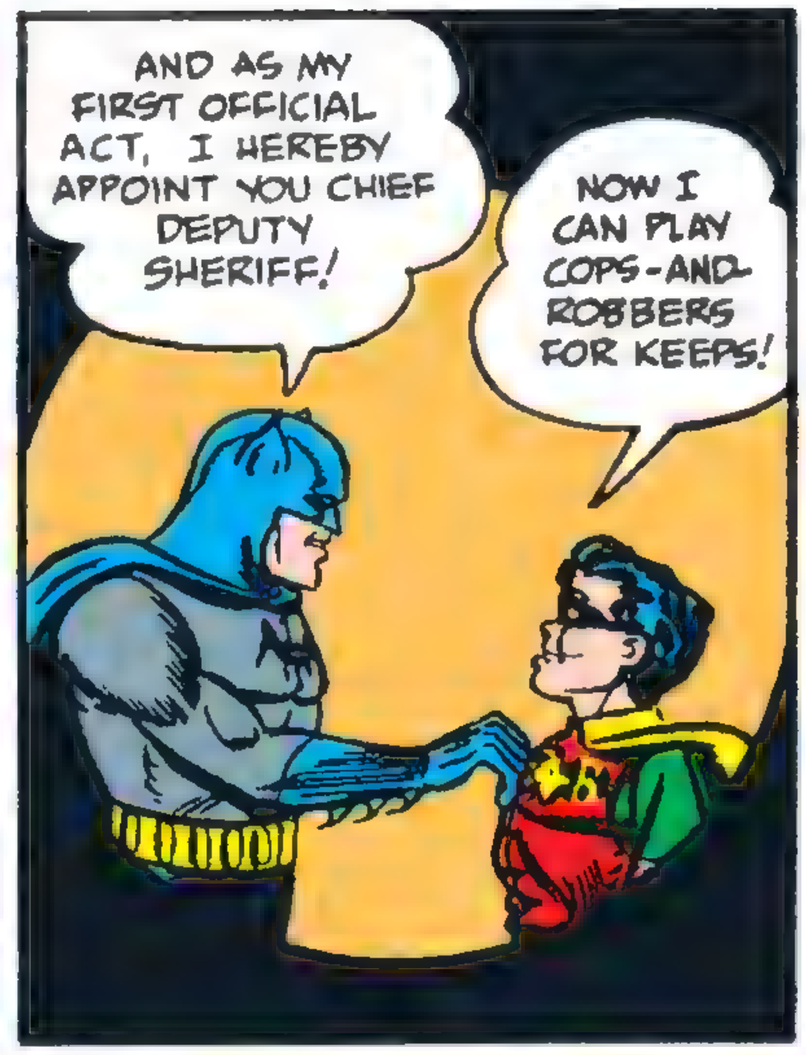
HALP!
SHAME ON YOU, THROWING STONES BEHIND PEOPLES BACKS!
WHAT- THANKS, ROBIN!

YOU GO RIGHT DOWN THERE AND APOLOGIZE!
SAVE ME!
SAVE YOU FOR WHAT? A RAINY DAY?

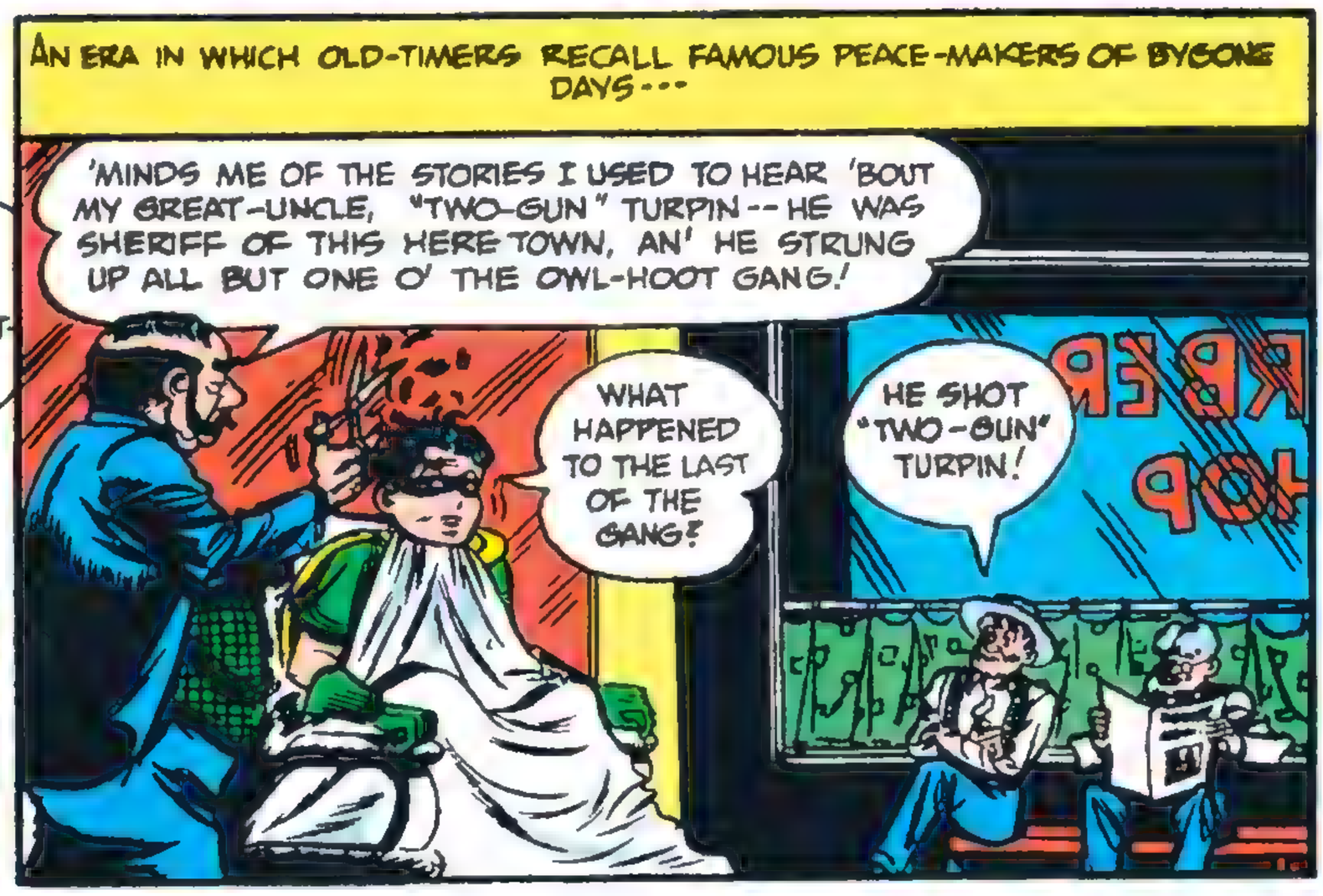

HERE'S A VOTE FOR YOU, FROGEL!
THAT GUY AIN'T HUMAN!
LADY L SALOO
FROGEL FOR SHERI
6


HAWK-EYED CITIZENS OF SUNSHINE CITY INSURE AN HONEST ELECTION!
TRY TO STUFF THE BALLOT BOX, WILL YUH?
TSK! TSK! THAT'S ONE LESS VOTE FOR FROGEL!
GROC
VOTE HERE


AND WHEN THE VOTES ARE COUNTED!
--AND DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO UPHOLD THE PEACE AND ENFORCE THE LAWS OF THE COMMUNITY?
I MOST CERTAINLY DO, MR. MAYOR!
THREE CHEERS FOR THE NEW SHERIFF!

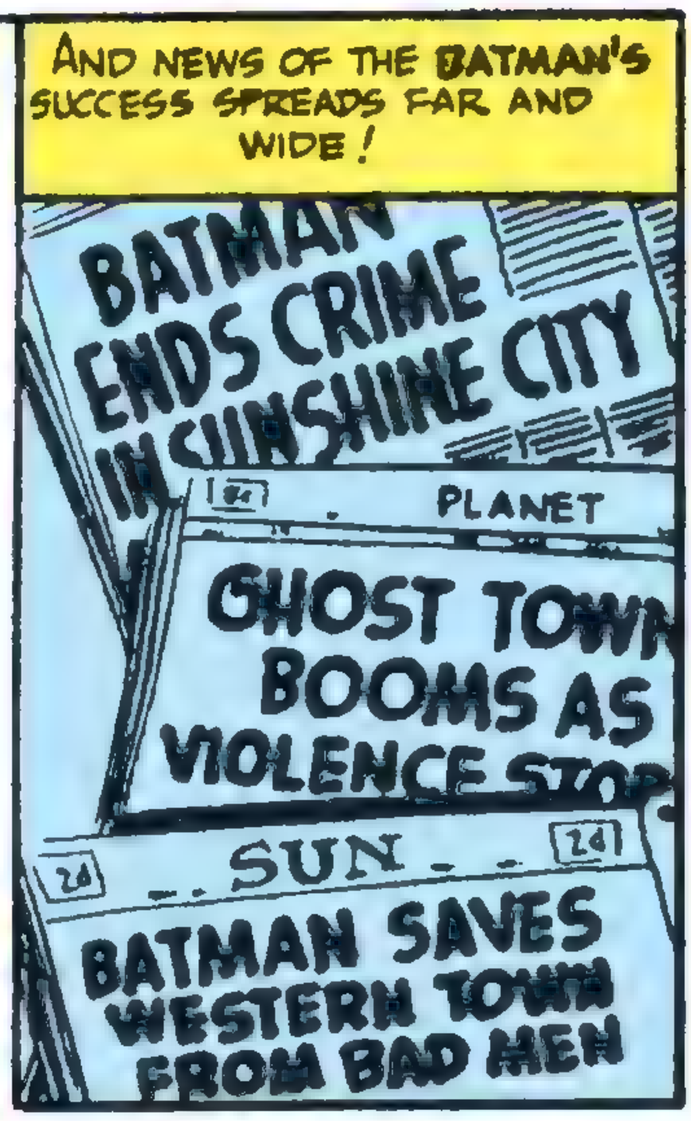

AND AS MY FIRST OFFICIAL ACT, I HEREBY APPOINT YOU CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF!
NOW I CAN PLAY COPS-AND-ROBBERS FOR KEEPS!

THUS BEGINS A NEW ERA OF PEACE FOR SUNSHINE CITY--
WHY DON'T WE GO HOME NOW? THERE HASN'T BEEN A BIT OF TROUBLE SINCE THE ELECTION!
SOMETHING TELLS ME CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE JUST WAITING FOR US TO DO THAT-SO WE'LL STICK AROUND FOR A WHILE!

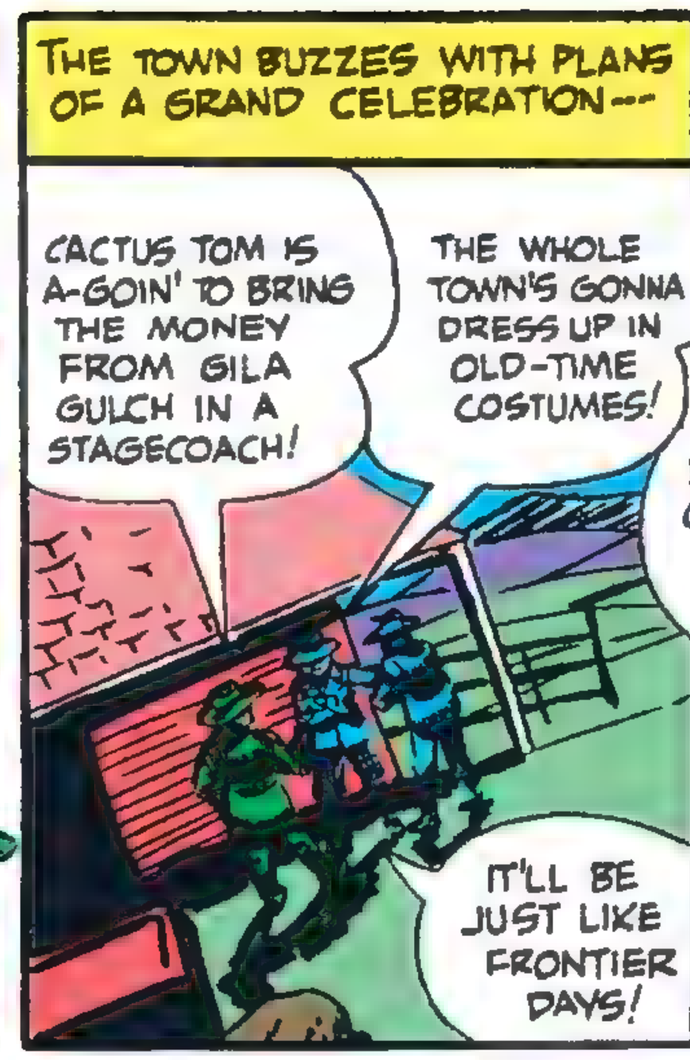

AN ERA IN WHICH OLD-TIMERS RECALL FAMOUS PEACE-MAKERS OF BYGONE DAYS---
'MINDS ME OF THE STORIES I USED TO HEAR 'BOUT MY GREAT-UNCLE, "TWO-GUN" TURPIN -- HE WAS SHERIFF OF THIS HERE TOWN, AN' HE STRUNG UP ALL BUT ONE O' THE OWL-HOOT GANG!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST OF THE GANG?
HE SHOT "TWO-GUN" TURPIN!

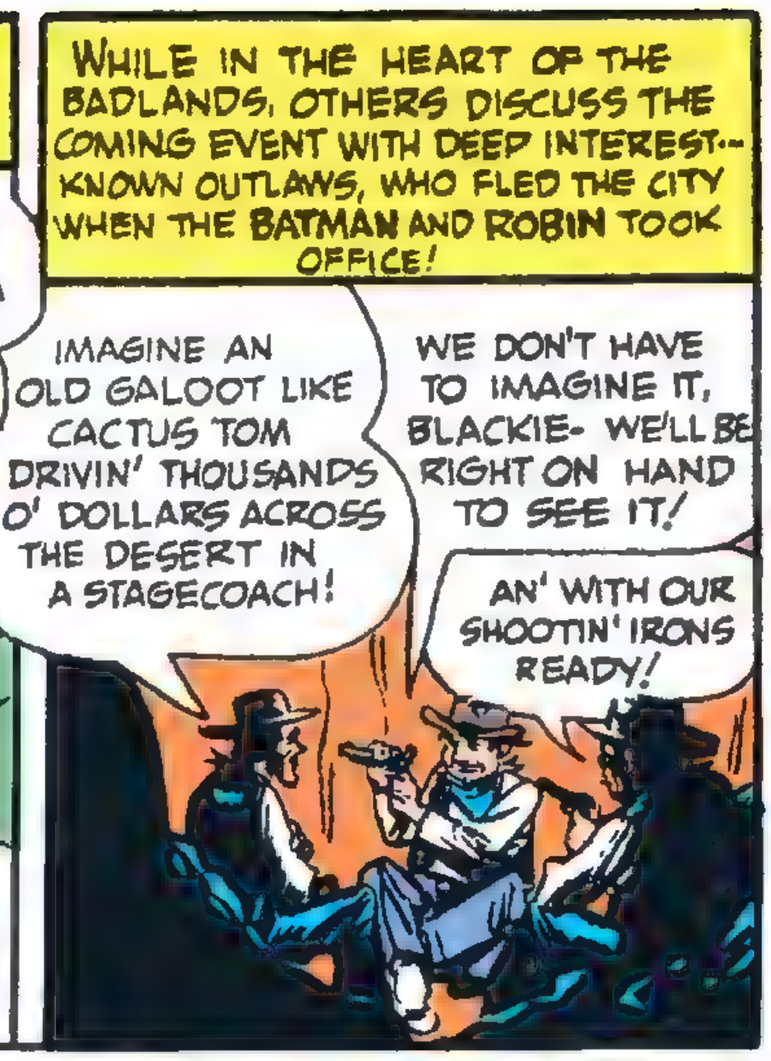
MY GRANDPOP WAS A FAMOUS PEACE OFFICER HERE, TOO! "DEAD-EYE" DANVERS, THEY CALLED HIM! HE DIED FIGHTIN' SEVEN STAGE-ROBBERS!

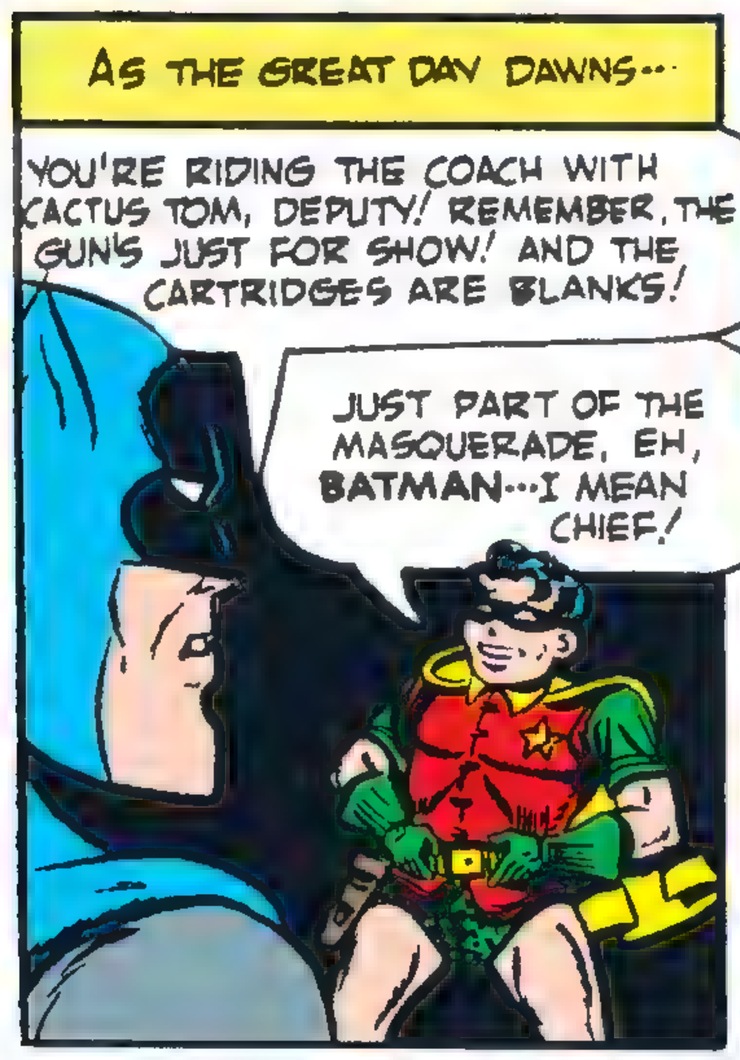
EVEN FROGEL MAKES A PRETENSE OF GOOD BEHAVIOR---
HE'S REFORMING 'CAUSE THE BATMAN THREATENED TO RAID HIS PLACE!
YES, MA'AM-- I'M TURNIN' OVER A NEW LEAF!
NO GAMBLING ALLOWED by order of F. FROGEL PROP. & SHERIFF BATMAN!

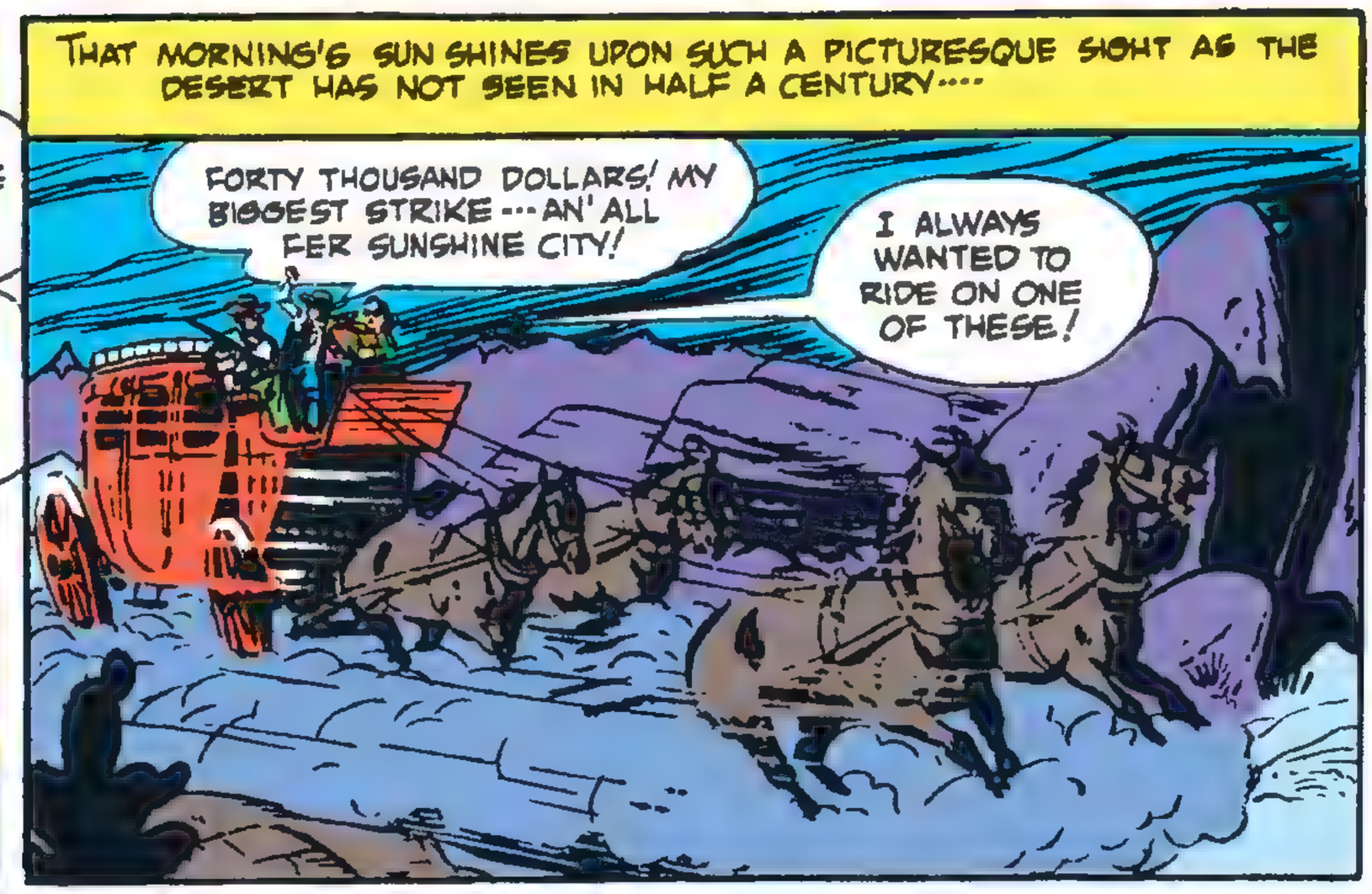

AND NEWS OF THE BATMAN'S SUCCESS SPREADS FAR AND WIDE!
BATMAN ENDS CRIME IN SUNSHINE CITY
PLANET
GHOST TOWN BOOMS AS VIOLENCE STOP
SUN
BATMAN SAVES WESTERN TOWN FROM BAD MEN

FINALLY...
FELLER CITIZENS, OUR NEIGHBORIN' TOWN HAS AGREED T' LEND US MONEY FER STREETS AN' REAL ELECTRIC LIGHTS. NOW WE'LL GIT T' BE A REAL CITY. THANKS TO OUR NEW SHERIFF!
YIPPEE! PROSPERITY IS ON THE WAY!

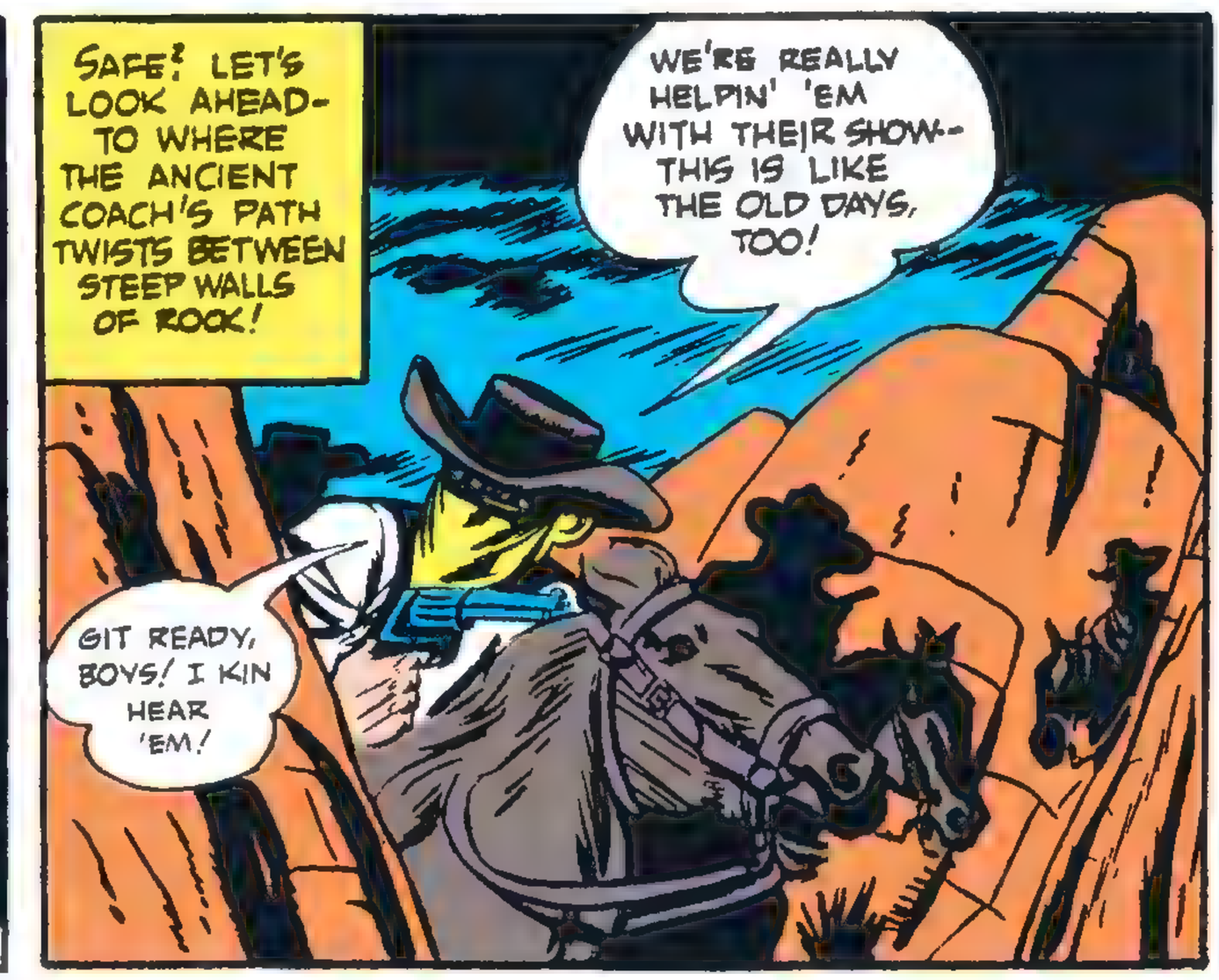

THE TOWN BUZZES WITH PLANS OF A GRAND CELEBRATION---
CACTUS TOM IS A-GOIN' TO BRING THE MONEY FROM GILA GULCH IN A STAGECOACH!
THE WHOLE TOWN'S GONNA DRESS UP IN OLD-TIME COSTUMES!
IT'LL BE JUST LIKE FRONTIER DAYS!


WHILE IN THE HEART OF THE BADLANDS, OTHERS DISCUSS THE COMING EVENT WITH DEEP INTEREST-- KNOWN OUTLAWS, WHO FLED THE CITY WHEN THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TOOK OFFICE!
IMAGINE AN OLD GALOOT LIKE CACTUS TOM DRIVIN' THOUSANDS O' DOLLARS ACROSS THE DESERT IN A STAGECOACH!
WE DON'T HAVE TO IMAGINE IT, BLACKIE- WE'LL BE RIGHT ON HAND TO SEE IT!
AN' WITH OUR SHOOTIN' IRONS READY!

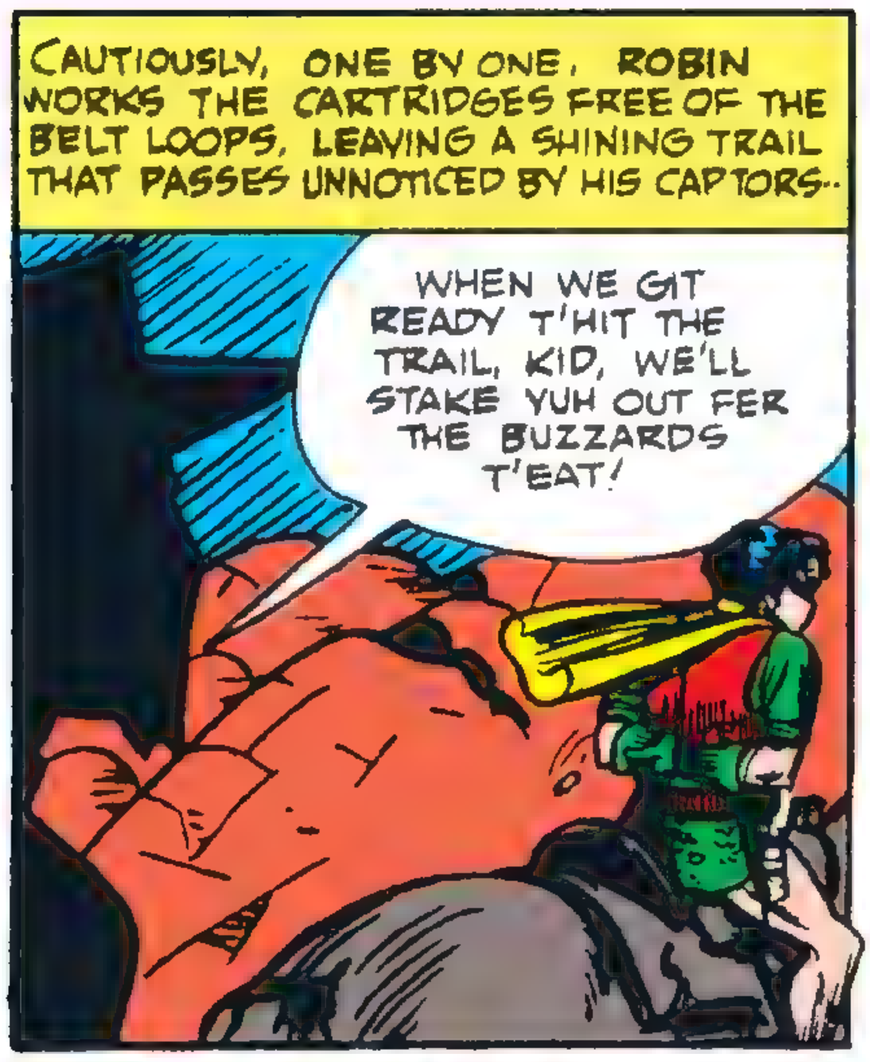

AS THE GREAT DAY DAWNS...
YOU'RE RIDING THE COACH WITH CACTUS TOM, DEPUTY! REMEMBER, THE GUN'S JUST FOR SHOW! AND THE CARTRIDGES ARE BLANKS!
JUST PART OF THE MASQUERADE, EH, BATMAN...I MEAN CHIEF!

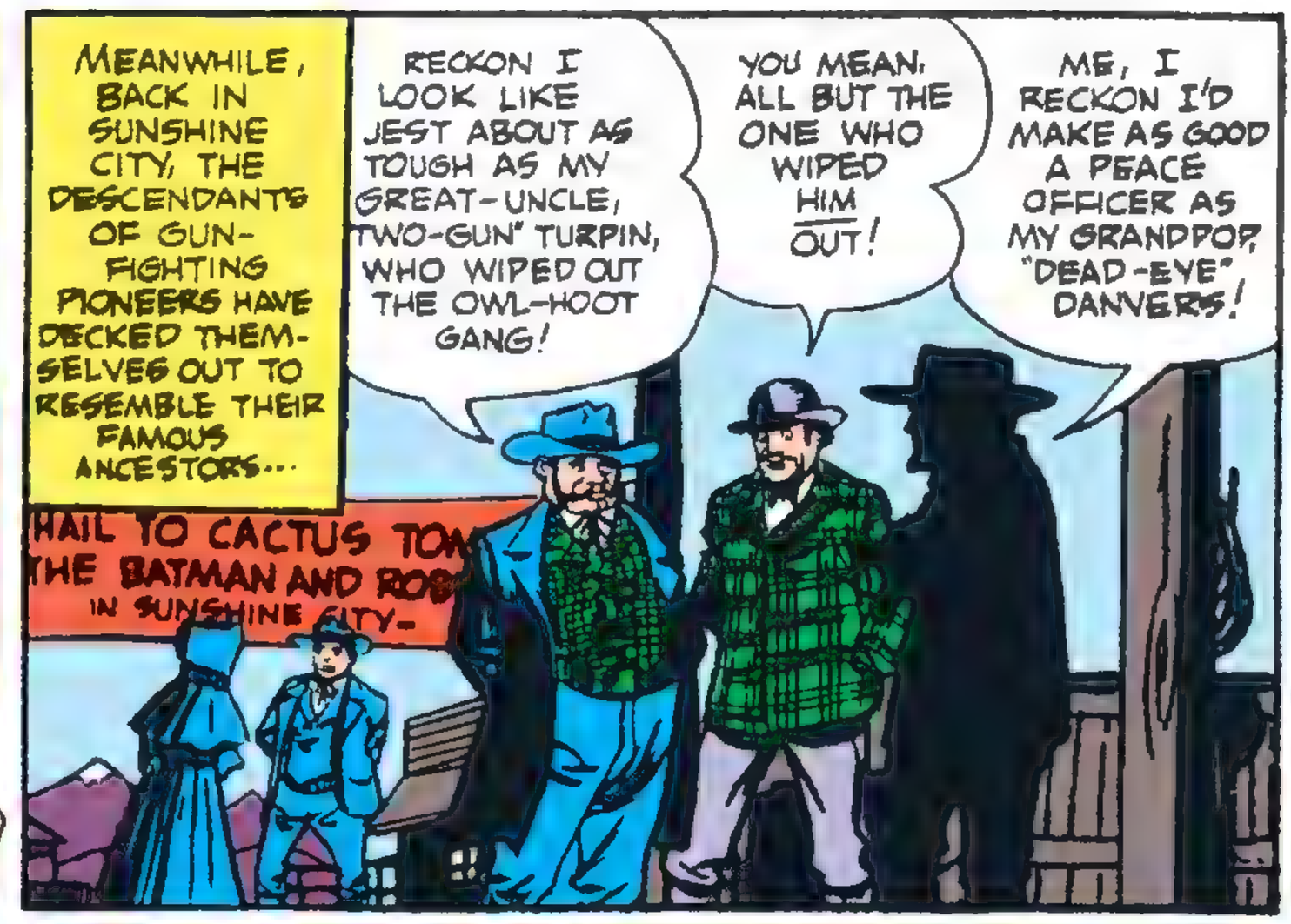

THAT MORNING'S SUN SHINES UPON SUCH A PICTURESQUE SIGHT AS THE DESERT HAS NOT SEEN IN HALF A CENTURY....
FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! MY BIGGEST STRIKE ...AN' ALL FER SUNSHINE CITY!
I ALWAYS WANTED TO RIDE ON ONE OF THESE!

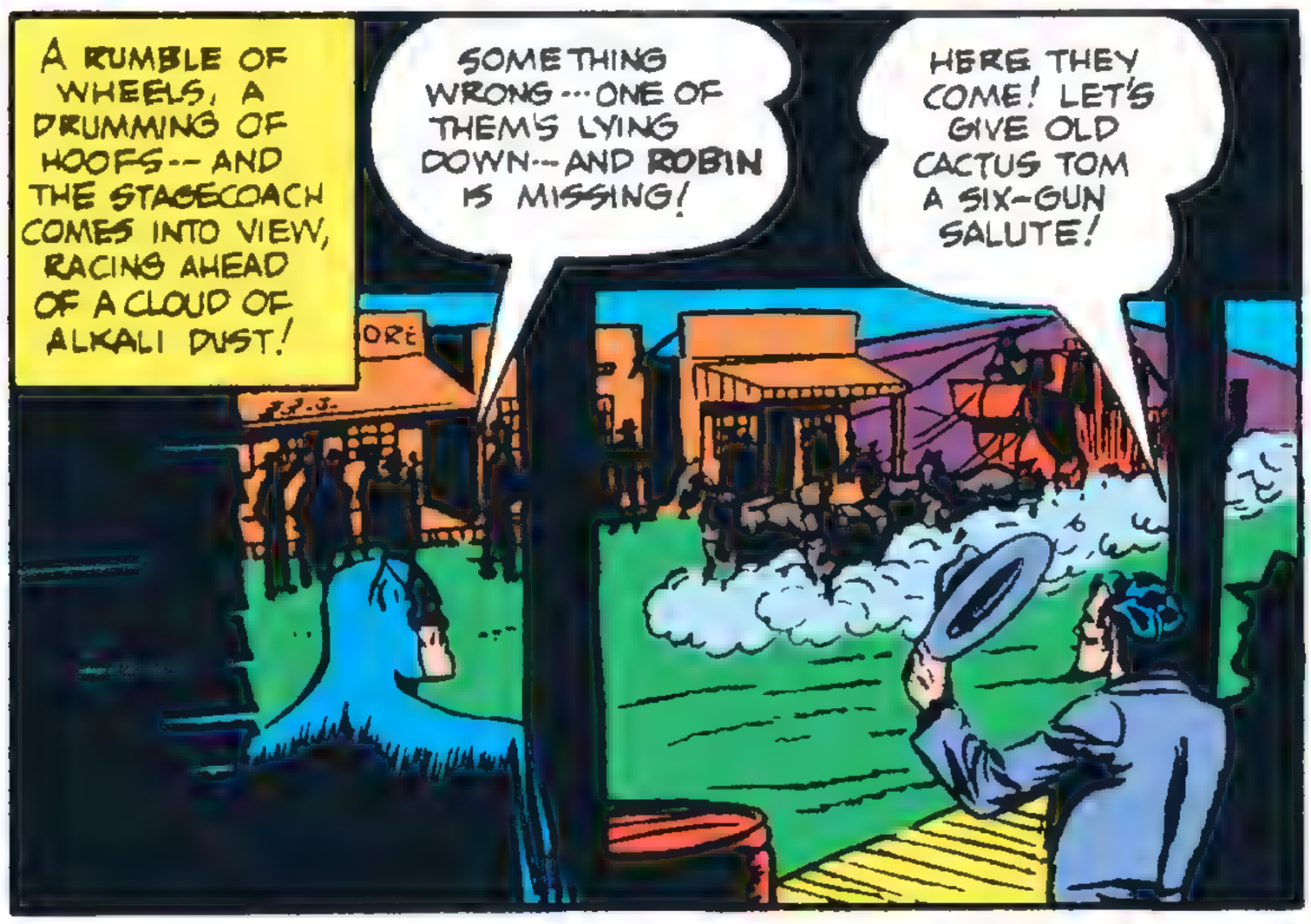
'FORE THE BATMAN CAME, WE WOULDN'T DARE CART MONEY AROUND LIKE THIS!
IT'S SAFE ENOUGH NOW, SINCE FROGEL'S PALS LIT OUT FER OTHER PARTS!
8


SAFE? LET'S LOOK AHEAD- TO WHERE THE ANCIENT COACH'S PATH TWISTS BETWEEN STEEP WALLS OF ROCK!
WE'RE REALLY HELPIN' 'EM WITH THEIR SHOW-- THIS IS LIKE THE OLD DAYS, TOO!
GIT READY, BOYS! I KIN HEAR 'EM!

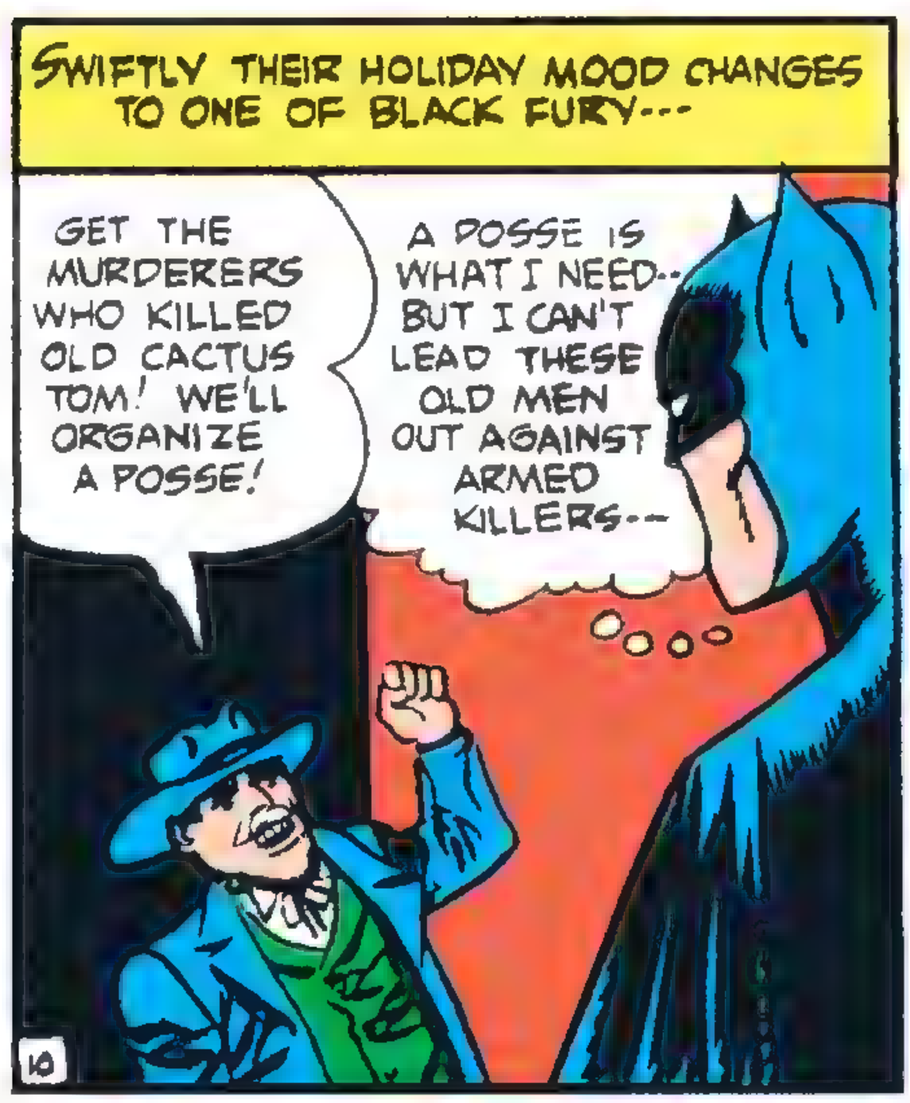
A SUDDEN THUNDER OF GUNS···A CHORUS OF WILD YELLS···AND THE TRIO IS INESCAPABLY TRAPPED!
HALT! STAND AN' DELIVER!
I'LL STOP 'EM-- OUCH!
I'LL BE HANGED IF I WILL!
THEY'VE KILLED TOM!
AAAH!
THIS GUN'S NO GOOD TO ME WITHOUT BULLETS-- SO YOU CAN HAVE IT!
YOU WON'T LIVE T' HANG, YUH OLD FOOL-- OH-H-H--!
SNATCHING THE BLACKSNAKE WHIP FROM CACTUS TOM'S LIMP FINGERS, THE BOY WONDER LASHES OUT FURIOUSLY
YOU DIRTY KILLERS!
OW! GET THAT WHIP AWAY FROM HIM!
I'VE GOT THE LITTLE BRAT!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS-- NEVER!
STRUGGLING FIERCELY AGAINST CRUSHING ODDS, THE BRAVE LAD IS OVERWHELMED BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!
TOUGH KID, EH? LET'S FINISH 'IM OFF--LIKE WE DID CACTUS TOM!
NIX ON THAT! WE'LL WANT HIM AS A HOSTAGE IF THE BATMAN PICKS UP OUR TRAIL!
YOU KILLERS WILL PAY FOR THIS!
HERE'S THE FORTY GRAND! LET'S GIT BACK TO THE HIDEOUT!
AS THE ROBBERS HEAD INTO THE MAZE OF ROCKS...
THE BATMAN WILL NEVER FIND US OUT HERE UNLESS I CAN LEAVE A TRAIL ···CAN'T GET AT THE RADIO IN MY BELT BUCKLE-- I'VE GOT IT--THESE BLANK CARTRIDGES!


CAUTIOUSLY, ONE BY ONE, ROBIN WORKS THE CARTRIDGES FREE OF THE BELT LOOPS, LEAVING A SHINING TRAIL THAT PASSES UNNOTICED BY HIS CAPTORS..
WHEN WE GIT READY T'HIT THE TRAIL, KID, WE'LL STAKE YUH OUT FER THE BUZZARDS T'EAT!


MEANWHILE, BACK IN SUNSHINE CITY, THE DESCENDANTS OF GUN-FIGHTING PIONEERS HAVE DECKED THEMSELVES OUT TO RESEMBLE THEIR FAMOUS ANCESTORS...
HAIL TO CACTUS TOM THE BATMAN AND ROB IN SUNSHINE CITY-
RECKON I LOOK LIKE JEST ABOUT AS TOUGH AS MY GREAT-UNCLE, TWO-GUN' TURPIN, WHO WIPED OUT THE OWL-HOOT GANG!
YOU MEAN, ALL BUT THE ONE WHO WIPED HIM OUT!
ME, I RECKON I'D MAKE AS GOOD A PEACE OFFICER AS MY GRANDPOP, "DEAD-EYE" DANVERS!


A RUMBLE OF WHEELS, A DRUMMING OF HOOFS-- AND THE STAGECOACH COMES INTO VIEW, RACING AHEAD OF A CLOUD OF ALKALI DUST!
SOMETHING WRONG ... ONE OF THEM'S LYING DOWN--AND ROBIN IS MISSING!
HERE THEY COME! LET'S GIVE OLD CACTUS TOM A SIX-GUN SALUTE!

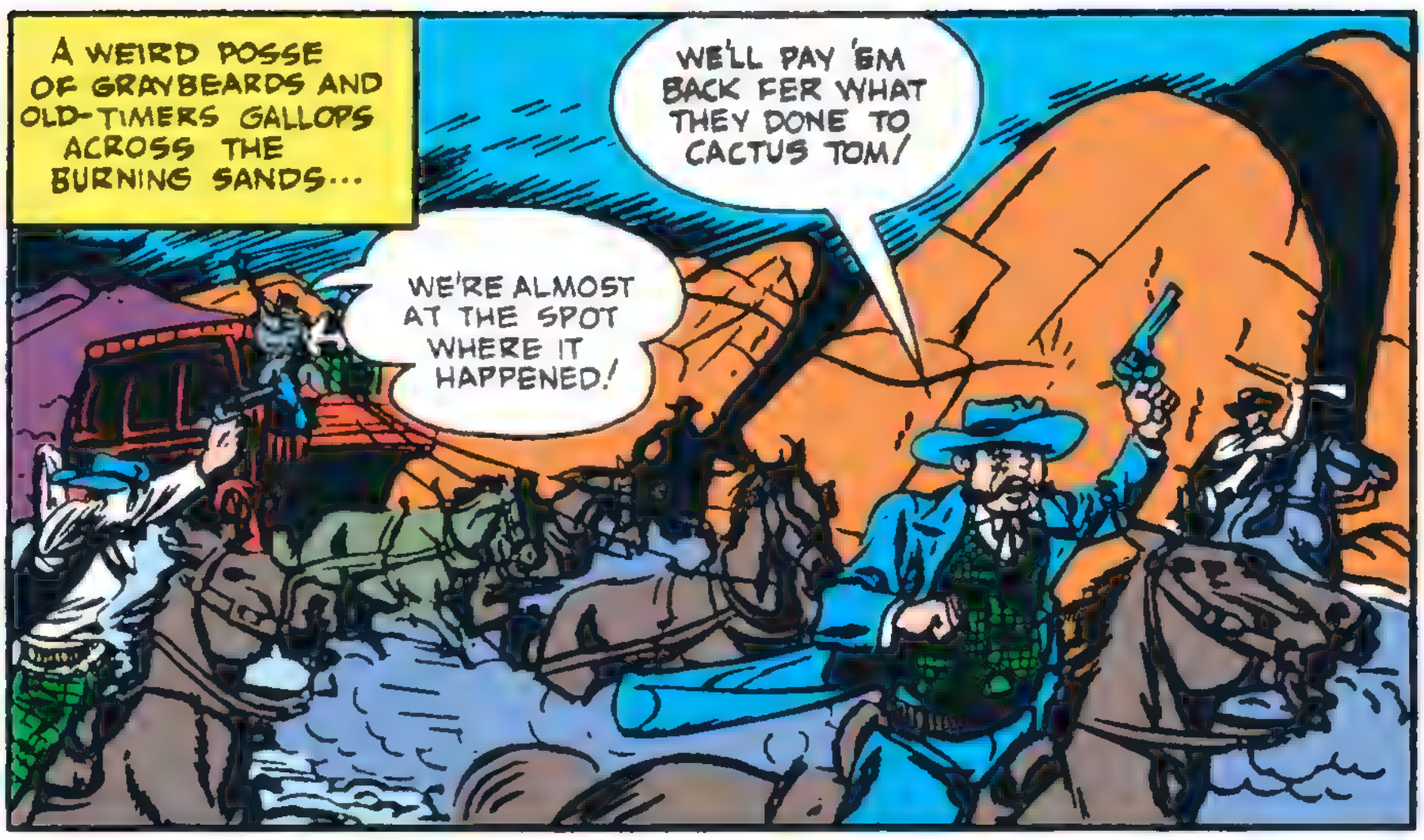
THE MERRYMAKERS FALL SILENT AS THE STUNNING NEWS OF THE TRAGEDY REACHES THEM---
BANDITS! THEY KILLED TOM--WOUNDED ME...KIDNAPPED ROBIN AN' GOT AWAY WITH THE MONEY!
WHERE DID IT HAPPEN? WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?


SWIFTLY THEIR HOLIDAY MOOD CHANGES TO ONE OF BLACK FURY---
GET THE MURDERERS WHO KILLED OLD CACTUS TOM! WE'LL ORGANIZE A POSSE!
A POSSE IS WHAT I NEED-- BUT I CAN'T LEAD THESE OLD MEN OUT AGAINST ARMED KILLERS--
10

I'M GOING AFTER THEM-- ALONE! THOSE BANDITS ARE DANGEROUS! THEY'LL BE HIDDEN IN THE HILLS, WHERE THEY'LL BE HARD TO GET AT! YOU'VE ELECTED ME SHERIFF, AND IT'S MY JOB!

BUT A MIRACLE SEEMS TO HAVE TRANSFORMED THE OLD-TIMERS---AS IF THE SPIRIT OF THEIR FIGHTING ANCESTORS HAS COME TO LIFE WITHIN THEM.
I'M A-WEARIN' 'TWO-GUN' TURPIN'S BOOTS---AND THEY'RE A-GOIN T' TAKE ME AFTER THEM VARMINTS, SHERIFF!
THERE'S A GOOD FIGHT LEFT IN ME, TOO! DON'T FERGIT, "DEAD-EYE" DANVERS WAS MY GRANDPOP!

MEN, I APOLOGIZE! FOR A MINUTE I FORGOT THAT AN OUNCE OF FIGHTING SPIRIT IS WORTH A TON OF MUSCLE! LET'S HIT THE TRAIL!

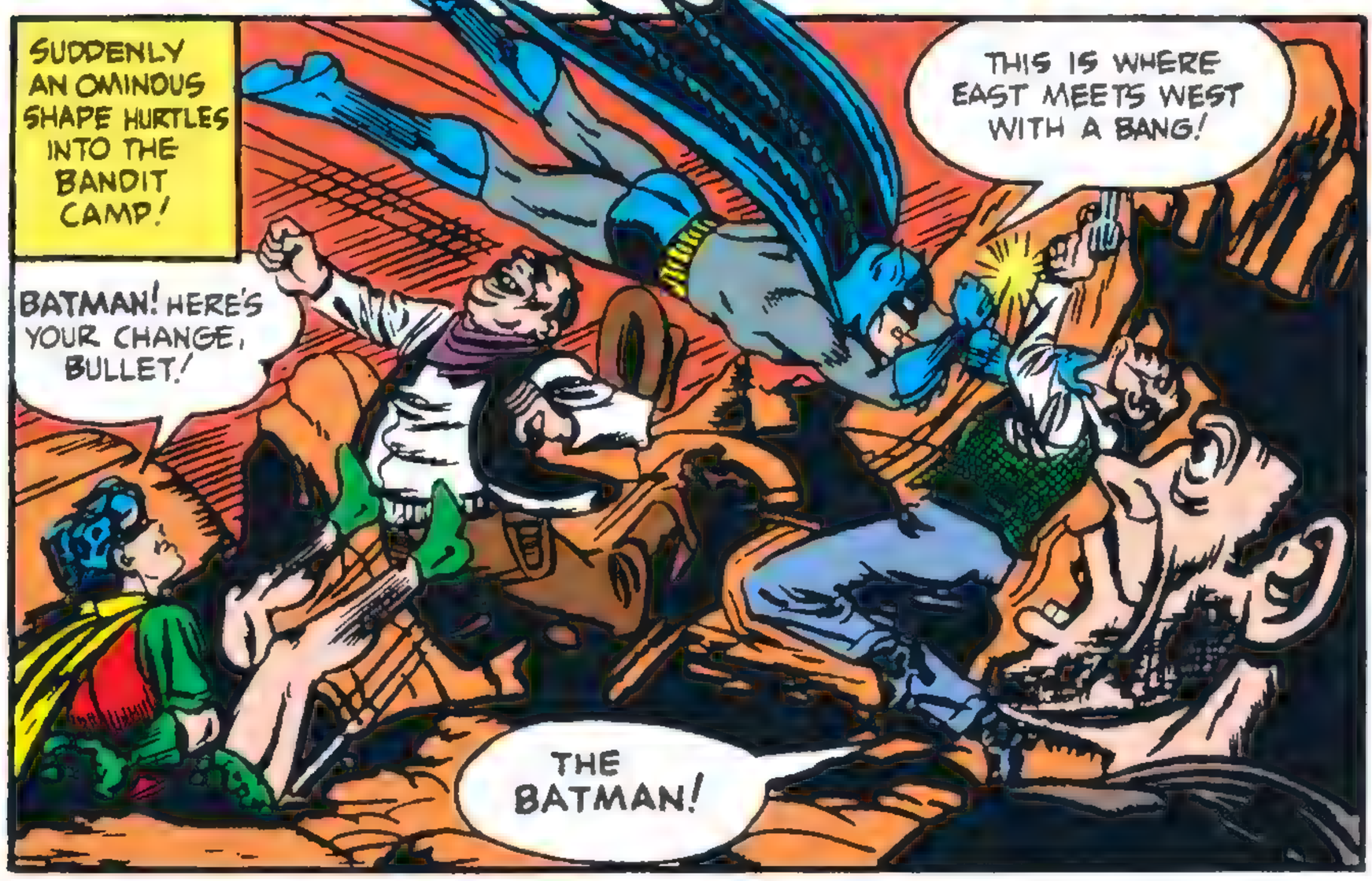

A WEIRD POSSE OF GRAYBEARDS AND OLD-TIMERS GALLOPS ACROSS THE BURNING SANDS...
WE'LL PAY 'EM BACK FER WHAT THEY DONE TO CACTUS TOM!
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE SPOT WHERE IT HAPPENED!

THEIR HOSSES DIDN'T LEAVE NO TRAIL ON THESE ROCKS...
BUT ROBIN DID! THIS IS A BLANK CARTRIDGE... THE KIND HE CARRIED. AND THERE'S ANOTHER FARTHER ON!

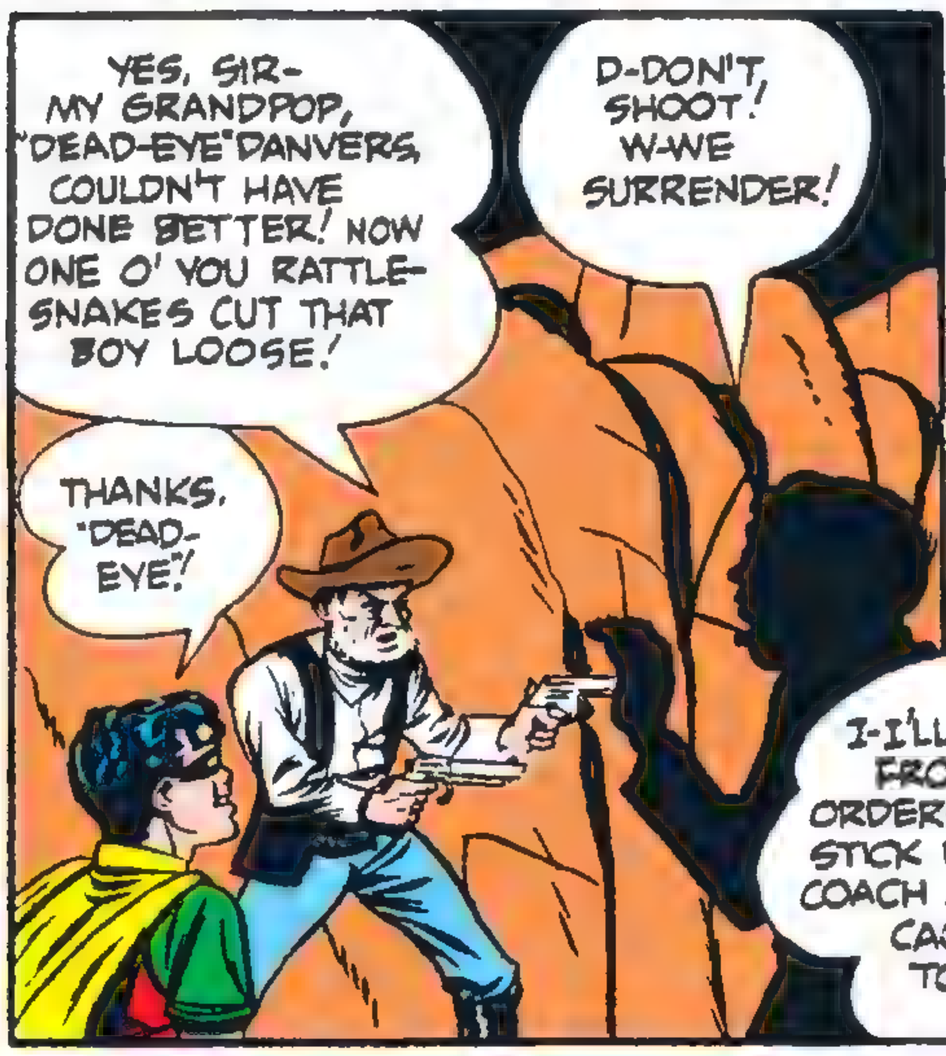
THE AGED POSSEMEN TRACE THE BANDIT TRAIL---
WE'D NEVER'VE FOUND THE WAY IF THE YOUNGSTER HADN'T BEEN SMART!
QUIET, MEN--- WE'RE NEARING OUR QUARRY!

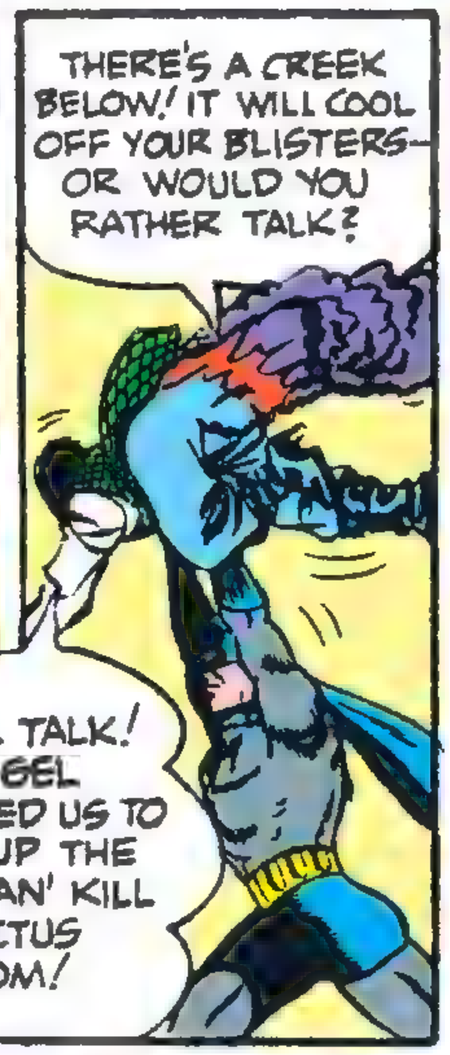
AND AT THE STAGE-ROBBERS' STRONGHOLD---
WE'RE SITTIN' PRETTY! EVEN IF THE BATMAN FOUND US, WHAT COULD HE DO?
YUH LEETLE LIZARD--I'LL FIX YUH!
HE COULD DO PLENTY! ASK BULLET--

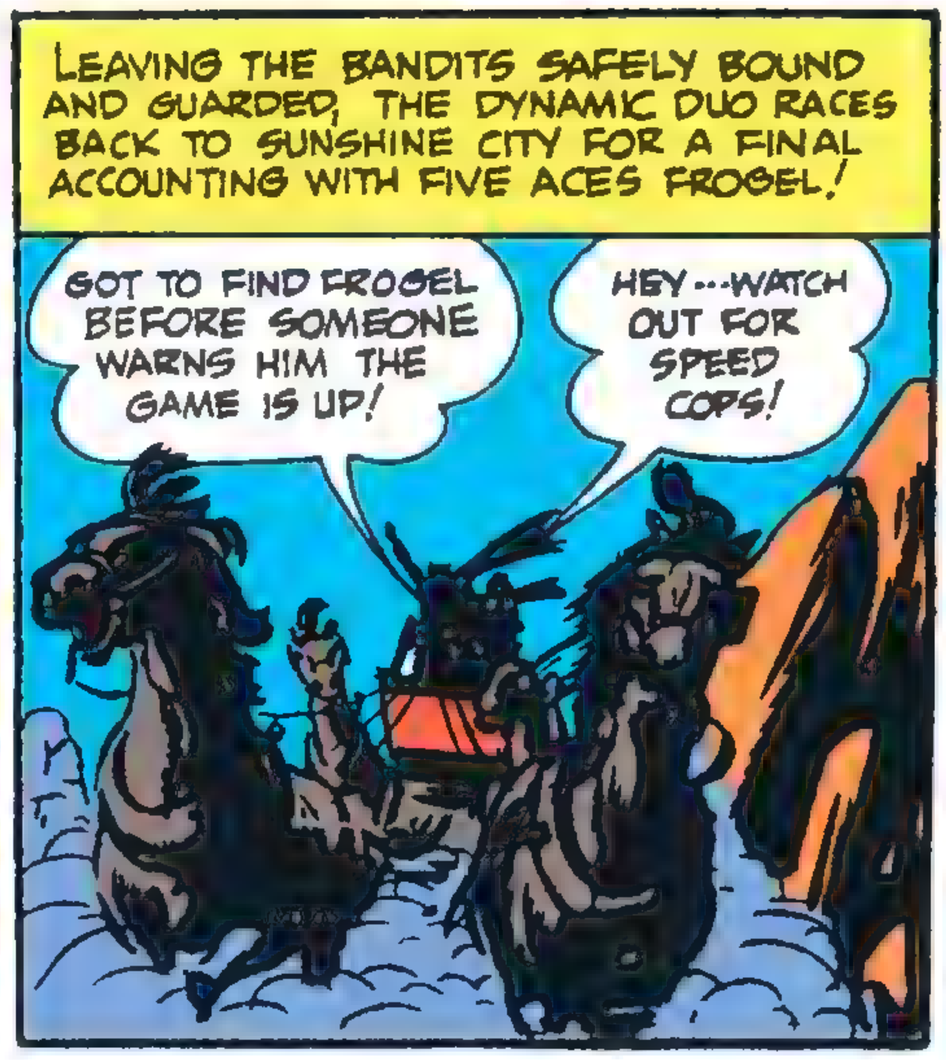
THIS IS JEST A DOWN PAYMENT!
YOU WOULDN'T DARE DO THAT IF MY HANDS WEREN'T TIED!

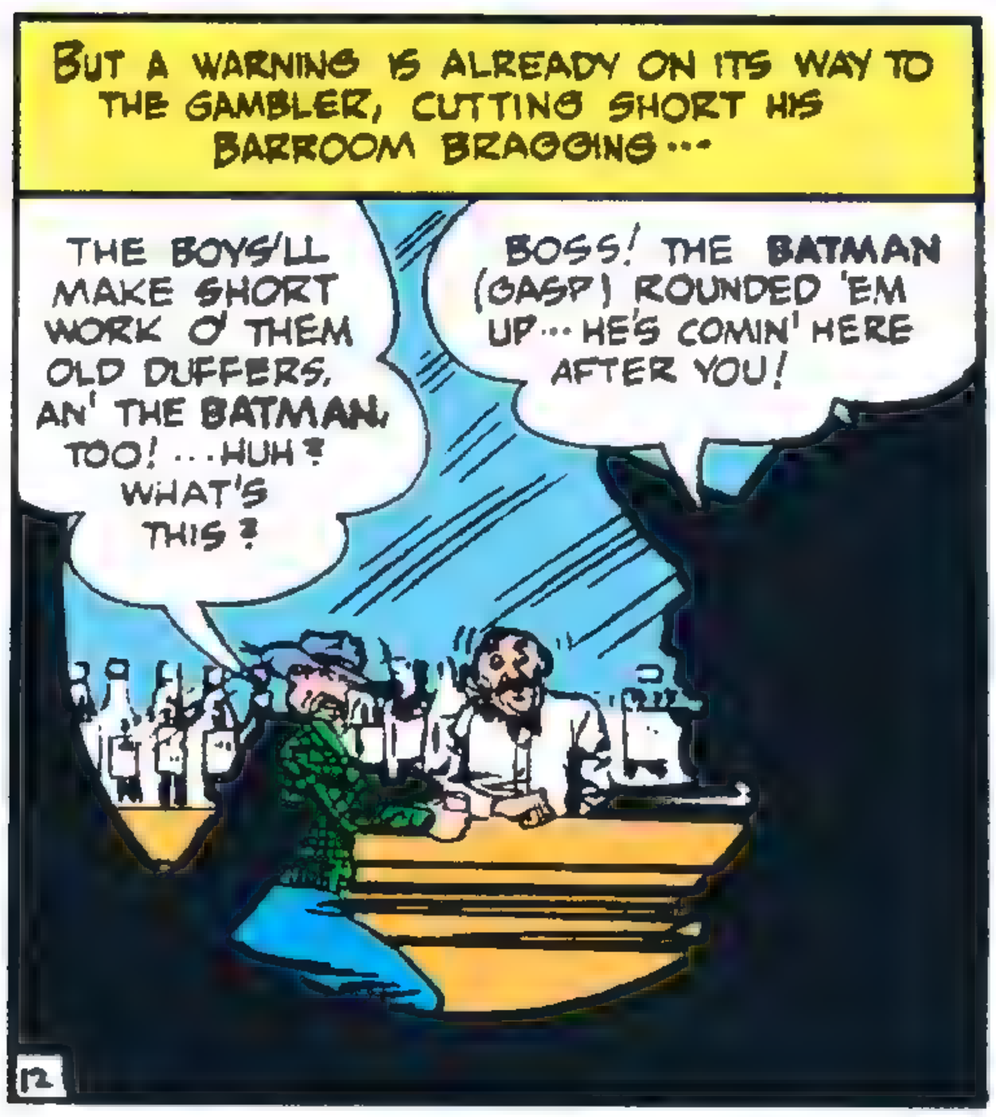

SUDDENLY AN OMINOUS SHAPE HURTLES INTO THE BANDIT CAMP!
BATMAN! HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, BULLET!
THIS IS WHERE EAST MEETS WEST WITH A BANG!
THE BATMAN!

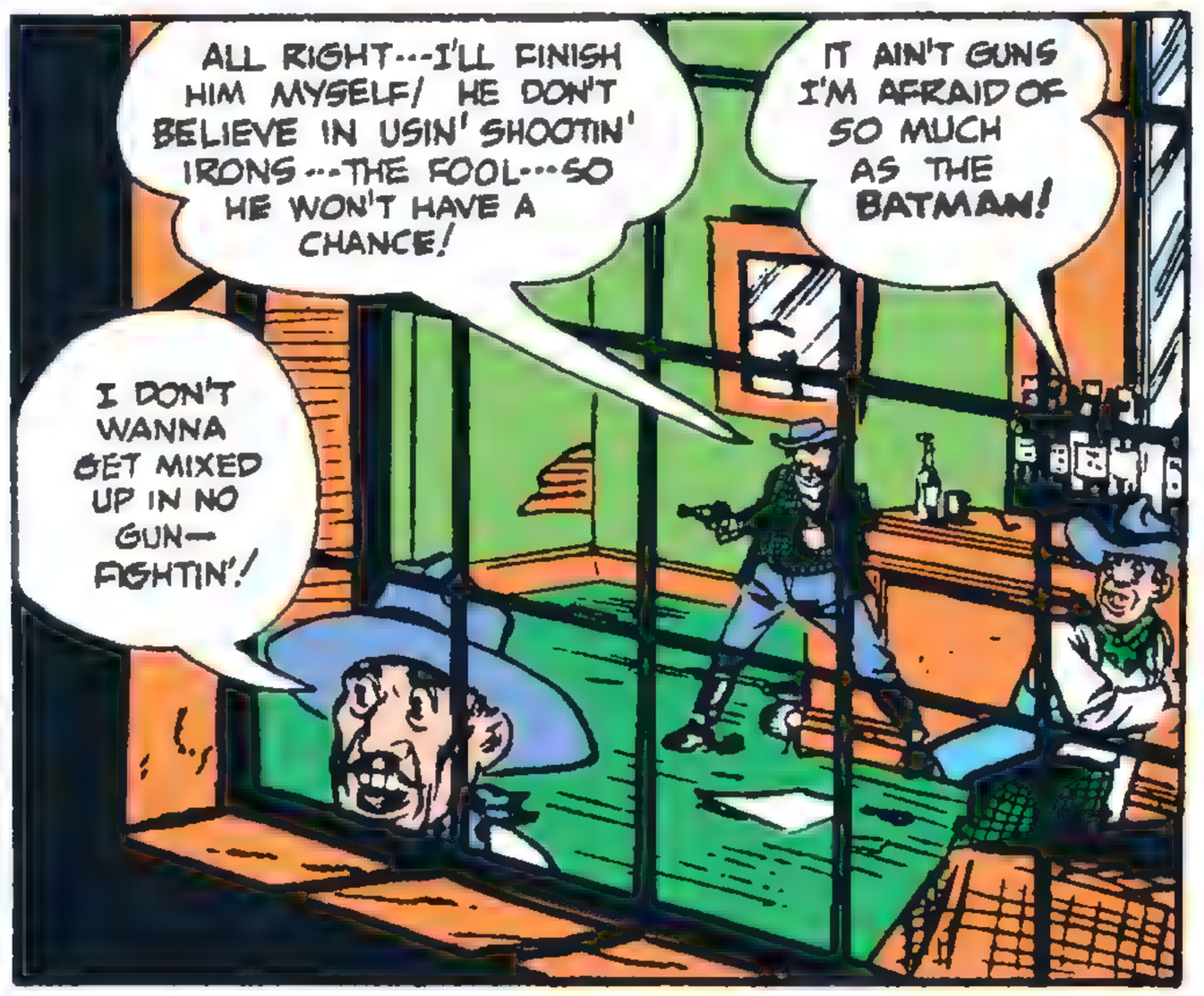
SPLIT SECONDS LATER, THE BAND OF SPIRITED OLD-TIMERS HURLS DEFIANCE AT THE FOE, FIGHTING WITH THE BRAVADO OF PLAINSMEN OF THE WEST.
I'M TOO OLD FER MY FISTS BUT MY CRUTCH WILL DO!
YIPPEE!
WAHOO! I'M "TWO-GUN" TURPIN!
ARE THINGS BLACK ENOUGH FOR YOU, BLACKIE?
OWOOOO!

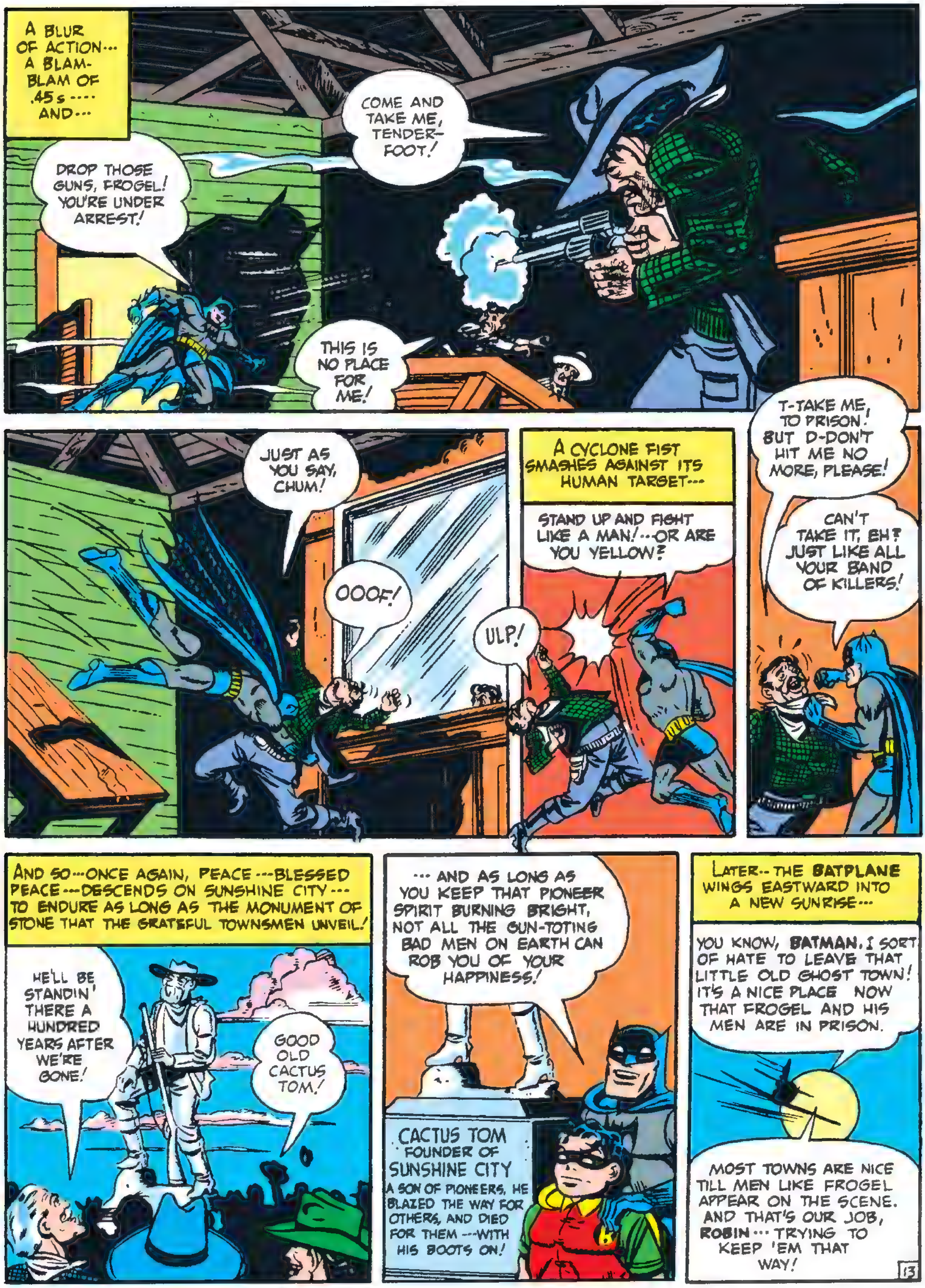

YES, SIR- MY GRANDPOP, "DEAD-EYE" DANVERS, COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER! NOW ONE O' YOU RATTLE-SNAKES CUT THAT BOY LOOSE!
D-DON'T SHOOT! W-WE SURRENDER!
THANKS, "DEAD-EYE"!

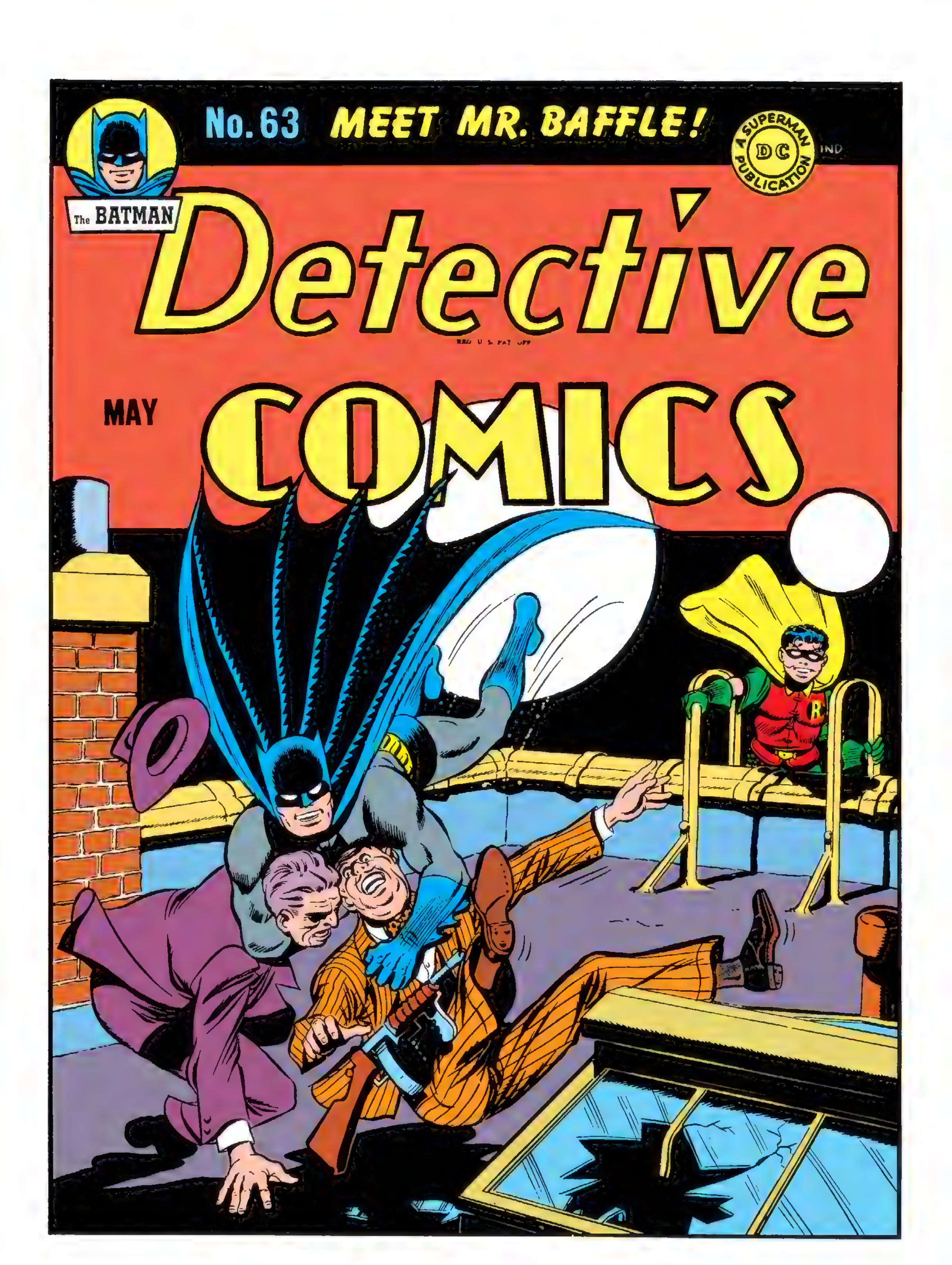

THERE'S A CREEK BELOW! IT WILL COOL OFF YOUR BLISTERS-- OR WOULD YOU RATHER TALK?
I-I'LL TALK! FROGEL ORDERED US TO STICK UP THE COACH AN' KILL CACTUS TOM!

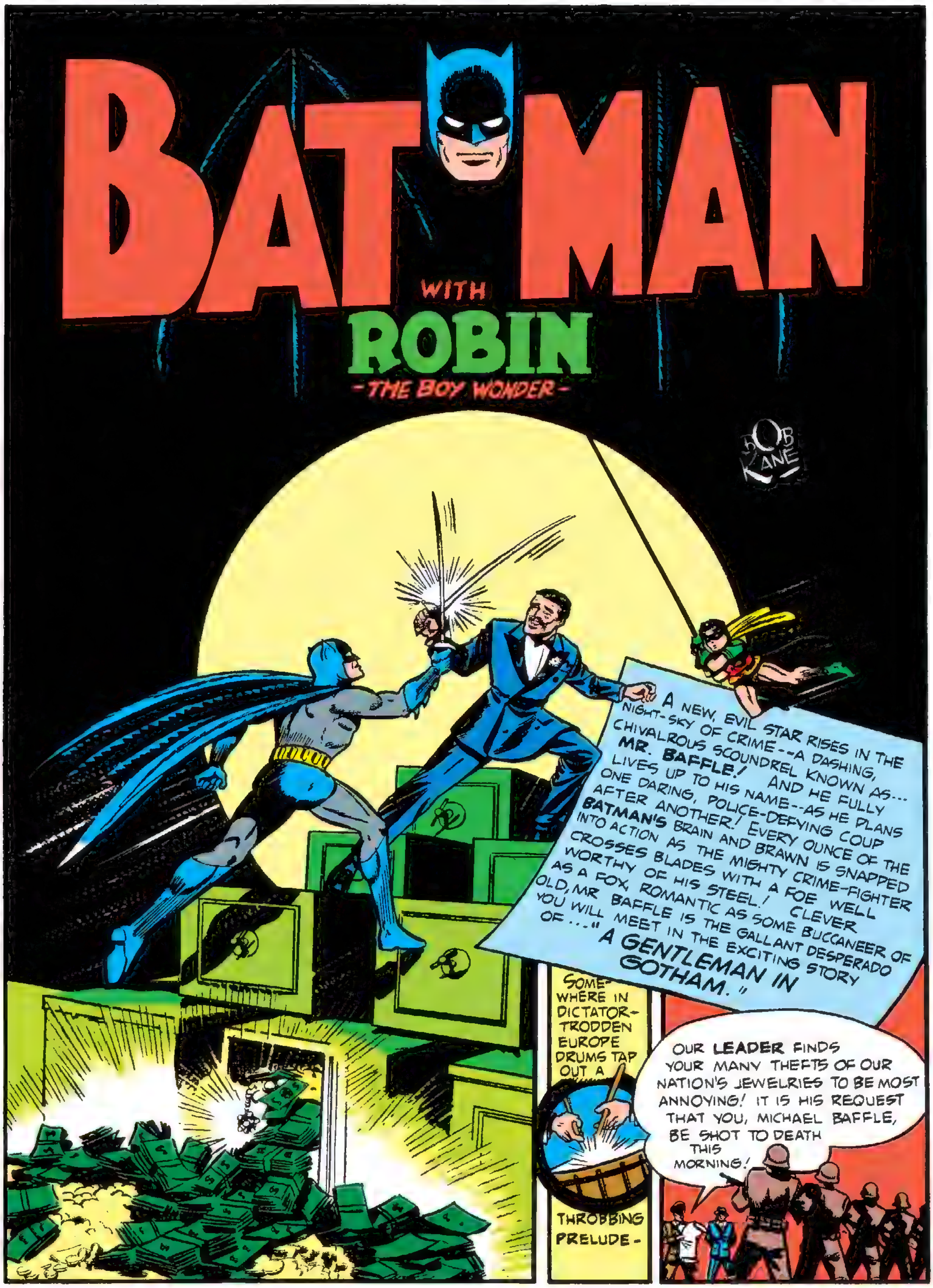

LEAVING THE BANDITS SAFELY BOUND AND GUARDED, THE DYNAMIC DUO RACES BACK TO SUNSHINE CITY FOR A FINAL ACCOUNTING WITH FIVE ACES FROGEL!
GOT TO FIND FROGEL BEFORE SOMEONE WARNS HIM THE GAME IS UP!
HEY...WATCH OUT FOR SPEED COPS!


BUT A WARNING IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY TO THE GAMBLER, CUTTING SHORT HIS BARROOM BRAGGING...
THE BOYS'LL MAKE SHORT WORK O' THEM OLD DUFFERS, AN' THE BATMAN, TOO! ...HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
BOSS! THE BATMAN (GASP) ROUNDED 'EM UP... HE'S COMIN' HERE AFTER YOU!
12

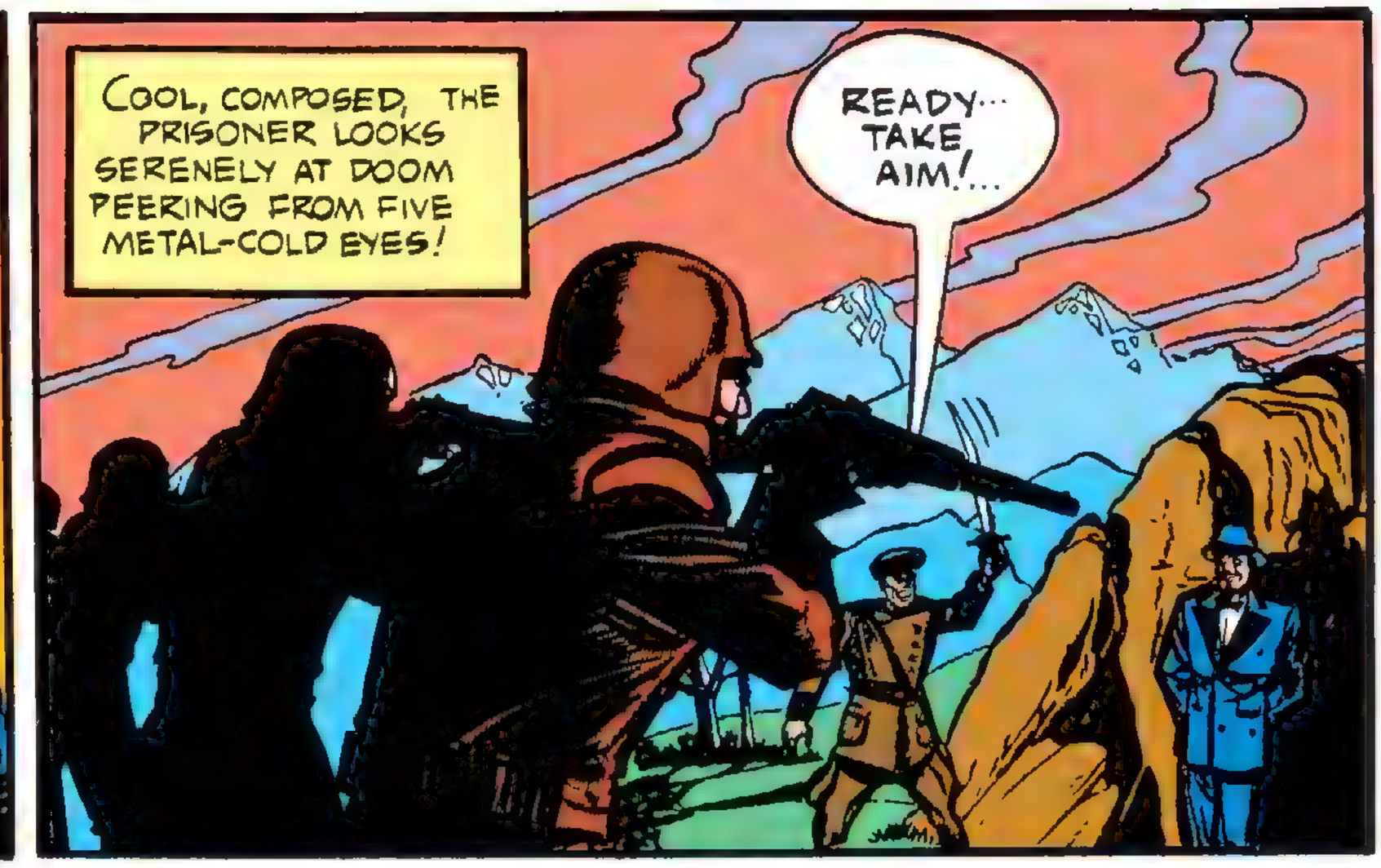

ALL RIGHT...I'LL FINISH HIM MYSELF! HE DON'T BELIEVE IN USIN' SHOOTIN' IRONS...THE FOOL...SO HE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
IT AIN'T GUNS I'M AFRAID OF SO MUCH AS THE BATMAN!
I DON'T WANNA GET MIXED UP IN NO GUN-FIGHTIN'!


A BLUR OF ACTION... A BLAM-BLAM OF .45s.... AND...
DROP THOSE GUNS, FROGEL! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
COME AND TAKE ME, TENDER-FOOT!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME!
JUST AS YOU SAY, CHUM!
OOOF!
ULP!
A CYCLONE FIST SMASHES AGAINST ITS HUMAN TARGET...
STAND UP AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!...OR ARE YOU YELLOW?
T-TAKE ME, TO PRISON! BUT D-DON'T HIT ME NO MORE, PLEASE!
CAN'T TAKE IT, EH? JUST LIKE ALL YOUR BAND OF KILLERS!
AND SO...ONCE AGAIN, PEACE...BLESSED PEACE...DESCENDS ON SUNSHINE CITY... TO ENDURE AS LONG AS THE MONUMENT OF STONE THAT THE GRATEFUL TOWNSMEN UNVEIL!
HE'LL BE STANDIN' THERE A HUNDRED YEARS AFTER WE'RE GONE!
GOOD OLD CACTUS TOM!
... AND AS LONG AS YOU KEEP THAT PIONEER SPIRIT BURNING BRIGHT, NOT ALL THE GUN-TOTING BAD MEN ON EARTH CAN ROB YOU OF YOUR HAPPINESS!
CACTUS TOM FOUNDER OF SUNSHINE CITY
A SON OF PIONEERS, HE BLAZED THE WAY FOR OTHERS, AND DIED FOR THEM ...WITH HIS BOOTS ON!
LATER...THE BATPLANE WINGS EASTWARD INTO A NEW SUNRISE...
YOU KNOW, BATMAN, I SORT OF HATE TO LEAVE THAT LITTLE OLD GHOST TOWN! IT'S A NICE PLACE NOW THAT FROGEL AND HIS MEN ARE IN PRISON.
MOST TOWNS ARE NICE TILL MEN LIKE FROGEL APPEAR ON THE SCENE. AND THAT'S OUR JOB, ROBIN... TRYING TO KEEP 'EM THAT WAY!
13

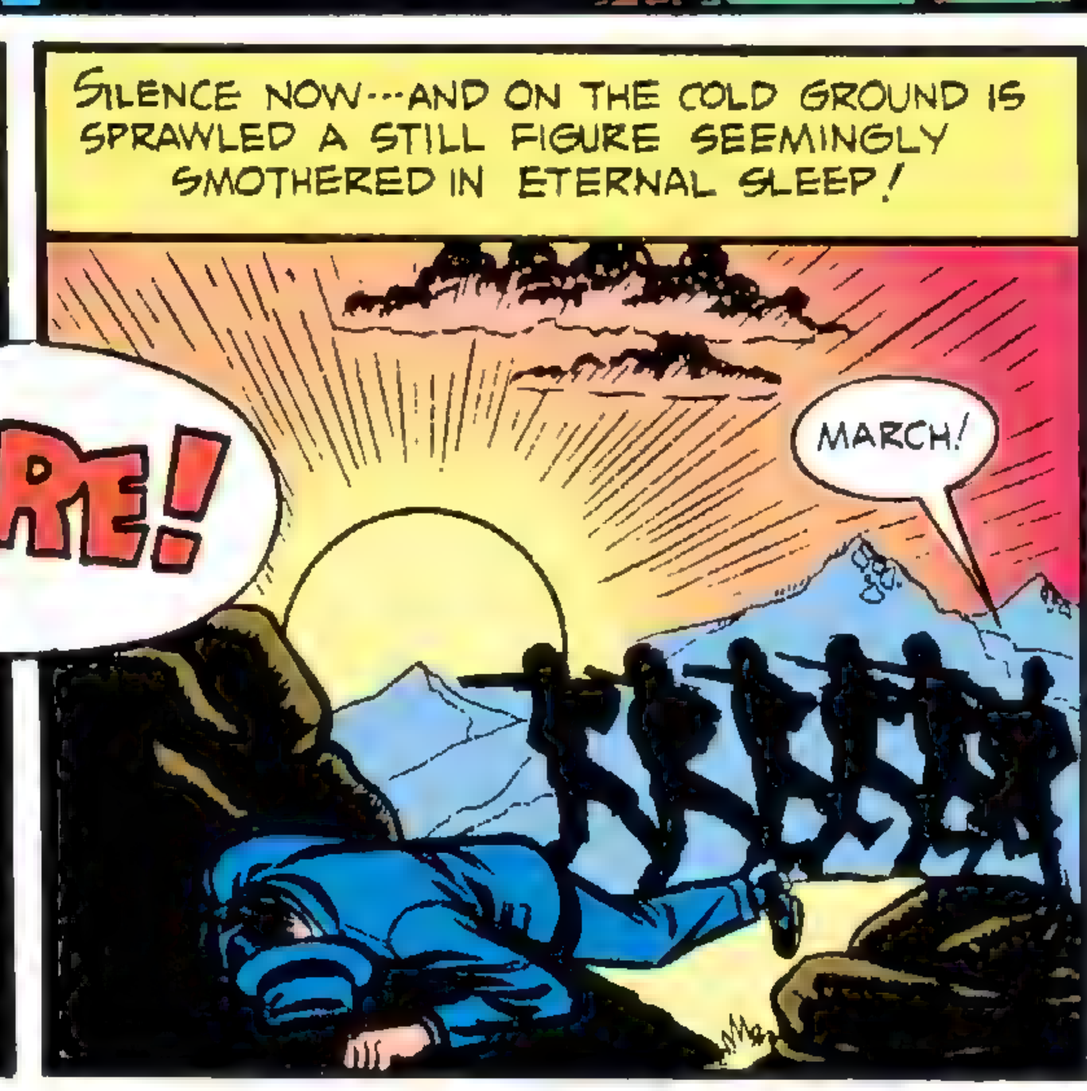

No. 63
MEET MR. BAFFLE!
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
IND
The BATMAN
Detective
MAY
COMICS


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
BOB KANE
A NEW, EVIL STAR RISES IN THE NIGHT-SKY OF CRIME--A DASHING, CHIVALROUS SCOUNDREL KNOWN AS... MR. BAFFLE! AND HE FULLY LIVES UP TO HIS NAME--AS HE PLANS ONE DARING, POLICE-DEFYING COUP AFTER ANOTHER! EVERY OUNCE OF THE BATMAN'S BRAIN AND BRAWN IS SNAPPED INTO ACTION AS THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER CROSSES BLADES WITH A FOE WELL WORTHY OF HIS STEEL! CLEVER AS A FOX, ROMANTIC AS SOME BUCCANEER OF OLD, MR BAFFLE IS THE GALLANT DESPERADO YOU WILL MEET IN THE EXCITING STORY OF ..." A GENTLEMAN IN GOTHAM."
SOMEWHERE IN DICTATOR-TRODDEN EUROPE DRUMS TAP OUT A THROBBING PRELUDE -
OUR LEADER FINDS YOUR MANY THEFTS OF OUR NATION'S JEWELRIES TO BE MOST ANNOYING! IT IS HIS REQUEST THAT YOU, MICHAEL BAFFLE, BE SHOT TO DEATH THIS MORNING!

THE BLINDFOLD FOR THE EYES!
BLINDFOLD? YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DEPRIVE ME OF SEEING THE SUN-RISE FOR THE LAST TIME!

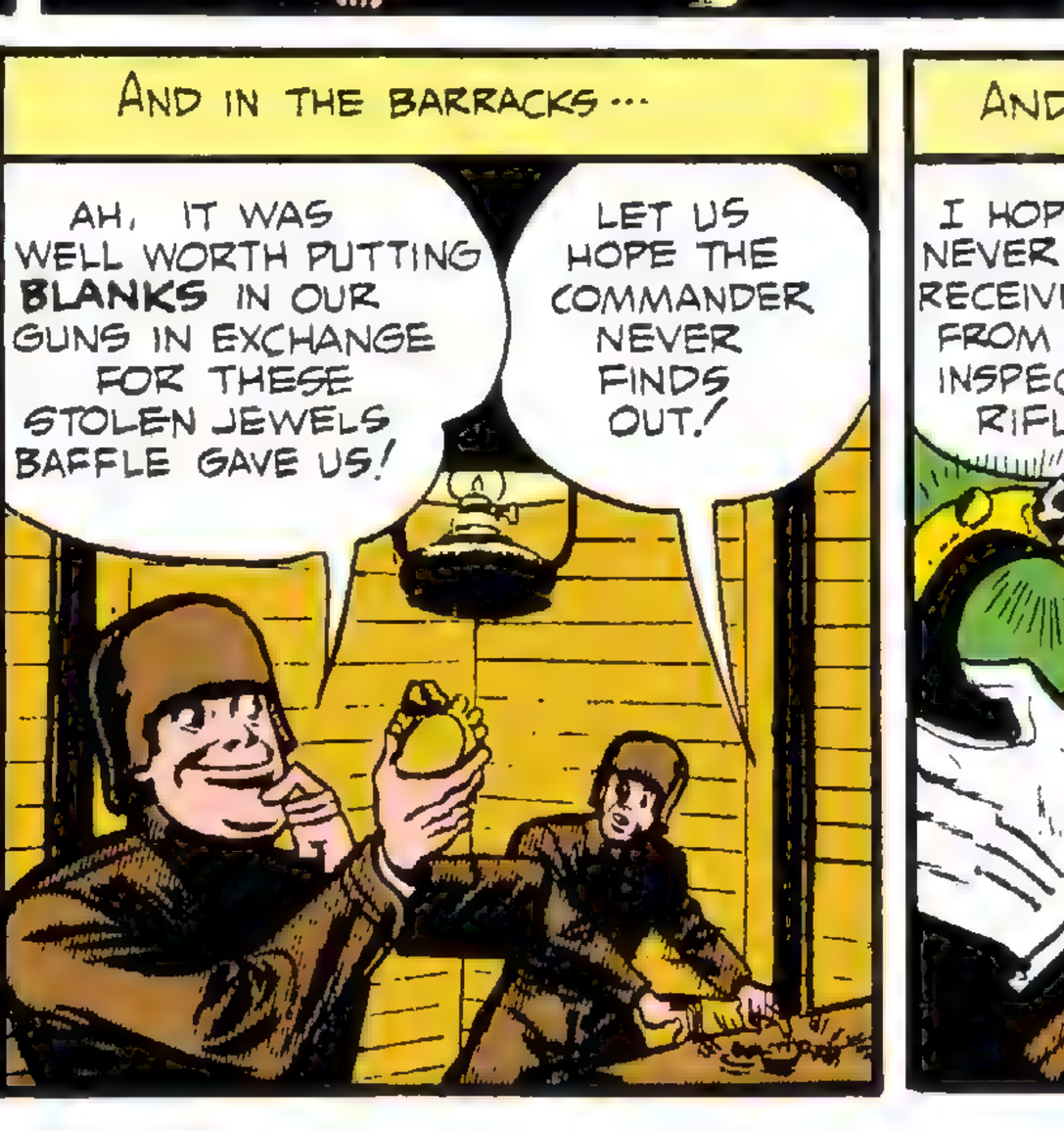

COOL, COMPOSED, THE PRISONER LOOKS SERENELY AT DOOM PEERING FROM FIVE METAL-COLD EYES!
READY... TAKE AIM!...

THE COMMANDER SNAPS DOWN HIS SWORD. THE MEN FIRE--- THE PRISONER CLUTCHES HIS BREAST AND BEGINS TO CRUMPLE.
FIRE!

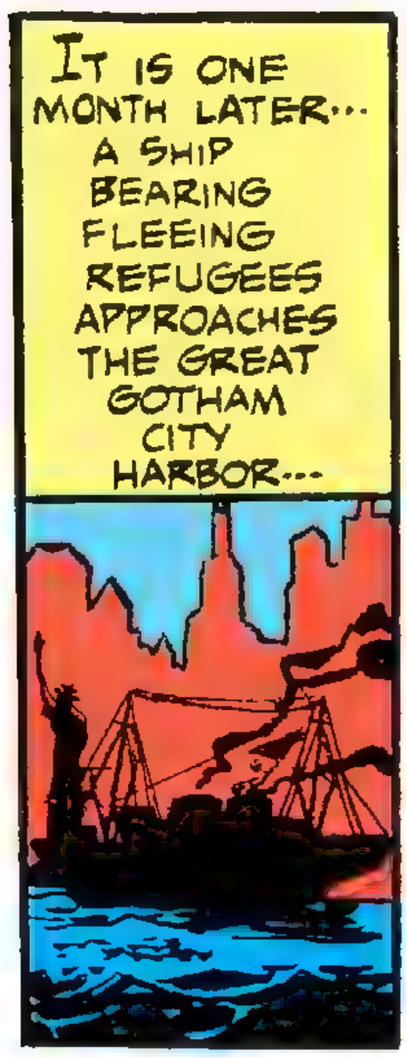

SILENCE NOW---AND ON THE COLD GROUND IS SPRAWLED A STILL FIGURE SEEMINGLY SMOTHERED IN ETERNAL SLEEP!
MARCH!

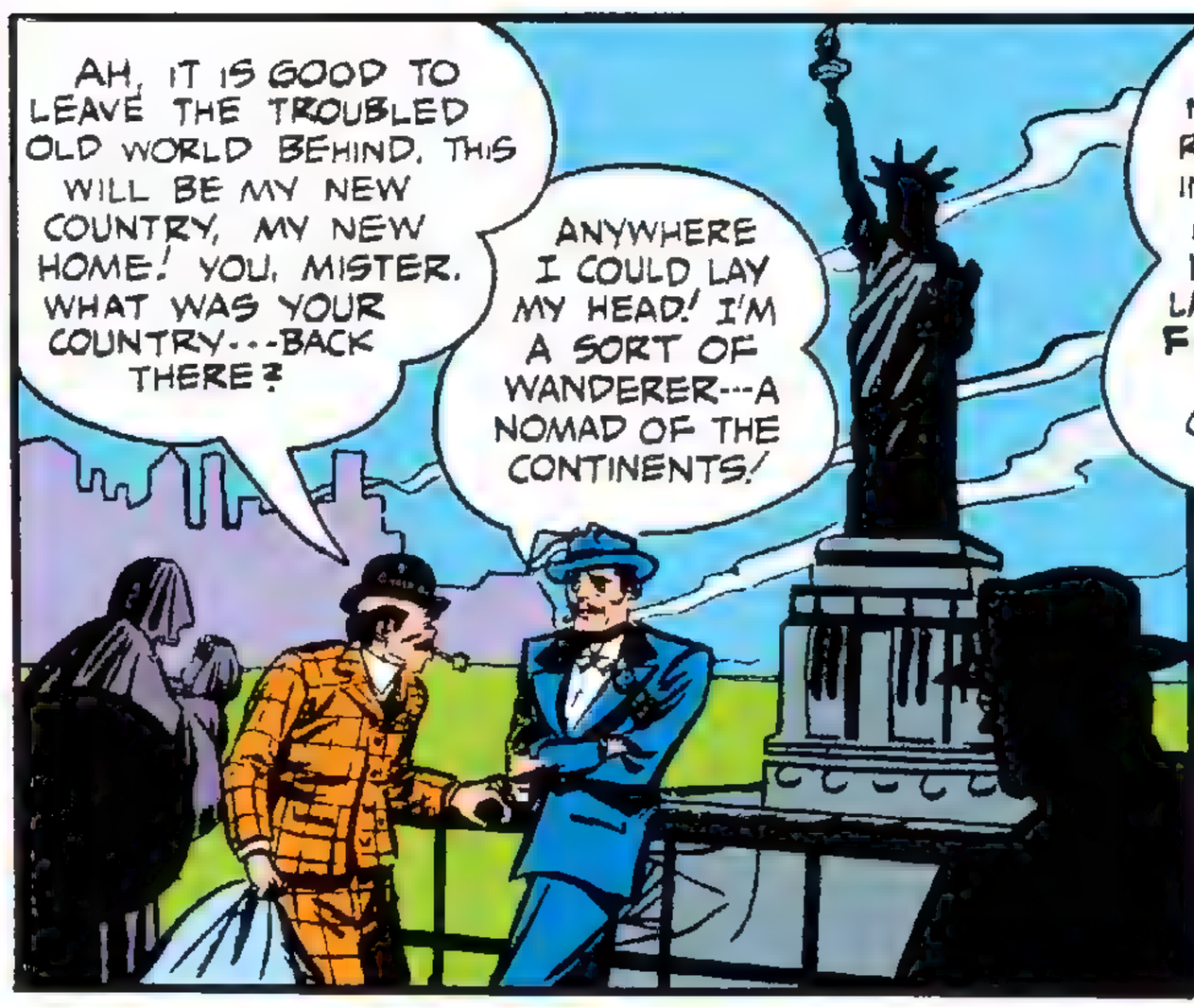
A MINUTE CRAWLS BY--- TWO MINUTES---AND THEN---
ALL THIS IS SUCH A BEASTLY NUISANCE! WASN'T WORTH IT, REALLY! GOT MY CLOTHES FILTHY WITH DUST!

OH, WELL--- MUST TAKE THE GOOD WITH THE BAD. THAT'S LIFE, I GUESS!
2

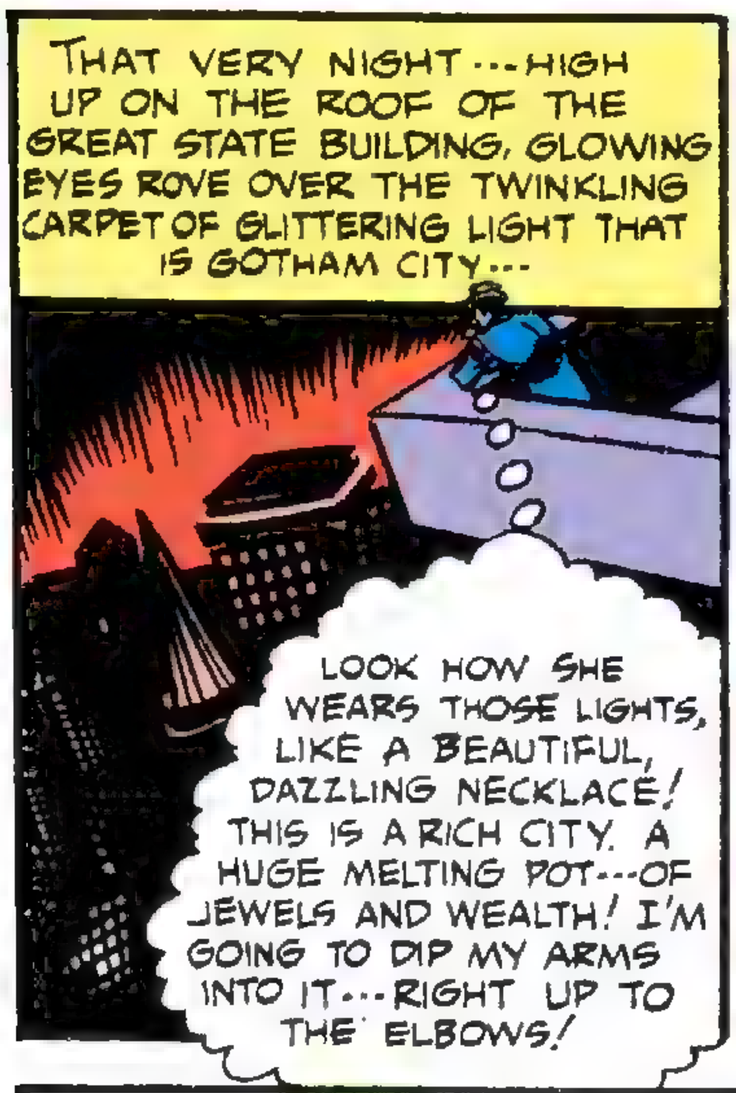

AND IN THE BARRACKS---
AH, IT WAS WELL WORTH PUTTING BLANKS IN OUR GUNS IN EXCHANGE FOR THESE STOLEN JEWELS BAFFLE GAVE US!
LET US HOPE THE COMMANDER NEVER FINDS OUT!

AND THE COMMANDER---
I HOPE MY MEN NEVER FIND OUT I RECEIVED THESE JEWELS FROM BAFFLE FOR NOT INSPECTING THE RIFLES!


IT IS ONE MONTH LATER... A SHIP BEARING FLEEING REFUGEES APPROACHES THE GREAT GOTHAM CITY HARBOR...


AH, IT IS GOOD TO LEAVE THE TROUBLED OLD WORLD BEHIND. THIS WILL BE MY NEW COUNTRY, MY NEW HOME! YOU, MISTER. WHAT WAS YOUR COUNTRY...BACK THERE?
ANYWHERE I COULD LAY MY HEAD! I'M A SORT OF WANDERER...A NOMAD OF THE CONTINENTS!

AH, BUT NOW YOU CAN REST...HERE... IN AMERICA, LAND OF LIBERTY...A LAND THAT IS FREE...THAT STATUE OF LIBERTY...
FREE? HMM...YES-
I WONDER HOW FREE IT IS WITH ITS WEALTH? THAT'S WHAT INTERESTS ME MOST!


THAT VERY NIGHT...HIGH UP ON THE ROOF OF THE GREAT STATE BUILDING, GLOWING EYES ROVE OVER THE TWINKLING CARPET OF GLITTERING LIGHT THAT IS GOTHAM CITY...
LOOK HOW SHE WEARS THOSE LIGHTS, LIKE A BEAUTIFUL, DAZZLING NECKLACE! THIS IS A RICH CITY. A HUGE MELTING POT...OF JEWELS AND WEALTH! I'M GOING TO DIP MY ARMS INTO IT...RIGHT UP TO THE ELBOWS!

SUDDENLY...
OKAY, EGG-HEAD, NOBODY UP HERE BUT US!
KEEP A LOOKOUT ANYWAY, FISH-EYES. LIFT 'EM, MISTER! GRAB A HUNK O'SKY!
IF THIS IS A HOLDUP, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SORELY DISAPPOINTED.

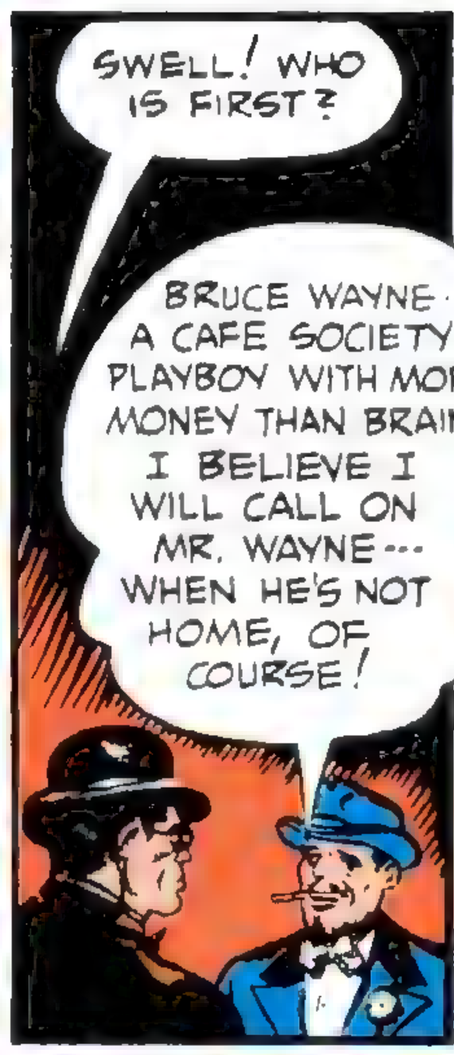
FLAT! ALL HE'S GOT IN HIS POCKETS IS DUST!
OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK! A GUY CAN'T EVEN MAKE AN HONEST LIVIN' NO MORE!

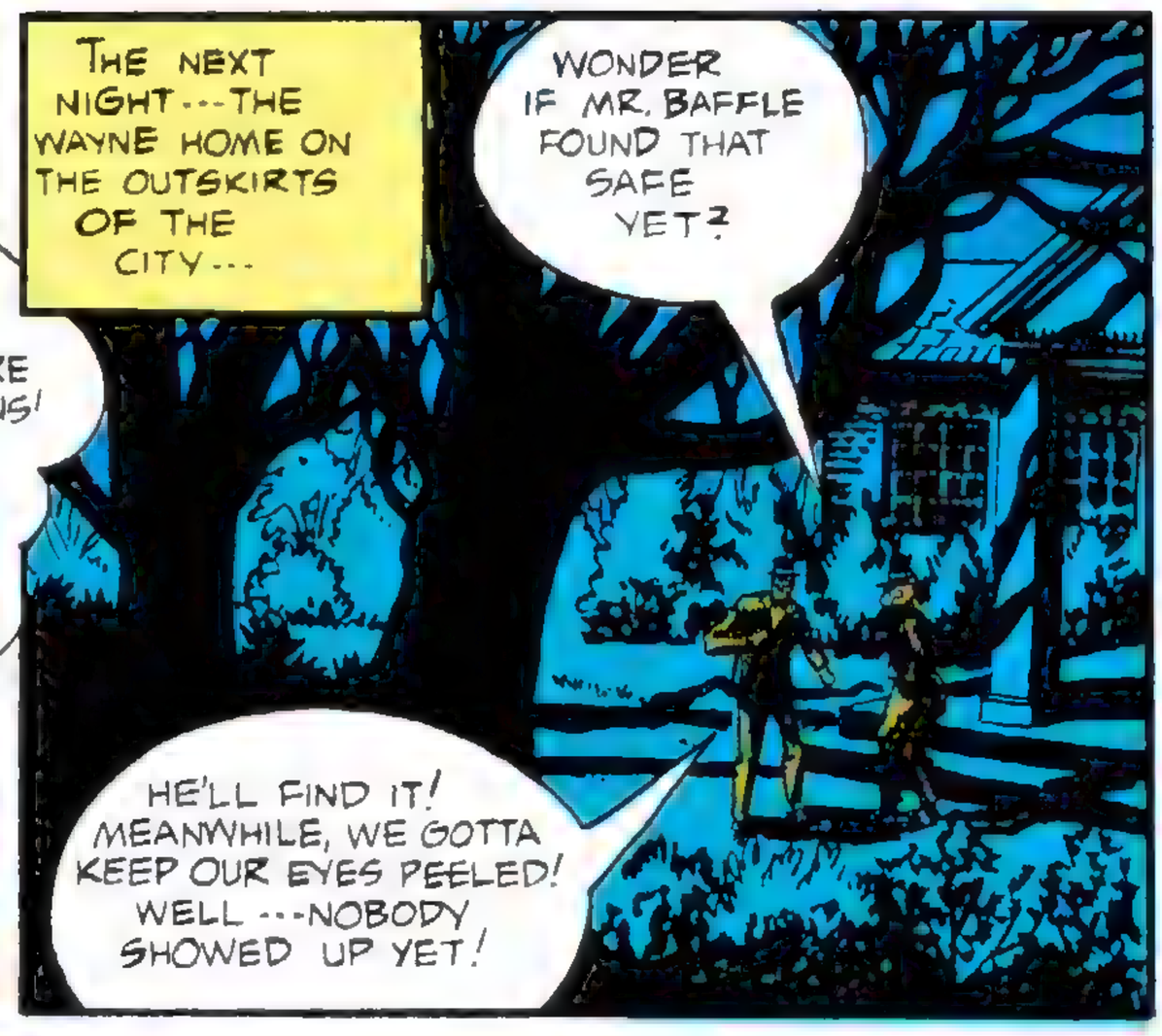
I PERCEIVE YOU GENTLEMEN ARE IN THE SAME LEAKY BOAT I AM IN!
YOU GOT LIGHT FINGERS, BUD! YOU MUST KEEP IN PRACTICE TO GET 'EM THAT WAY, EH?
HEY! YA LIFTED MY WALLET! YA CROOK! YA CAN'T TRUST NOBODY THESE DAYS!

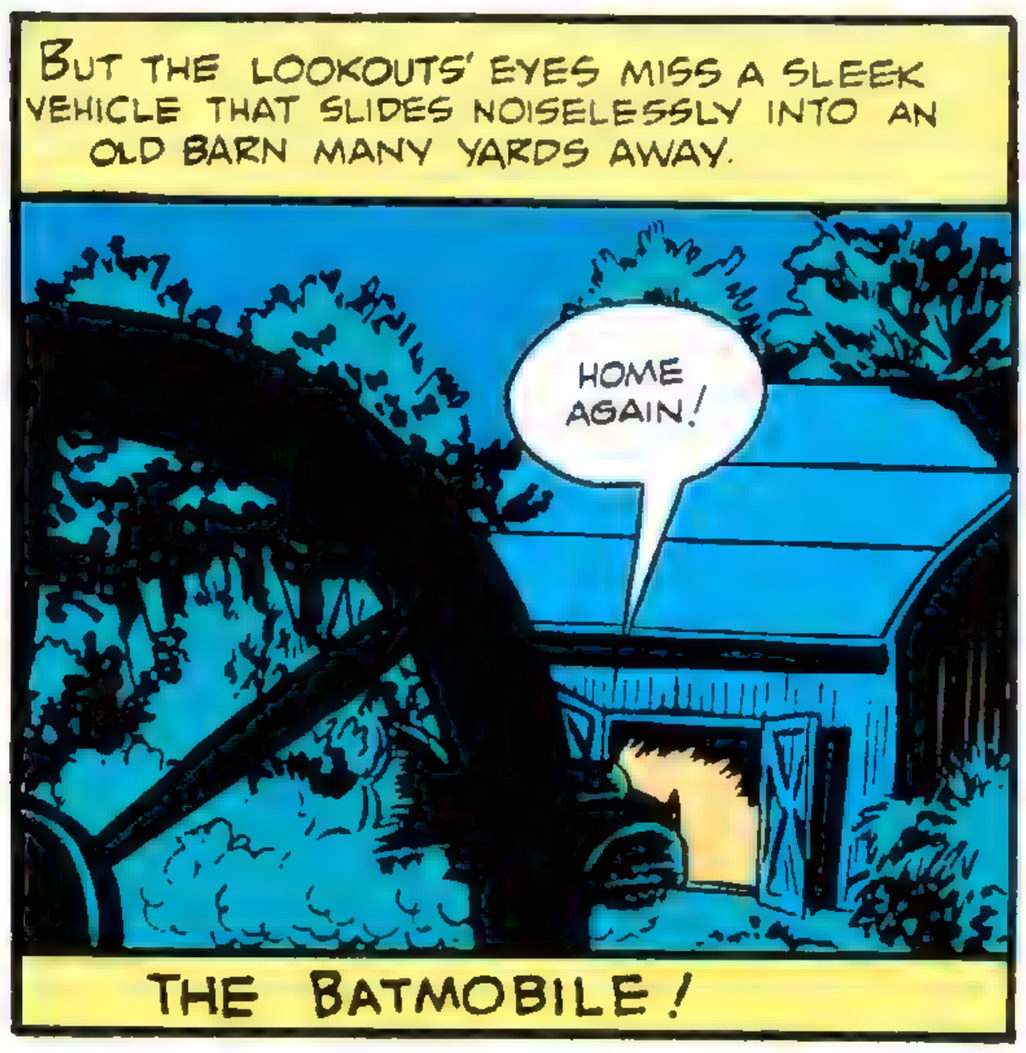
I KEEP MY HAND IN A FEW PIES! NOW, MY BROTHERS-IN-CRIME, IF YOU WILL LISTEN SHARPLY, I THINK I CAN INTEREST YOU IN A PROPOSITION!

AFTER A FEW WORDS...
YOU WANT US TO THROW IN WITH YOU?
EXACTLY! I'LL FIGURE OUT PLANS, CASE JOBS! I'M RATHER TALENTED THAT WAY, Y'KNOW! YOU'VE NOTHING TO LOSE, SO WHAT SAY?
COUNT ME IN!

WHAT'RE YOU GRINNING AT?
THIS ---A LIST OF EXTREMELY RICH PEOPLE WHOSE SAFES NEED OPENING!


SWELL! WHO IS FIRST?
BRUCE WAYNE-- A CAFE SOCIETY PLAYBOY WITH MORE MONEY THAN BRAINS! I BELIEVE I WILL CALL ON MR. WAYNE--- WHEN HE'S NOT HOME, OF COURSE!

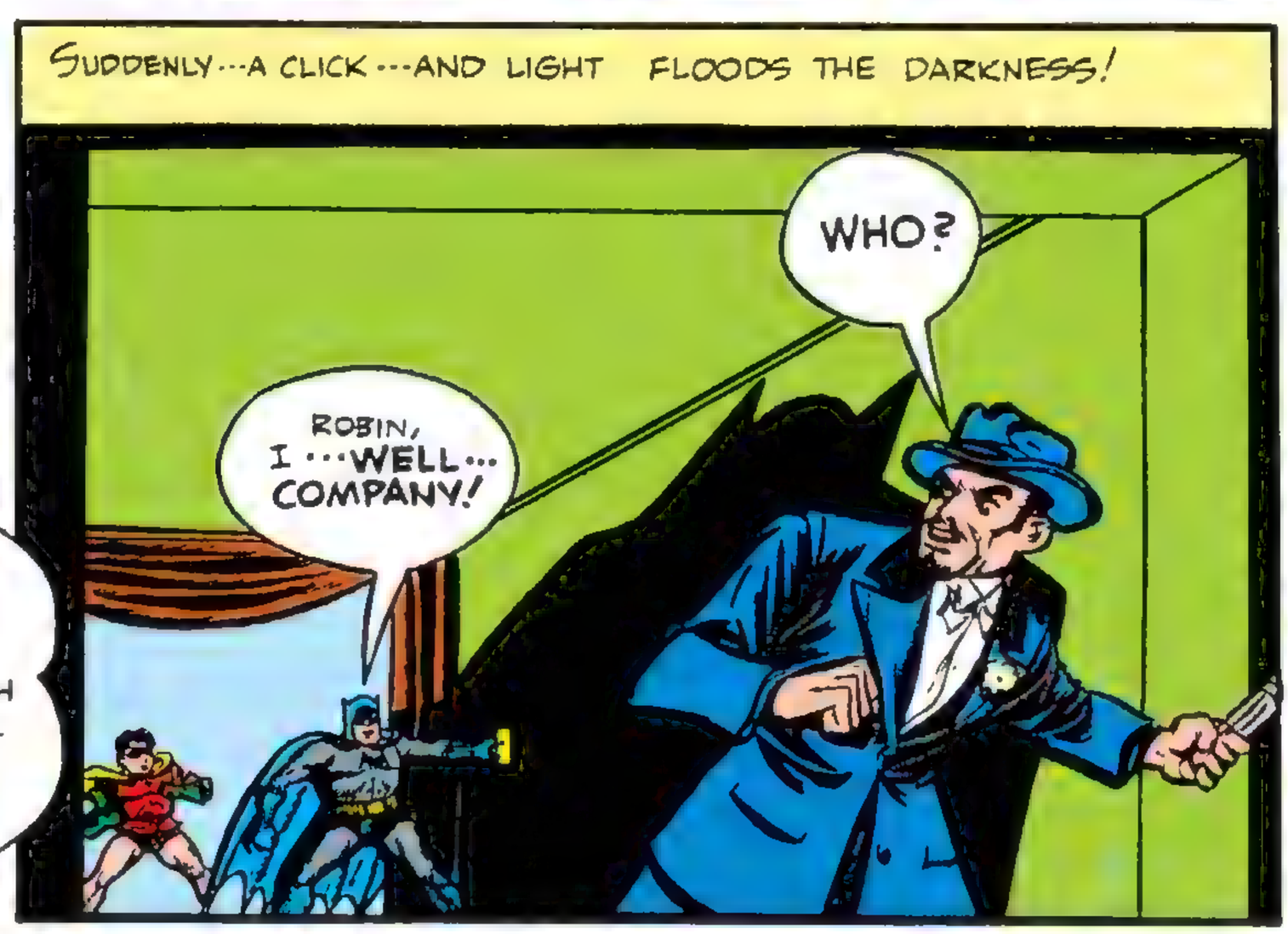

THE NEXT NIGHT---THE WAYNE HOME ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY---
WONDER IF MR. BAFFLE FOUND THAT SAFE YET?
HE'LL FIND IT! MEANWHILE, WE GOTTA KEEP OUR EYES PEELED! WELL ---NOBODY SHOWED UP YET!


BUT THE LOOKOUTS' EYES MISS A SLEEK VEHICLE THAT SLIDES NOISELESSLY INTO AN OLD BARN MANY YARDS AWAY.
HOME AGAIN!
THE BATMOBILE!

TWO MANTLED SHAPES PAD THROUGH A DIM TUNNEL THAT BURROWS EARTHWARD---CONNECTING THE BARN AND THE WAYNE HOME.
ME FOR MY BED! I'M SLEEPY!
THINK I'LL GRAB FORTY WINKS MYSELF!

AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT---A WHITE CONE OF LIGHT DANCES OVER A WALL AND FINALLY RESTS UPON--
THE SAFE! AH! JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!

REMOVING HIS GLOVES---HE WHIPS OUT A SHEET OF SANDPAPER AND---
AND NOW... MY FINGERTIPS SANDPAPERED UNTIL THEY ARE SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO FEEL THE FALL OF THE TUMBLERS!


SUDDENLY---A CLICK---AND LIGHT FLOODS THE DARKNESS!
WHO?
ROBIN, I ...WELL... COMPANY!

THAT COSTUME ··· BATWINGS AND ALL··· I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE THE CLEVER BATMAN! AND CLEVER YOU MUST BE....

···FOR I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU POSSIBLY GUESSED I WOULD BE ROBBING THIS HOME, BUT, BE THAT AS IT MAY···I MUST GO NOW!

OH, NOT NOW···JUST AS WE WERE GETTING ACQUAINTED!

IT ISN'T GOOD MANNERS TO OVER-STAY ONE'S VISIT. SOCIETY FROWNS UPON IT, Y'KNOW!

OH, BUT I INSIST YOU STAY! I FIND YOUR COMPANY VERY STIMULATING!

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY IT IS THAT I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU DISLIKE MY COMPANY!
5

I'M REALLY A NICE FELLOW WHEN YOU GET TO KNOW ME!
I DON'T DOUBT IT, BUT THE OPEN SPACES ARE CALLING ME! SO-O-O--

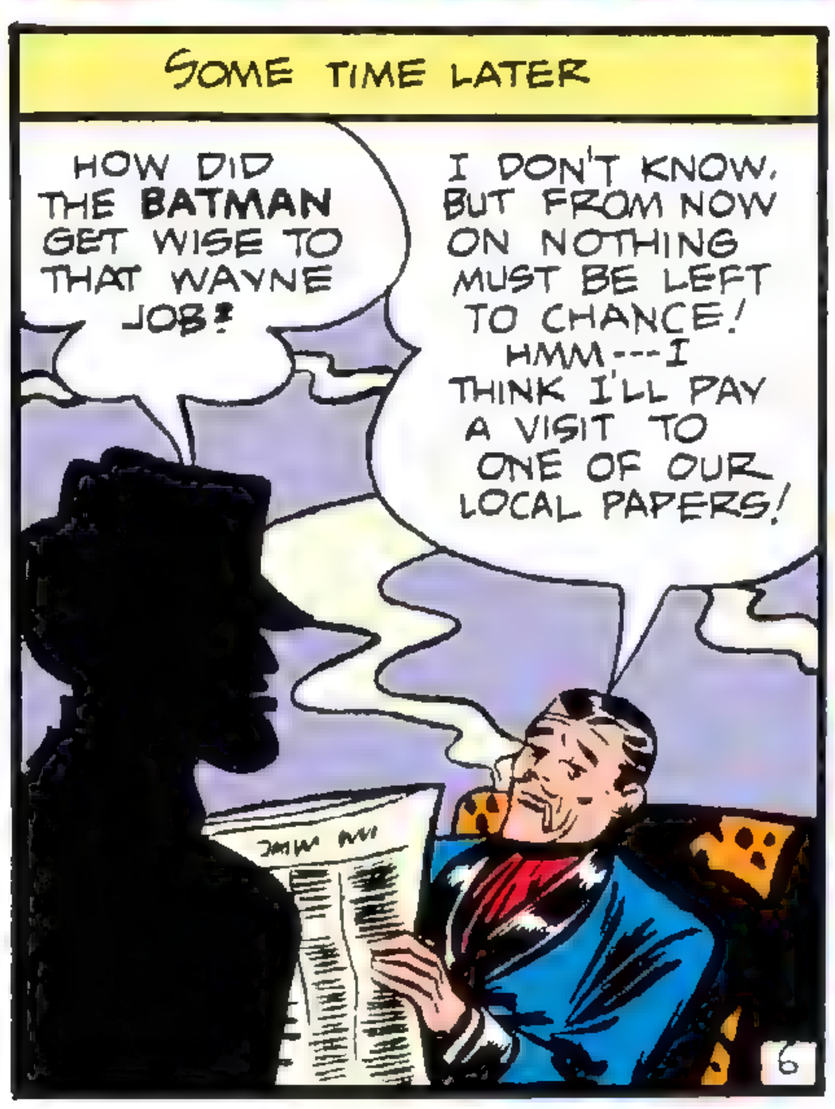
WITH A QUICK PULL, MR. BAFFLE SLAMS THE DOOR SHUT AND---
SLAM!
TCH-TCH! IN MY HASTE I DO BELIEVE I'VE CLOSED THE DOOR TOO FAST!

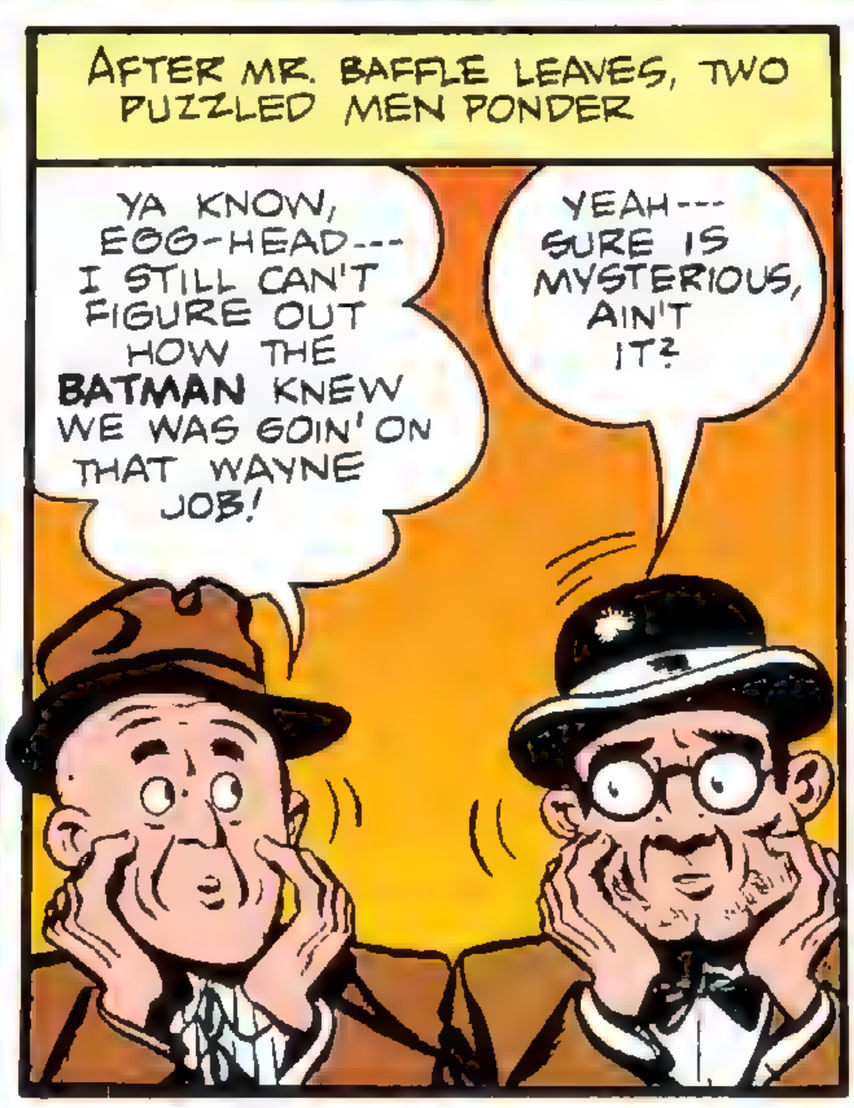
YOU WILL EXCUSE ME IF I RUN ALONG NOW! NO DOUBT YOU'LL BUMP INTO ME AGAIN SOME TIME! ADIEU, OLD TOP!

AND WHEN ROBIN AWAKENS---
OH, MY HEAD! WHAT A BUMP! SAY, WHERE'S OUR BURGLAR--- AND WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
HA! HA! HE--- GOT AWAY! HA! HA! AND THE LAUGH--IS ON ME! HA! HA! HA!

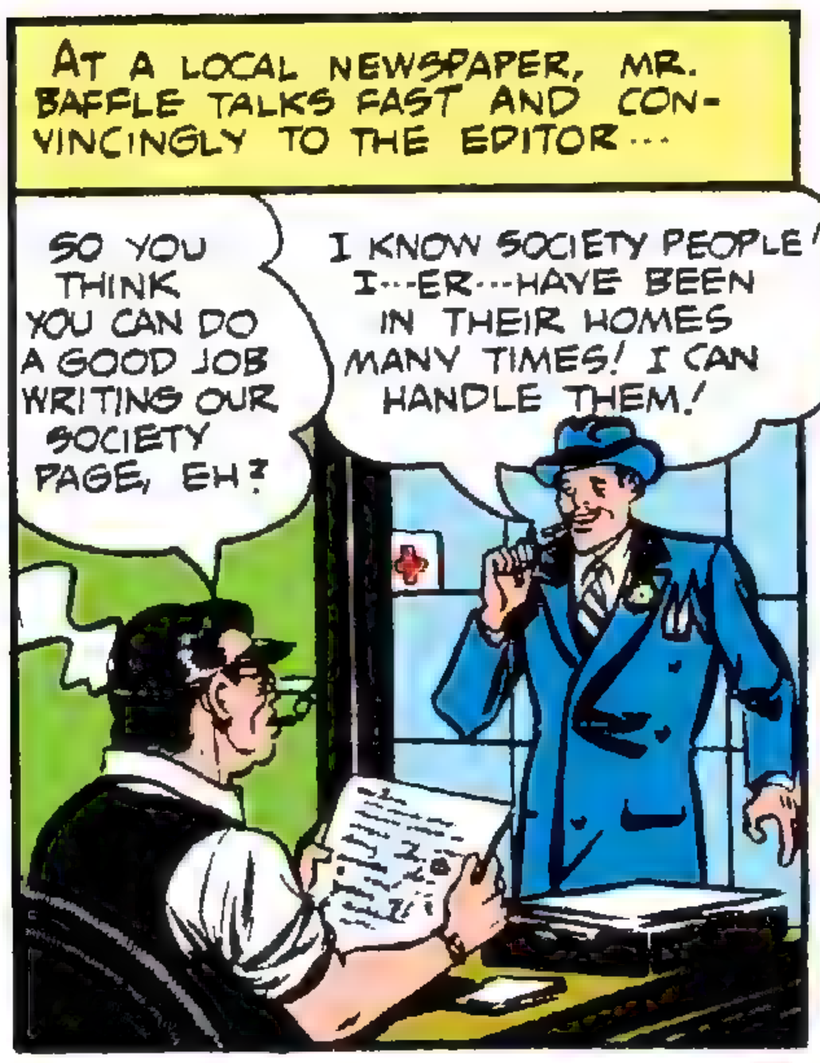
AND AS FOR MR. BAFFLE--
THE WAY YOU'RE LAUGHING YOU MUSTA DONE OKAY! HOW MUCH DIDJA GET OUTA THE SAFE?
HA! HA! NOTHING! HA! HA! PARDON ME WHILE I SHAVE OFF MY WHISKERS! HA! HA!
WHAT'S THE IDEA?

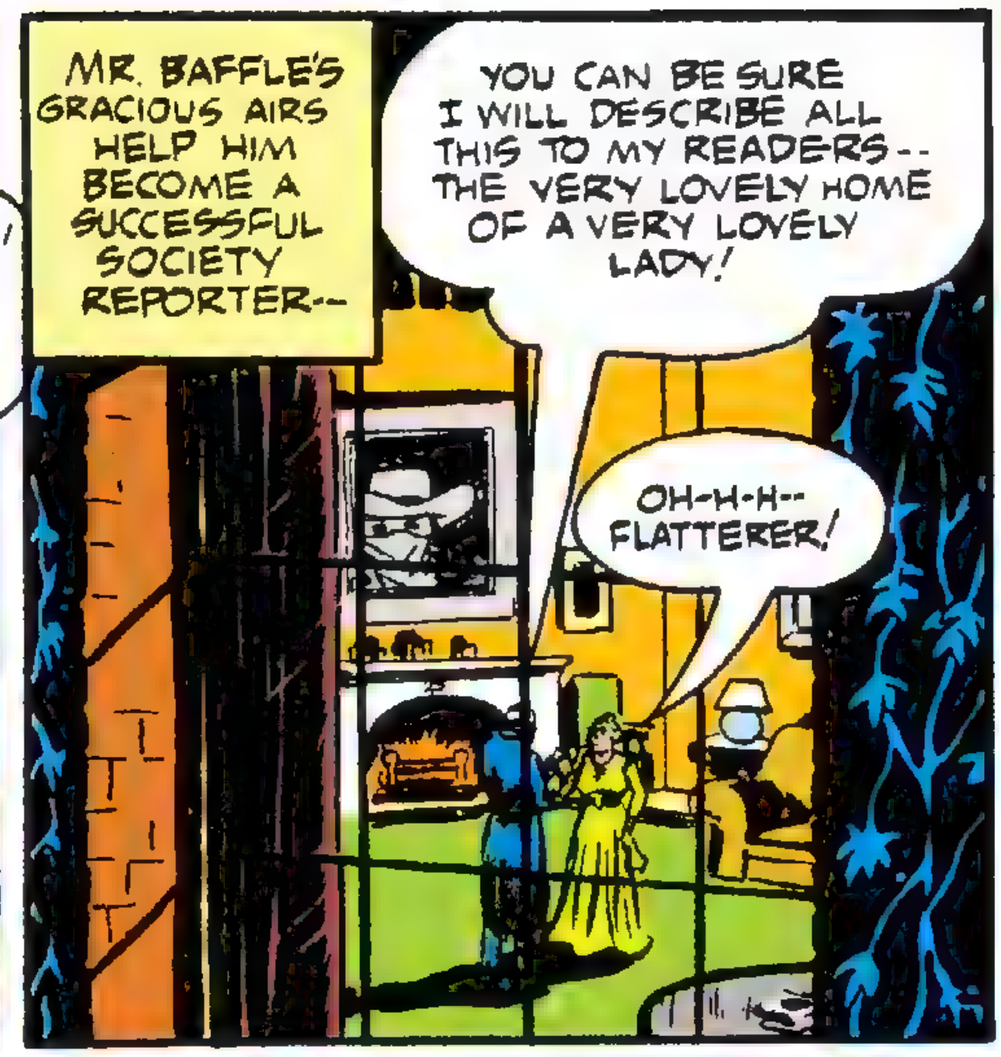
SIMPLE! SO THE BATMAN WON'T RECOGNIZE ME AGAIN! HA! HA! AMAZING FELLOW, THAT BATMAN! HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR, TOO! HA! HA!
THE BATMAN?

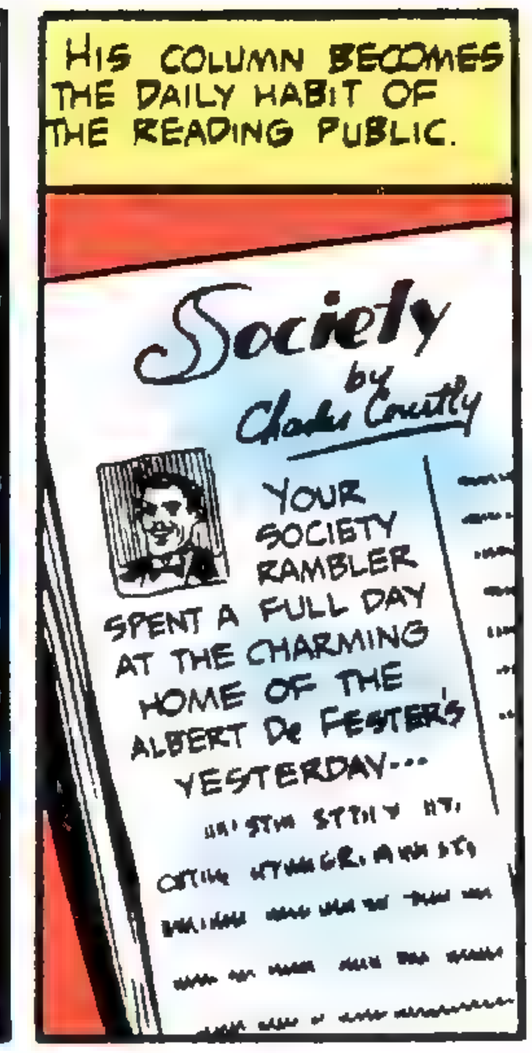

SOME TIME LATER
HOW DID THE BATMAN GET WISE TO THAT WAYNE JOB?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT FROM NOW ON NOTHING MUST BE LEFT TO CHANCE! HMM---I THINK I'LL PAY A VISIT TO ONE OF OUR LOCAL PAPERS!
6

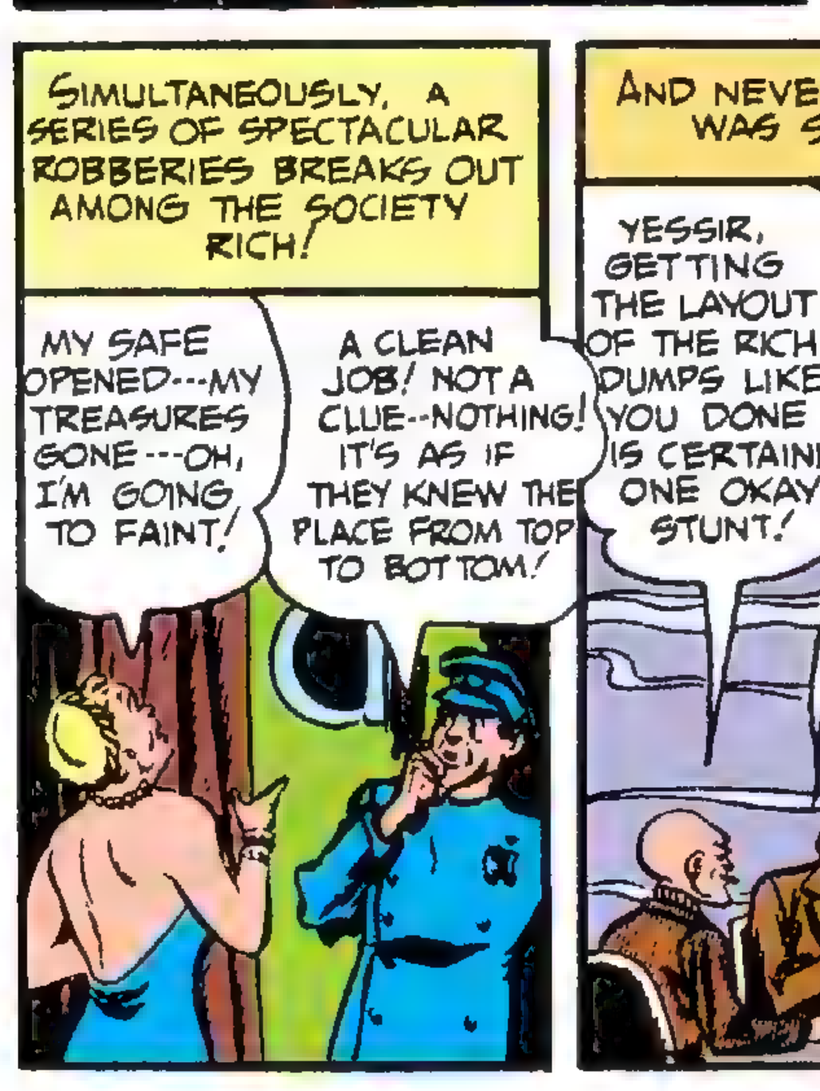

AFTER MR. BAFFLE LEAVES, TWO PUZZLED MEN PONDER
YA KNOW, EGG-HEAD--- I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW THE BATMAN KNEW WE WAS GOIN' ON THAT WAYNE JOB!
YEAH--- SURE IS MYSTERIOUS, AIN'T IT?

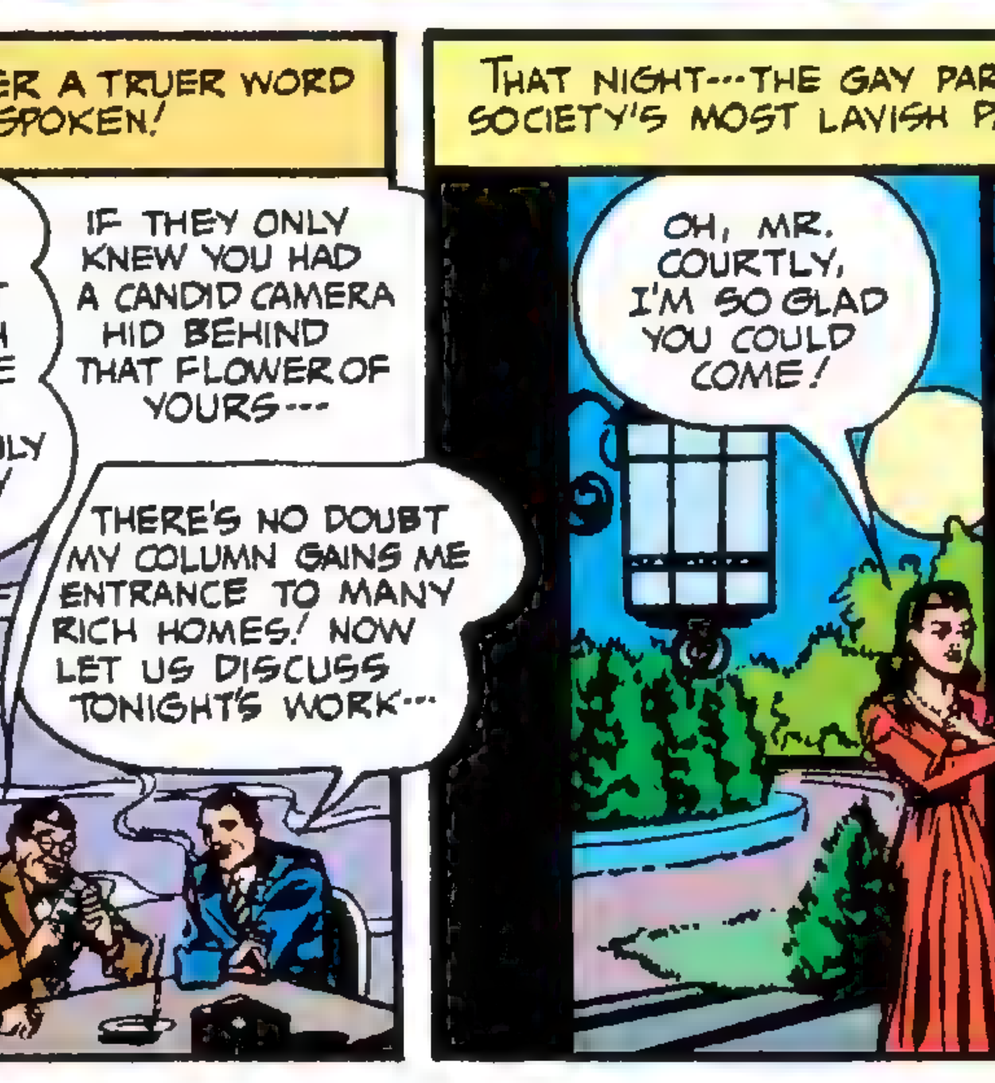
NOT SO MYSTERIOUS, FISH-EYES, IF YOU COULD EVER KNOW THAT THE BATMAN AND BRUCE WAYNE ARE ONE AND THE SAME---
THINK WE'LL EVER SEE THAT BURGLAR AGAIN, BRUCE?
DICK, M'BOY, I HAVE A HUNCH WE'LL SEE PLENTY MORE OF THAT MAN! YESSIR---PLENTY MORE!


AT A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, MR. BAFFLE TALKS FAST AND CONVINCINGLY TO THE EDITOR...
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO A GOOD JOB WRITING OUR SOCIETY PAGE, EH?
I KNOW SOCIETY PEOPLE! I...ER...HAVE BEEN IN THEIR HOMES MANY TIMES! I CAN HANDLE THEM!

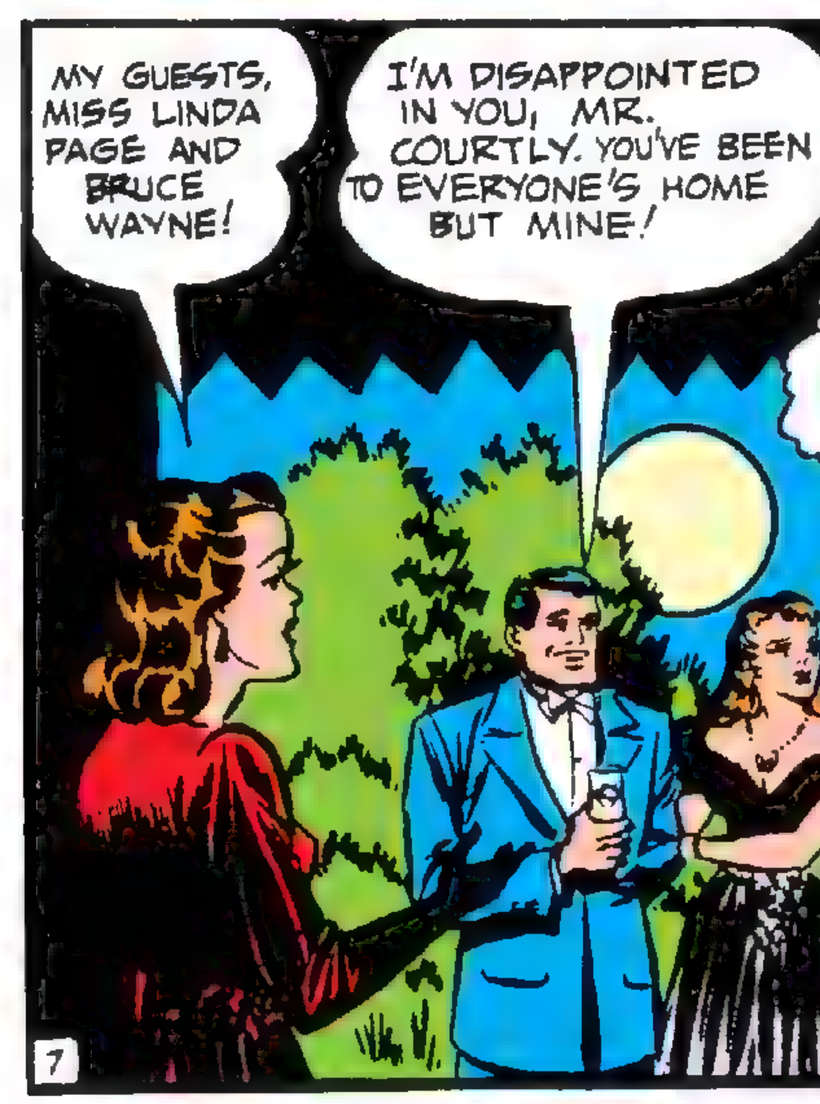

MR. BAFFLE'S GRACIOUS AIRS HELP HIM BECOME A SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY REPORTER--
YOU CAN BE SURE I WILL DESCRIBE ALL THIS TO MY READERS-- THE VERY LOVELY HOME OF A VERY LOVELY LADY!
OH-H-H-- FLATTERER!

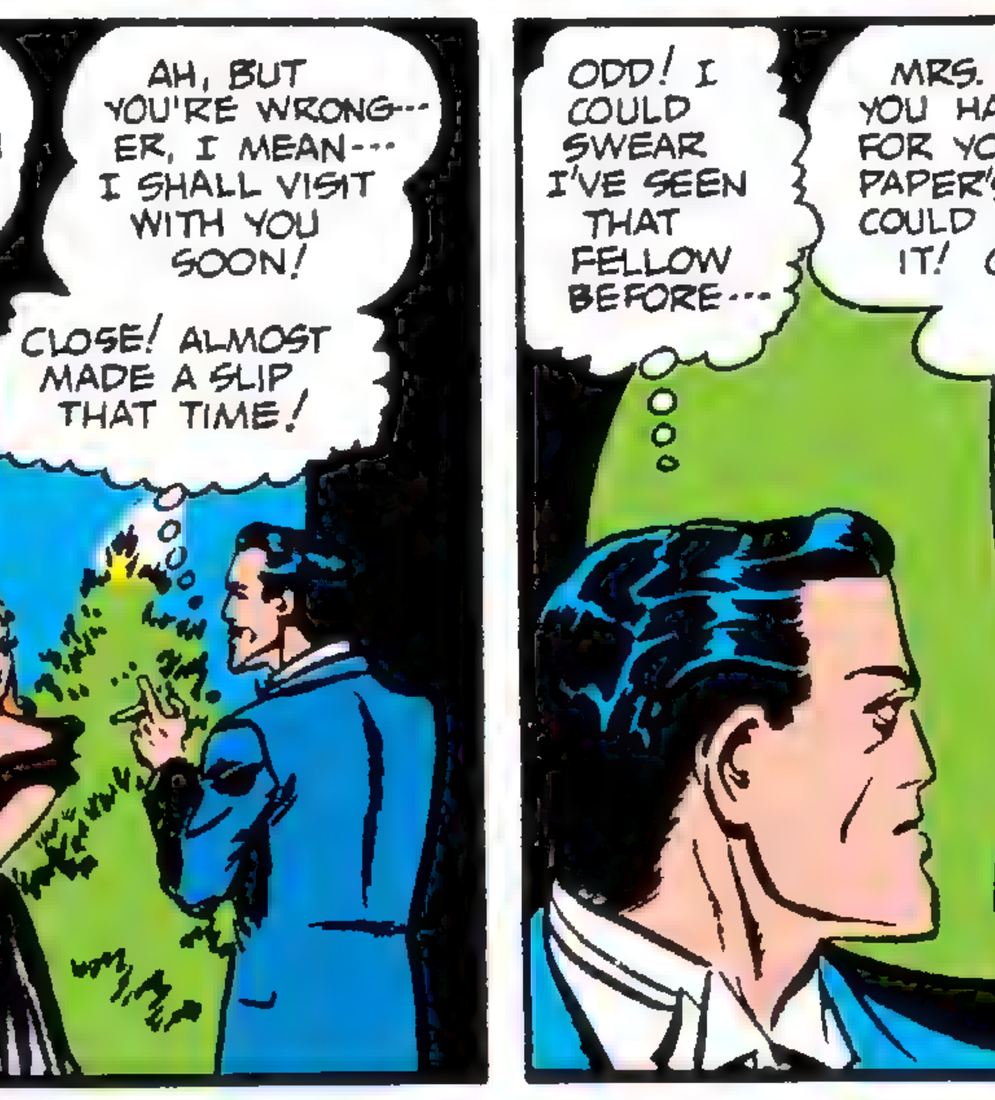

HIS COLUMN BECOMES THE DAILY HABIT OF THE READING PUBLIC.
Society
by Charles Courtly
YOUR SOCIETY RAMBLER SPENT A FULL DAY AT THE CHARMING HOME OF THE ALBERT De FESTER'S YESTERDAY...

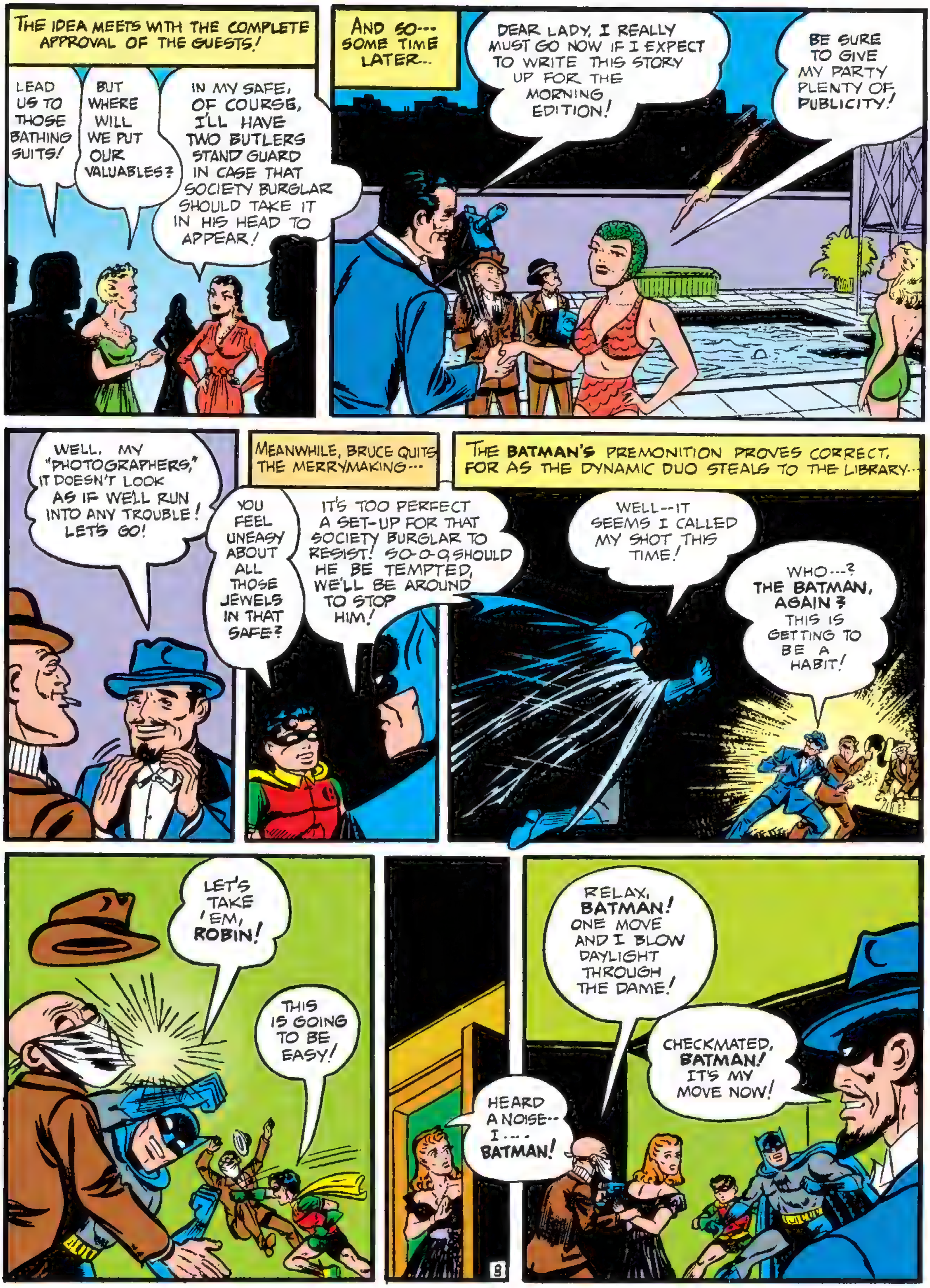

SIMULTANEOUSLY, A SERIES OF SPECTACULAR ROBBERIES BREAKS OUT AMONG THE SOCIETY RICH!
MY SAFE OPENED...MY TREASURES GONE...OH, I'M GOING TO FAINT!
A CLEAN JOB! NOT A CLUE--NOTHING! IT'S AS IF THEY KNEW THE PLACE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM!


AND NEVER A TRUER WORD WAS SPOKEN!
YESSIR, GETTING THE LAYOUT OF THE RICH DUMPS LIKE YOU DONE IS CERTAINLY ONE OKAY STUNT!
IF THEY ONLY KNEW YOU HAD A CANDID CAMERA HID BEHIND THAT FLOWER OF YOURS...
THERE'S NO DOUBT MY COLUMN GAINS ME ENTRANCE TO MANY RICH HOMES! NOW LET US DISCUSS TONIGHT'S WORK...

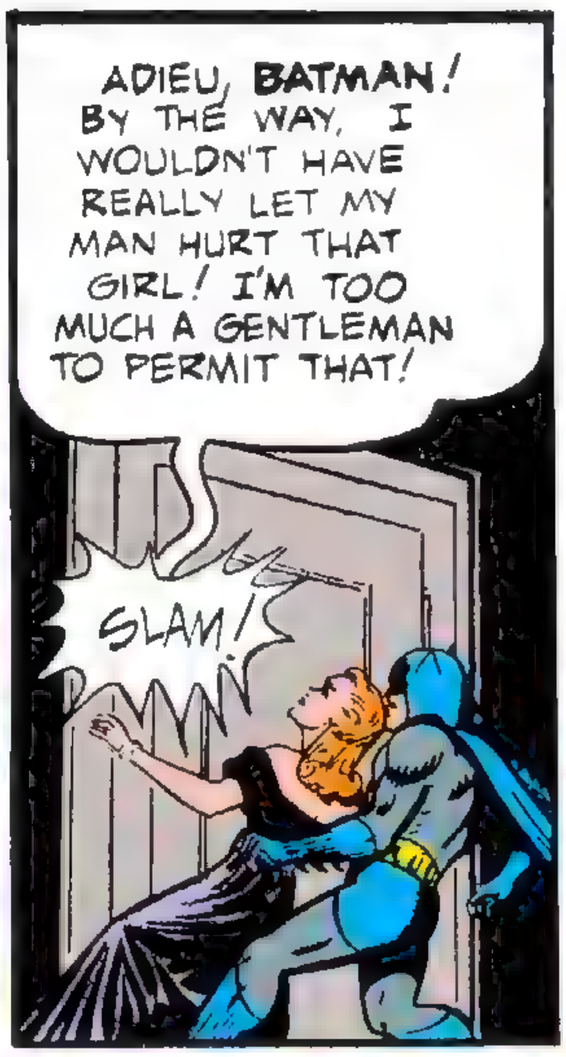
THAT NIGHT...THE GAY PARTY OF ONE OF SOCIETY'S MOST LAVISH PARTY-GIVERS...
OH, MR. COURTLY, I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME!
MADAM, HOW COULD I STAY AWAY!
HOW COULD I INDEED, WITH ALL THESE JEWELS ABOUT!

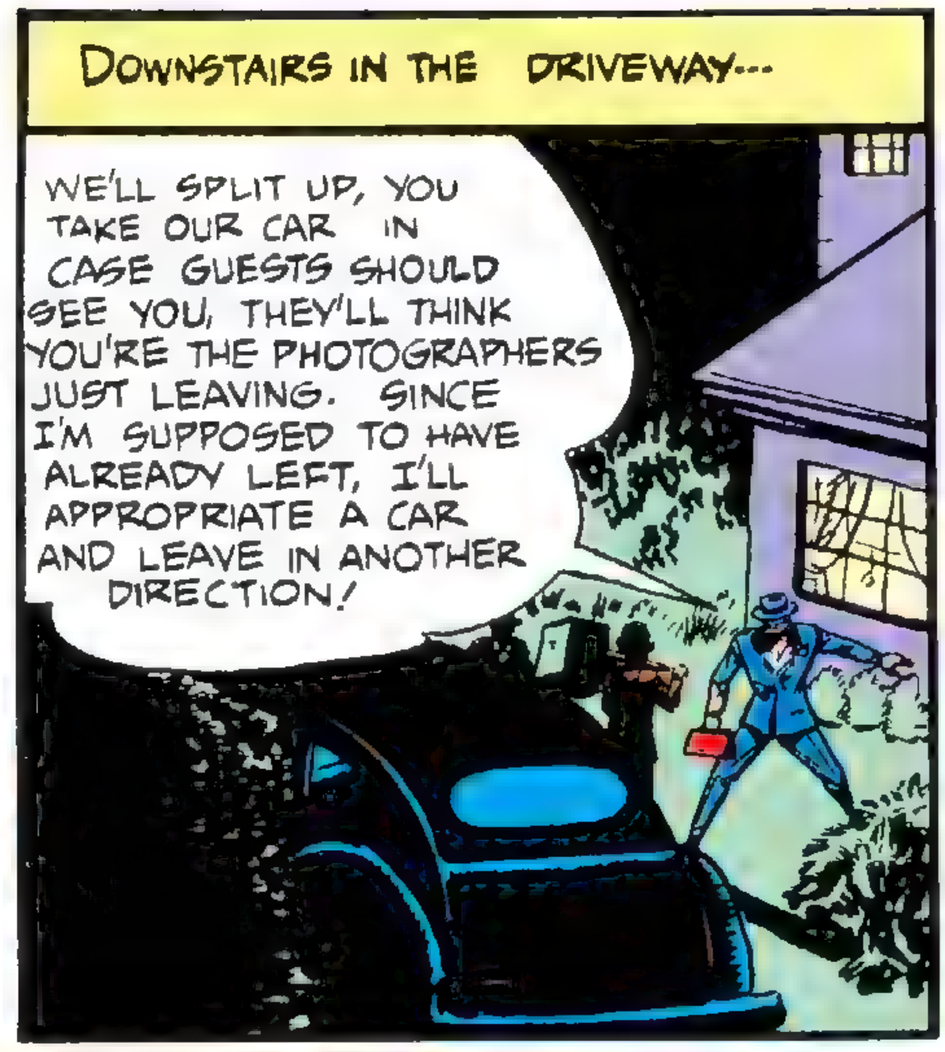

MY GUESTS, MISS LINDA PAGE AND BRUCE WAYNE!
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, MR. COURTLY. YOU'VE BEEN TO EVERYONE'S HOME BUT MINE!
AH, BUT YOU'RE WRONG... ER, I MEAN... I SHALL VISIT WITH YOU SOON!
CLOSE! ALMOST MADE A SLIP THAT TIME!
7


ODD! I COULD SWEAR I'VE SEEN THAT FELLOW BEFORE...
MRS. DAVIES, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A SWIMMING MEET FOR YOUR GUESTS? MY PAPER'S PHOTOGRAPHERS COULD TAKE PICTURES OF IT! GOOD PUBLICITY, Y'KNOW!
A SPLENDID IDEA, MR. COURTLY! ALL MY FRIENDS WILL BE SO ENVIOUS OF ME!

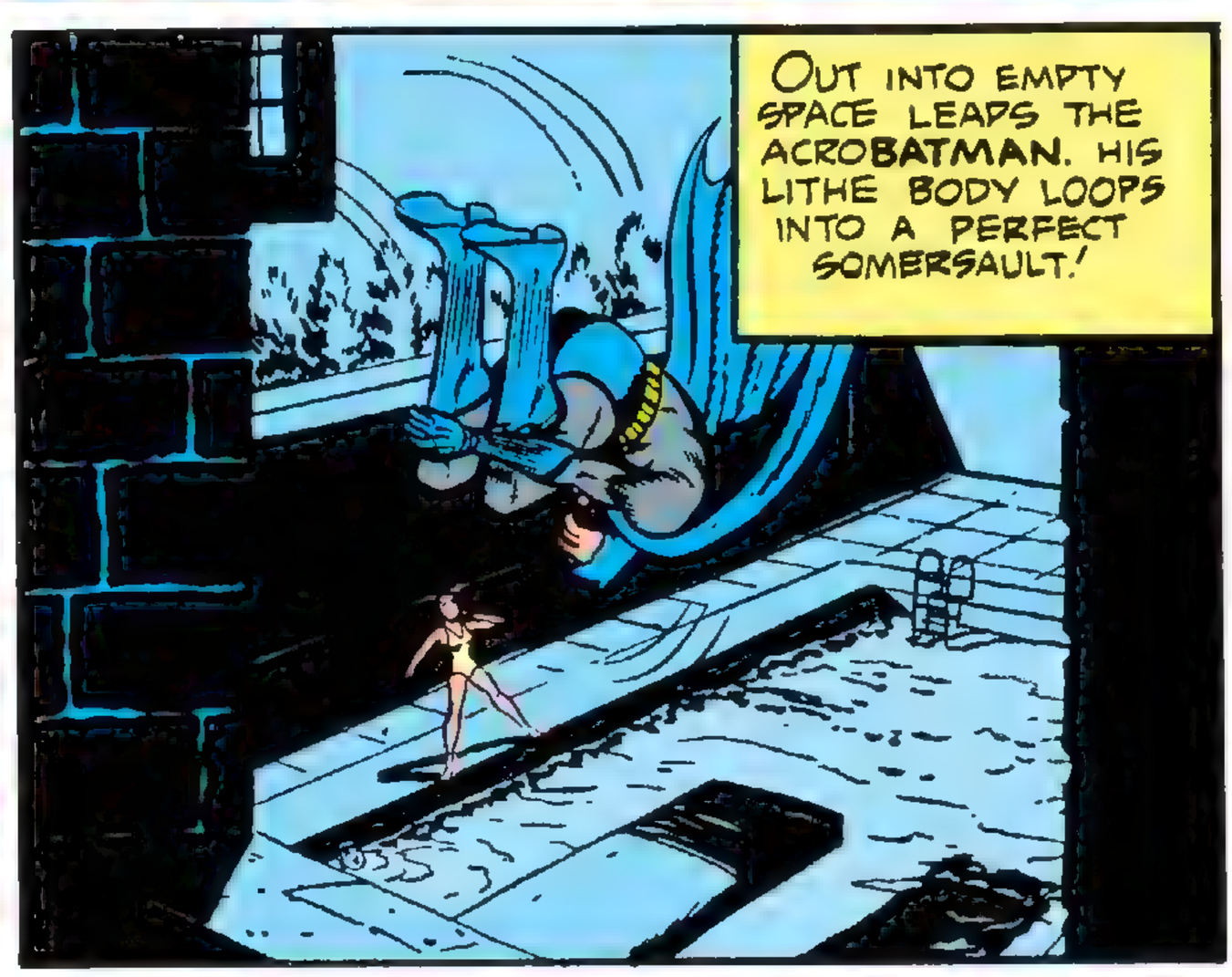

THE IDEA MEETS WITH THE COMPLETE APPROVAL OF THE GUESTS!
LEAD US TO THOSE BATHING SUITS!
BUT WHERE WILL WE PUT OUR VALUABLES?
IN MY SAFE, OF COURSE, I'LL HAVE TWO BUTLERS STAND GUARD IN CASE THAT SOCIETY BURGLAR SHOULD TAKE IT IN HIS HEAD TO APPEAR!
AND SO--- SOME TIME LATER...
DEAR LADY, I REALLY MUST GO NOW IF I EXPECT TO WRITE THIS STORY UP FOR THE MORNING EDITION!
BE SURE TO GIVE MY PARTY PLENTY OF PUBLICITY!
WELL, MY "PHOTOGRAPHERS," IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF WE'LL RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE! LET'S GO!
MEANWHILE, BRUCE QUITS THE MERRYMAKING---
YOU FEEL UNEASY ABOUT ALL THOSE JEWELS IN THAT SAFE?
IT'S TOO PERFECT A SET-UP FOR THAT SOCIETY BURGLAR TO RESIST! SO-O-O, SHOULD HE BE TEMPTED, WE'LL BE AROUND TO STOP HIM!
THE BATMAN'S PREMONITION PROVES CORRECT, FOR AS THE DYNAMIC DUO STEALS TO THE LIBRARY...
WELL--IT SEEMS I CALLED MY SHOT THIS TIME!
WHO---? THE BATMAN, AGAIN? THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT!
LET'S TAKE 'EM, ROBIN!
THIS IS GOING TO BE EASY!
HEARD A NOISE-- I.... BATMAN!
RELAX, BATMAN! ONE MOVE AND I BLOW DAYLIGHT THROUGH THE DAME!
CHECKMATED, BATMAN! IT'S MY MOVE NOW!

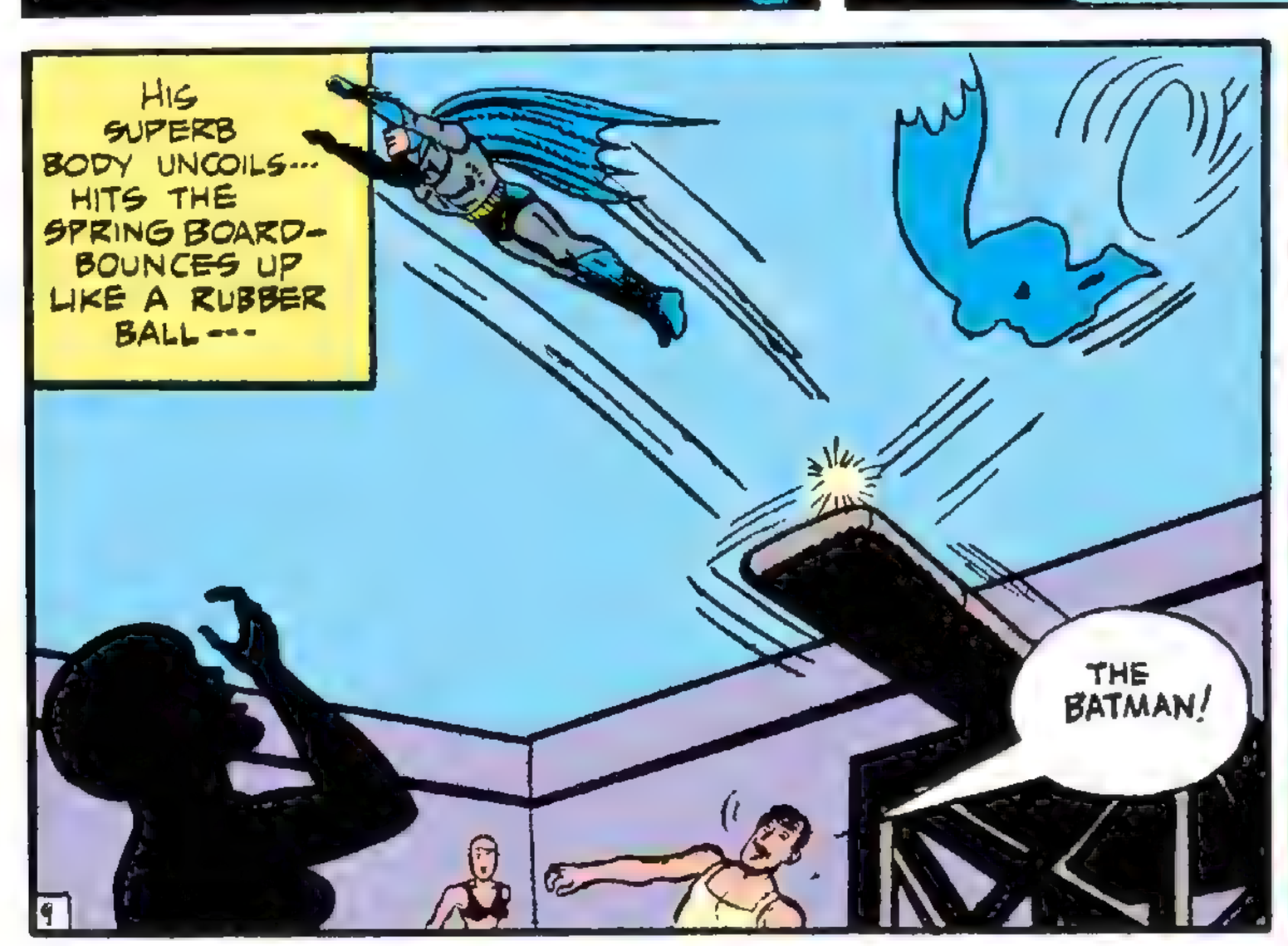
AH, MY DEAR---I AM INDEED GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VERY TIMELY ENTRANCE. YOU APPEARED AS IF ON CUE!
HOW QUEER! HIS FINGERTIPS ARE ALL RAW--- AS IF RUBBED BY AN ABRASIVE!

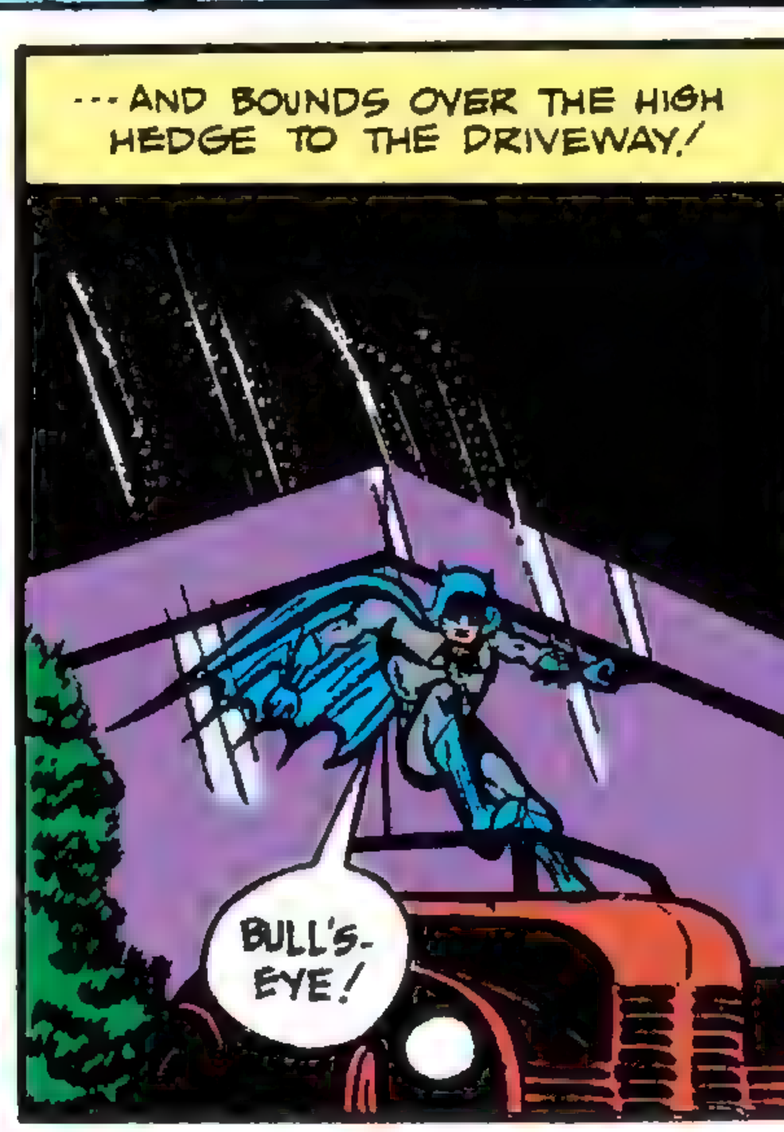

ADIEU, BATMAN! BY THE WAY, I WOULDN'T HAVE REALLY LET MY MAN HURT THAT GIRL! I'M TOO MUCH A GENTLEMAN TO PERMIT THAT!
SLAM!

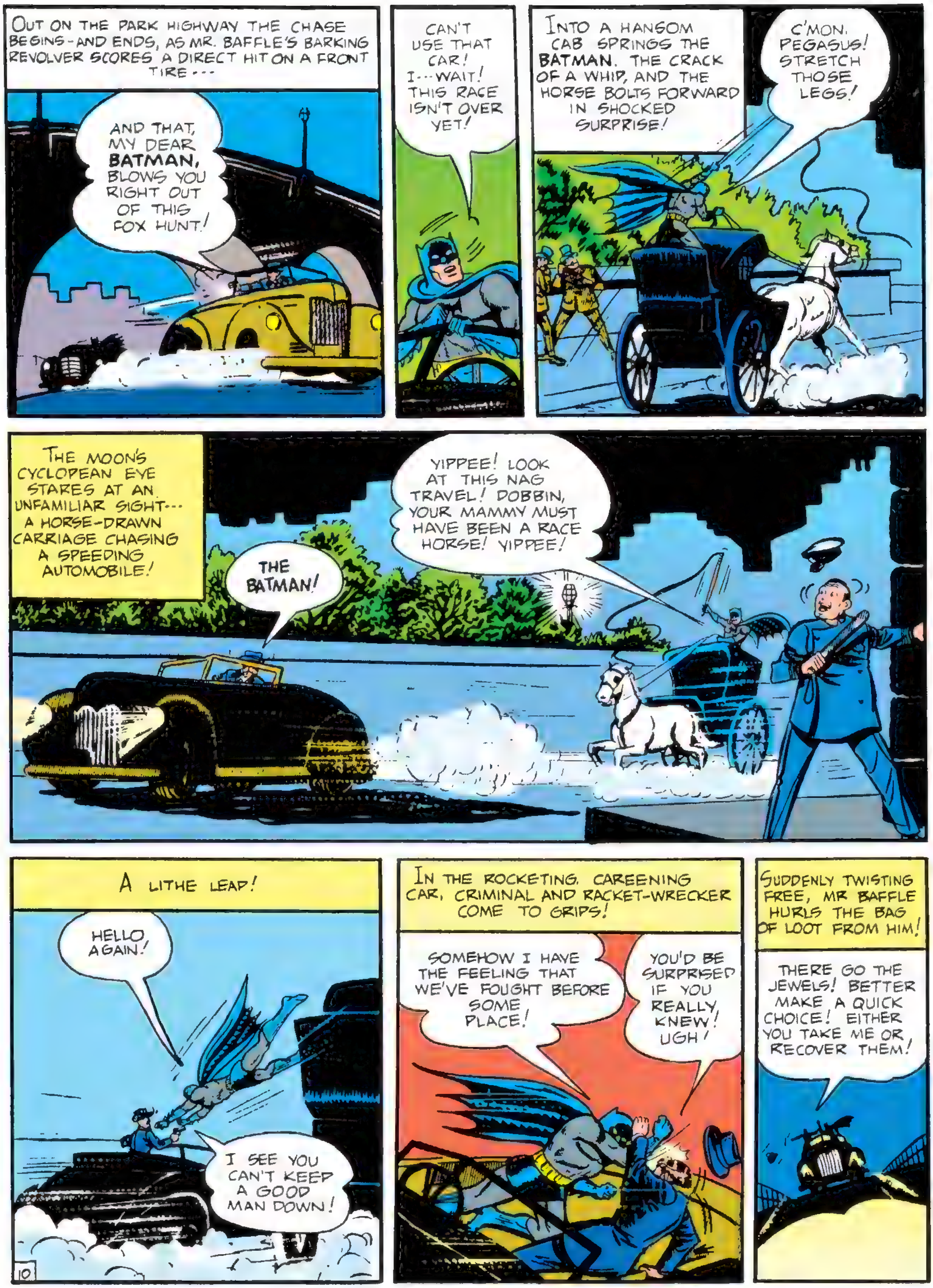

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE DRIVEWAY---
WE'LL SPLIT UP, YOU TAKE OUR CAR IN CASE GUESTS SHOULD SEE YOU, THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE THE PHOTOGRAPHERS JUST LEAVING. SINCE I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE ALREADY LEFT, I'LL APPROPRIATE A CAR AND LEAVE IN ANOTHER DIRECTION!

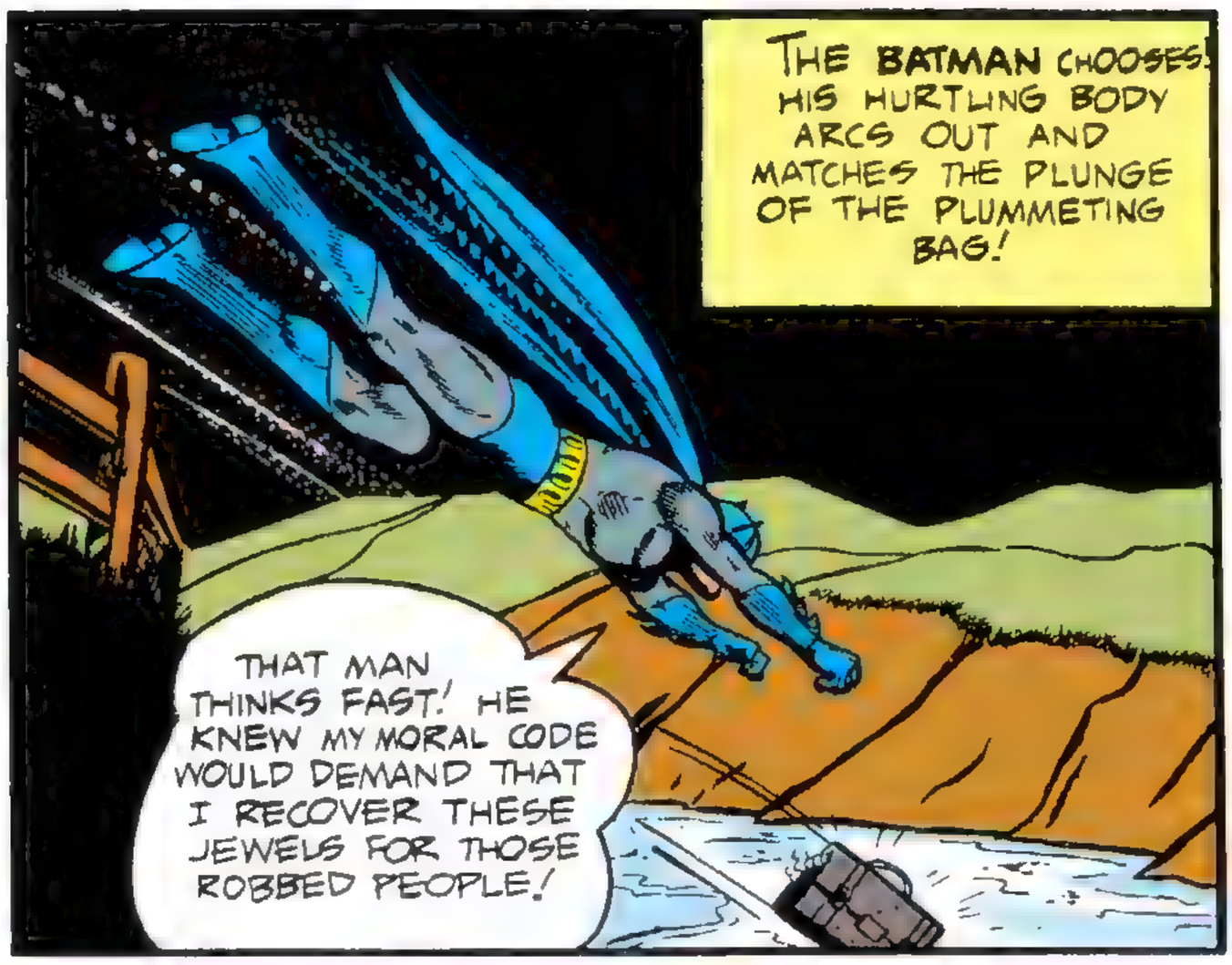
WHILE UPSTAIRS ---
NO USE! THIS DOOR IS AS SOLID AS STEEL! HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I THINK I CAN MAKE MUCH BETTER TIME THIS WAY!


OUT INTO EMPTY SPACE LEAPS THE ACROBATMAN. HIS LITHE BODY LOOPS INTO A PERFECT SOMERSAULT!


HIS SUPERB BODY UNCOILS--- HITS THE SPRING BOARD- BOUNCES UP LIKE A RUBBER BALL---
THE BATMAN!


---AND BOUNDS OVER THE HIGH HEDGE TO THE DRIVEWAY!
BULL'S-EYE!


OUT ON THE PARK HIGHWAY THE CHASE BEGINS - AND ENDS, AS MR. BAFFLE'S BARKING REVOLVER SCORES A DIRECT HIT ON A FRONT TIRE ...
AND THAT, MY DEAR BATMAN, BLOWS YOU RIGHT OUT OF THIS FOX HUNT!
CAN'T USE THAT CAR! I... WAIT! THIS RACE ISN'T OVER YET!
INTO A HANSOM CAB SPRINGS THE BATMAN. THE CRACK OF A WHIP, AND THE HORSE BOLTS FORWARD IN SHOCKED SURPRISE!
C'MON, PEGASUS! STRETCH THOSE LEGS!
THE MOON'S CYCLOPEAN EYE STARES AT AN UNFAMILIAR SIGHT... A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE CHASING A SPEEDING AUTOMOBILE!
THE BATMAN!
YIPPEE! LOOK AT THIS NAG TRAVEL! DOBBIN, YOUR MAMMY MUST HAVE BEEN A RACE HORSE! YIPPEE!
A LITHE LEAP!
HELLO, AGAIN!
I SEE YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN!
10
IN THE ROCKETING, CAREENING CAR, CRIMINAL AND RACKET-WRECKER COME TO GRIPS!
SOMEHOW I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WE'VE FOUGHT BEFORE SOME PLACE!
YOU'D BE SURPRISED IF YOU REALLY KNEW! UGH!
SUDDENLY TWISTING FREE, MR BAFFLE HURLS THE BAG OF LOOT FROM HIM!
THERE GO THE JEWELS! BETTER MAKE A QUICK CHOICE! EITHER YOU TAKE ME OR RECOVER THEM!

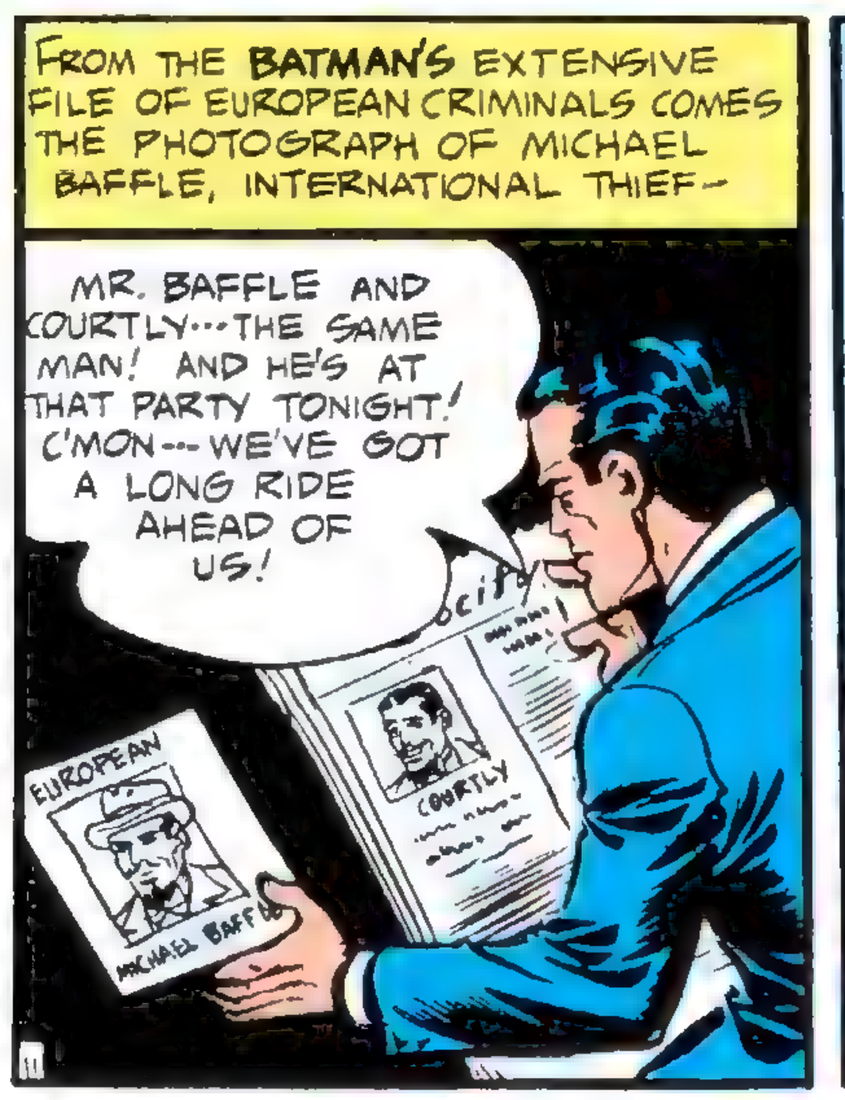

THE BATMAN CHOOSES: HIS HURTLING BODY ARCS OUT AND MATCHES THE PLUNGE OF THE PLUMMETING BAG!
THAT MAN THINKS FAST! HE KNEW MY MORAL CODE WOULD DEMAND THAT I RECOVER THESE JEWELS FOR THOSE ROBBED PEOPLE!

THE NEXT NIGHT---
YOU'RE GONNA QUIT THE RACKET BECAUSE OF THE BATMAN?
I RESPECT HIM! HE HAS AN UNCANNY KNACK FOR PUTTING PEOPLE IN JAIL---AND I DETEST JAILS! MY LAST BIG COUP TONIGHT--- AND THEN---FRESH FIELDS OF CRIME DOWN SOUTH AMERICA WAY!

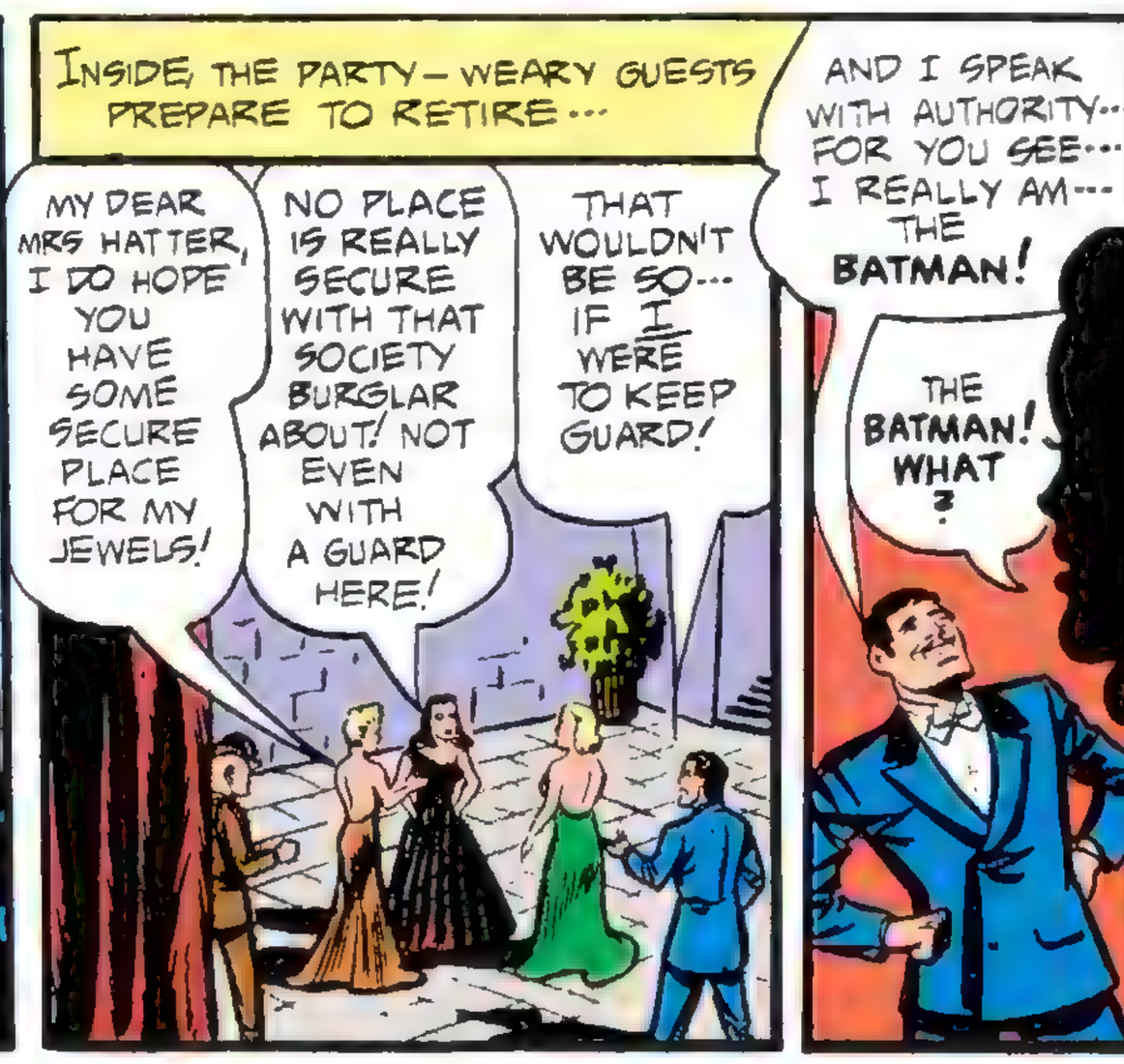
LATER... A DIFFERENT ROOM, WHERE DICK AMUSES HIMSELF WITH A PENCIL...
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T GO TO THAT PARTY TONIGHT WITH LINDA?
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE PRANCING ABOUT AN OLD, IMPORTED CASTLE! HEY--- WHAT'S THE IDEA OF MARKING UP PICTURES OF OUR LEADING CELEBRITIES?

VANDAL! YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO PUTS MUSTACHES ON THE PRETTY GIRLS ON BILLBOARD ADS!
BRUCE--- LOOK!

LOOK! I WAS KIDDING AROUND AND PUT A BEARD ON COURTLY'S PICTURE! SEE? HE'S THE CROOK WE TACKLED WITH IN THE HOUSE SOME TIME AGO!
COURTLY


FROM THE BATMAN'S EXTENSIVE FILE OF EUROPEAN CRIMINALS COMES THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MICHAEL BAFFLE, INTERNATIONAL THIEF—
MR. BAFFLE AND COURTLY---THE SAME MAN! AND HE'S AT THAT PARTY TONIGHT! C'MON--- WE'VE GOT A LONG RIDE AHEAD OF US!
EUROPEAN
COURTLY

RANDOM CASTLE--- TRANSPLANTED FROM SCOTLAND--- STONE BY STONE---


INSIDE, THE PARTY—WEARY GUESTS PREPARE TO RETIRE---
MY DEAR MRS HATTER, I DO HOPE YOU HAVE SOME SECURE PLACE FOR MY JEWELS!
NO PLACE IS REALLY SECURE WITH THAT SOCIETY BURGLAR ABOUT! NOT EVEN WITH A GUARD HERE!
THAT WOULDN'T BE SO--- IF I WERE TO KEEP GUARD!
AND I SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY--- FOR YOU SEE--- I REALLY AM--- THE BATMAN!
THE BATMAN! WHAT?

YOU? BUT YOU'RE MR. COURTLY THE SOCIETY REPORTER!

I ONLY TOOK THE JOB BECAUSE I LOST ALL MY WEALTH. BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW IT WAS I WHO RECOVERED YOUR GEMS AT THAT DAVIES ROBBERY?

MR. BAFFLE REVEALS THE "FACTS" OF THE DAVIES ROBBERY.

ONLY THE **BATMAN** AND THE THIEF WOULD KNOW THOSE INTIMATE DETAILS!

AND I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M THE THIEF! HA! HA!

LADIES, I THINK HAVING THE **BATMAN** HERE TO GUARD OVER OUR JEWELS IS MOST FORTUNATE!

LATER...THE GUESTS SLEEP...BUT CRIME IS ON THE MOVE...

HOW CHILDISHLY SIMPLE IT-- WHY, LINDA, YOU STILL UP?

I JUST HEARD. **YOU**, THE **BATMAN**! UNMASKED! SO IT WAS REALLY YOU ALL THE TIME?

BATMAN, YOU'RE JUST WHAT I ALWAYS IMAGINED YOU LOOKED LIKE-- TALL, HANDSOME DEBONAIR!...BUT YOUR MUSTACHE?

OH---ER, A NECESSARY DISGUISE, BEAUTIFUL LADY!

LINDA'S EYES STARE AS IF FASCINATED AT MR. BAFFLE'S UPTURNED FINGERS...

YOUR FINGERS... ALL RED...RAW... SAND-PAPERED! YOU'RE NOT THE **BATMAN**!...YOU'RE THE THIEF FROM THE DAVIES HOME!

DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE, MY DEAR! I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO GAG THAT BEAUTIFUL MOUTH OF YOURS!

AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, TWO MANTLED FIGURES INVADE RANDOM CASTLE!

HELP! HELP!

THAT'S LINDA'S VOICE!

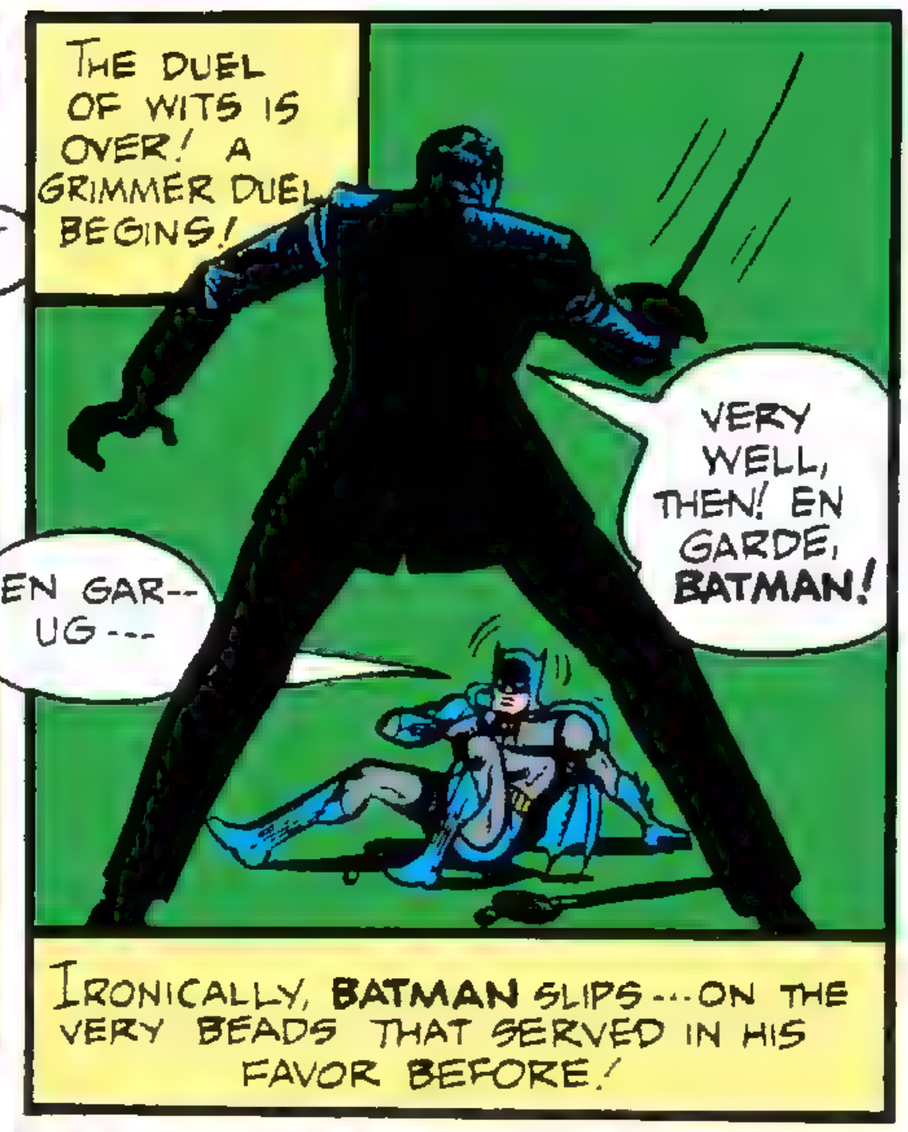
GONE! **WHERE IS SHE, YOU RATS? TALK!**

NO TIME FOR QUESTIONING, **ROBIN**. KEEP PUNCHING. ...I'LL SEARCH!

BATMAN'S KEEN EYES TRACE A LINE OF BEADS UPON THE FLOOR!

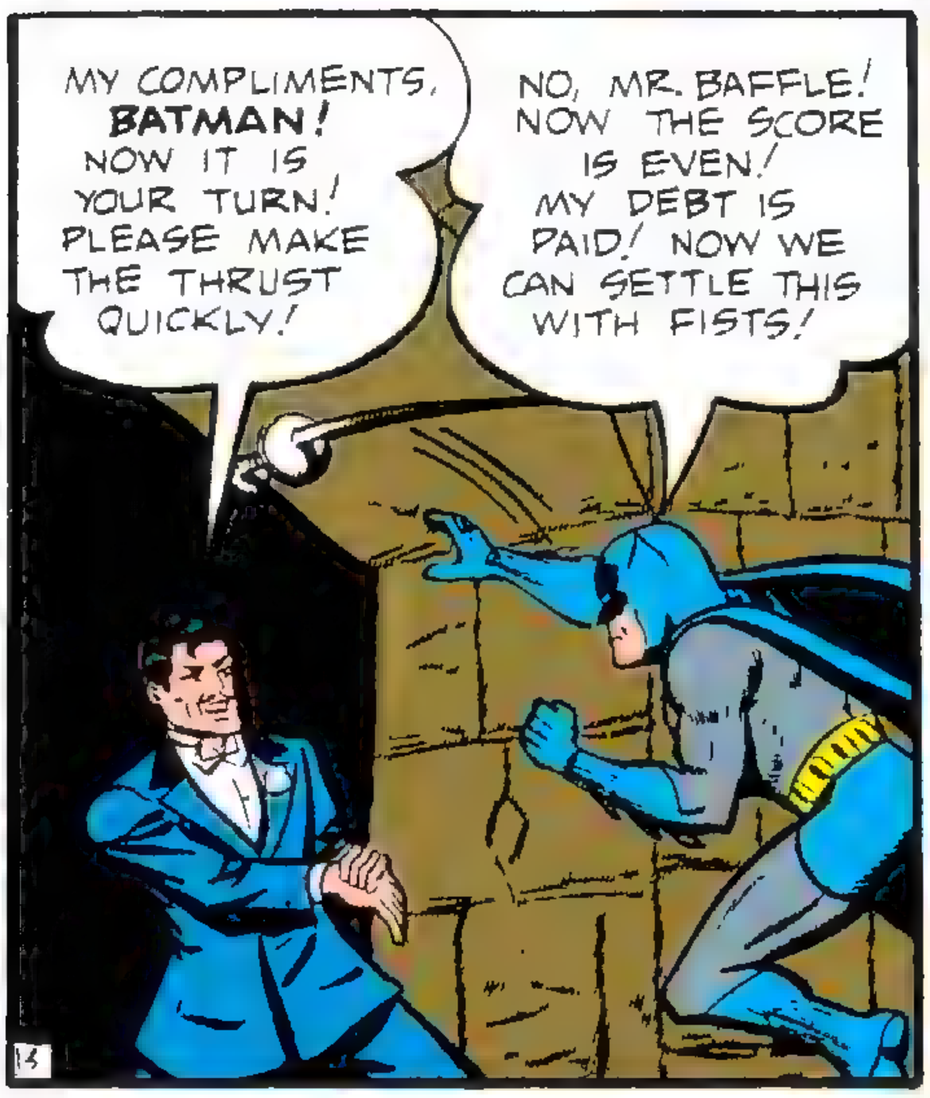
LINDA USED HER HEAD! SHE DROPPED HER BEADS ONE AT A TIME TO SERVE AS A TRAIL.

THE TRAIL'S END! AND NOW BEGINS THE FINAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO MASTER FOEMEN!
STOP! BATMAN! I'VE NEVER KILLED BEFORE ... BUT I'LL KILL YOU IF NECESSARY! I LOVE MY FREEDOM TOO MUCH TO BE CONFINED BEHIND PRISON WALLS!
SORRY, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE!


THE DUEL OF WITS IS OVER! A GRIMMER DUEL BEGINS!
EN GAR-- UG ---
VERY WELL, THEN! EN GARDE, BATMAN!
IRONICALLY, BATMAN SLIPS ... ON THE VERY BEADS THAT SERVED IN HIS FAVOR BEFORE!

WH - WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN ME THROUGH? YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE.
PSHAW! MUST GIVE A FELLOW A SPORTING CHANCE FOR HIS LIFE, Y'KNOW! YOUR SWORD AND EN GARDE!

YOU'RE A CHIVALROUS SCOUNDREL! EN GARDE, IT IS! HA! TOUCHÉ!
UGH!


MY COMPLIMENTS, BATMAN! NOW IT IS YOUR TURN! PLEASE MAKE THE THRUST QUICKLY!
NO, MR. BAFFLE! NOW THE SCORE IS EVEN! MY DEBT IS PAID! NOW WE CAN SETTLE THIS WITH FISTS!

TWO GALLANT FIGHTERS MEET AND TRADE BLOWS! THEN, CLAMORING VOICES ARE HEARD!
THIS WAY! MR. COURTLY IS A CROOK, AND HE'S FIGHTING THE REAL BATMAN!
HULLO! I CAN'T HOPE TO COMPETE WITH THAT ONCOMING HORDE! I'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE THIS LITTLE SKIRMISH, BATMAN...

SO LONG, FELLA! I WOULD HAVE WANTED YOU FOR MY FRIEND---BUT WE'RE ON OPPOSITE SIDES, SO NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOU'VE GOT A FIGHT ON YOUR HANDS, MR. BAFFLE!
GOOD-BYE FOR NOW... SEE YOU AGAIN SOME TIME, BATMAN!
The End

No. 64
NEW FEATURE
THE BOY COMMANDOS
The BATMAN
A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION
Detective
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
JUNE
COMICS
GAS

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

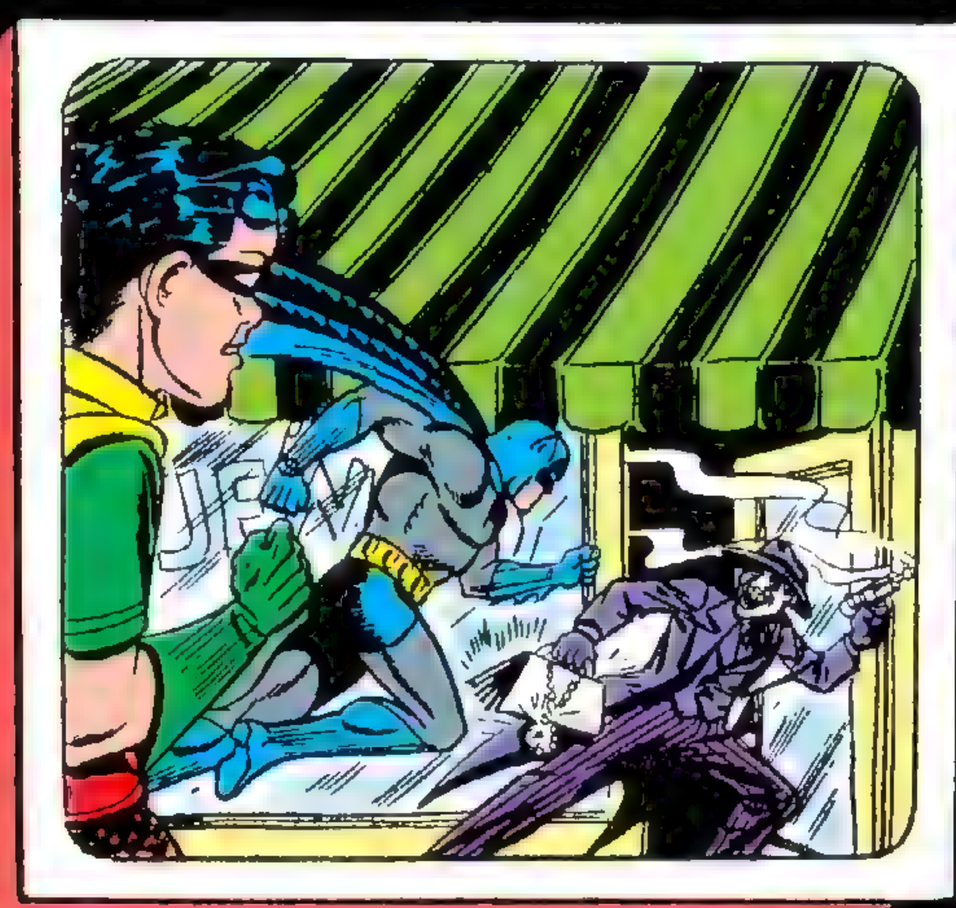
BOB KANE

~OBITUARY~

LAST NIGHT AT 12:05 A.M. A MASTER-CRIMINAL WAS LED TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR WHERE HE PAID THE SUPREME PENALTY FOR HIS CRIMES. AFTER YEARS OF DARING EXPLOITS WHICH ONLY THE **BATMAN AND ROBIN** COULD HOLD IN CHECK, THE CAREER OF THE KING OF CRIME IS ENDED. **THE JOKER IS DEAD!**

FOR ANY OTHER MAN, THIS OBITUARY WOULD SPELL THE FINISH OF HIS STORY... BUT FOR THE **MASTER OF MOCKERY** IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A WEIRD ADVENTURE WHEN... "THE JOKER WALKS THE LAST MILE!"

CONFESS!



CONFESS!

CONFESS! CONFESS!

CONFESS!

IN THE GRIM LAIR OF THE JOKER, THE MASTER OF MOCKERY MOODILY LURKS WITH HIS HENCHMEN!

...LAST HALF OF THE FOURTH INNING. DIMAGGIO AT BAT...THE COUNT IS THREE AND TWO...

GEE, WHAT A GAME!

BOY, I COULD SPEND THE REST O' MY DAY LIKE THIS! THIS SURE IS THE LIFE!

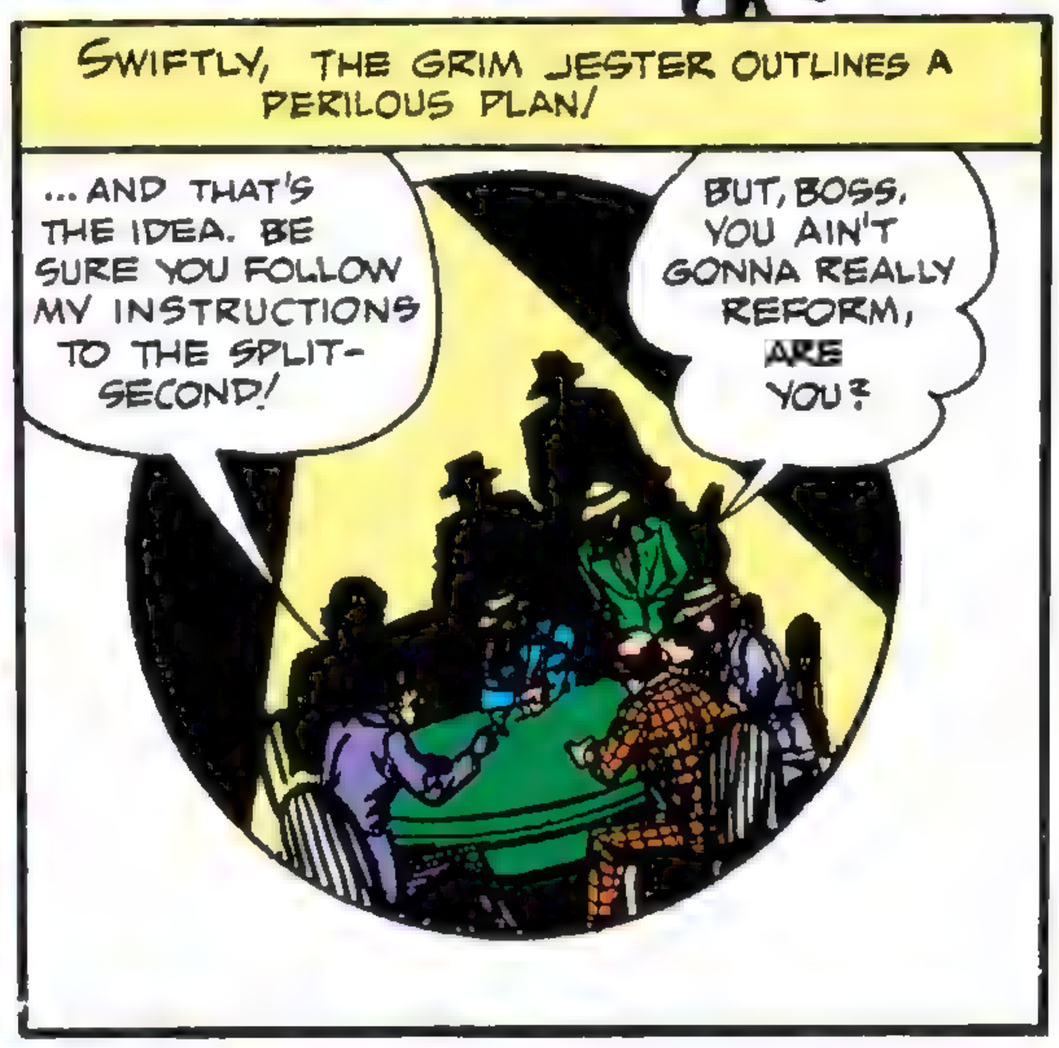
DI MAGGIO CONNECTS!

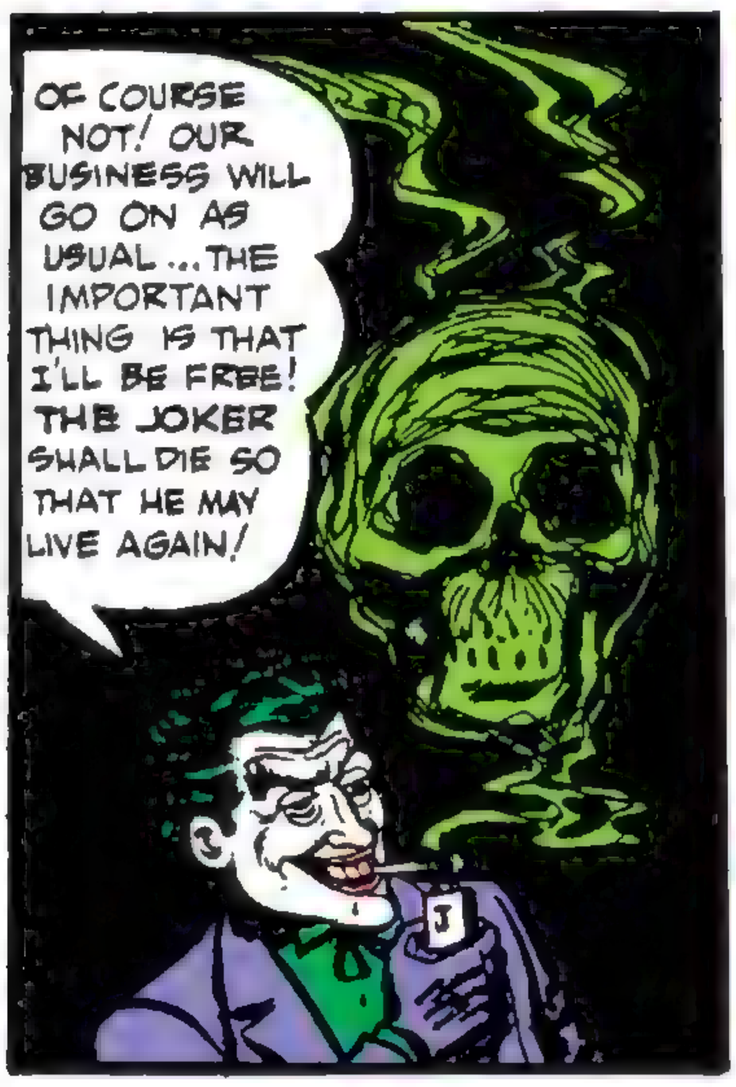
IDIOT! THIS MAY BE THE IDEAL LIFE FOR COARSE FOOLS LIKE YOU, BUT NOT FOR THE JOKER — NOTHING BUT THE SAME FOUR WALLS AND THIS RADIO!
BUT, BOSS... WHAT'S THE BEEF? LOOK AT ALL THE MONEY AND JEWELS YOU GET!

WHAT GOOD IS MY MONEY? CAN I SPEND IT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE? NO! CAN I GO TO MOVIES AND BALL GAMES? NO! THE ONLY WAY I CAN LEAVE THIS HIDEOUT IS IN DISGUISE..
DI MAGGIO ROUNDS FIRST AND.. SQUAWWRK!

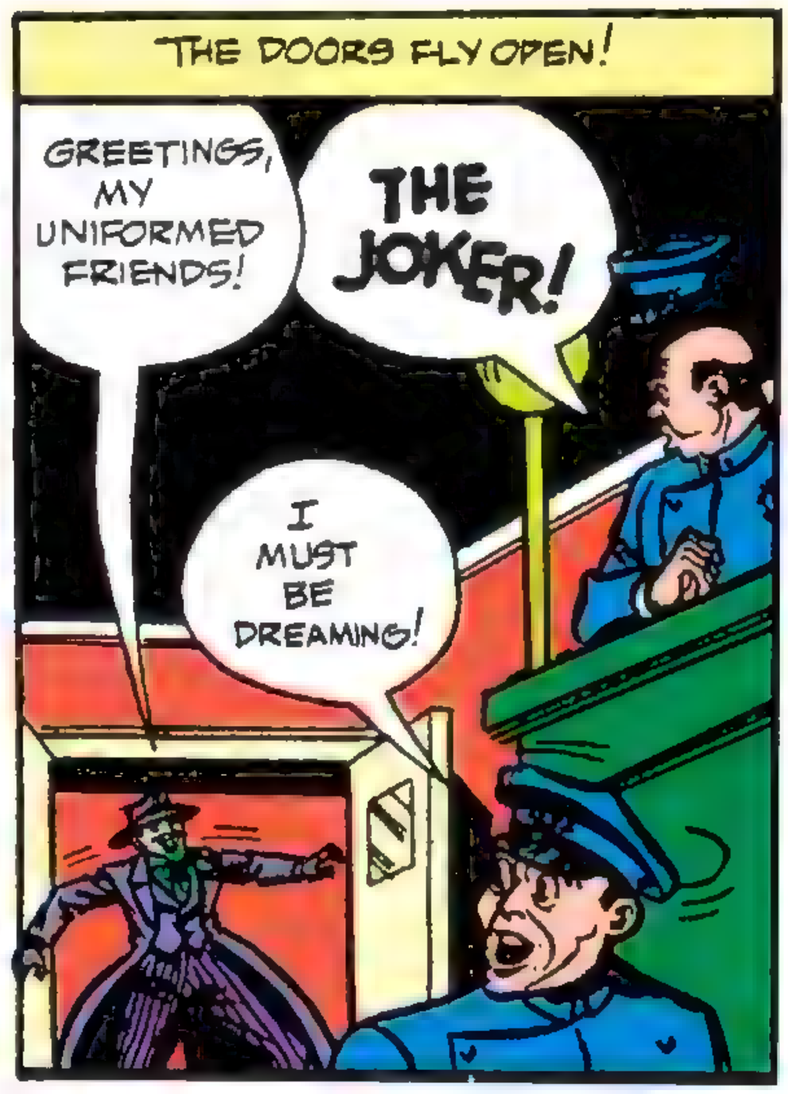
I'M DOOMED TO A LIVING DEATH... DEATH!..NOW THAT MAY BE A WAY OUT FOR ME...THAT'S IT... THE JOKER MUST DIE!

DIE?
BOSS, YOU DON'T MEAN IT! YOU'RE CRAZY!
NO, I'M NOT CRAZY! I'VE JUST HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA... LISTEN!

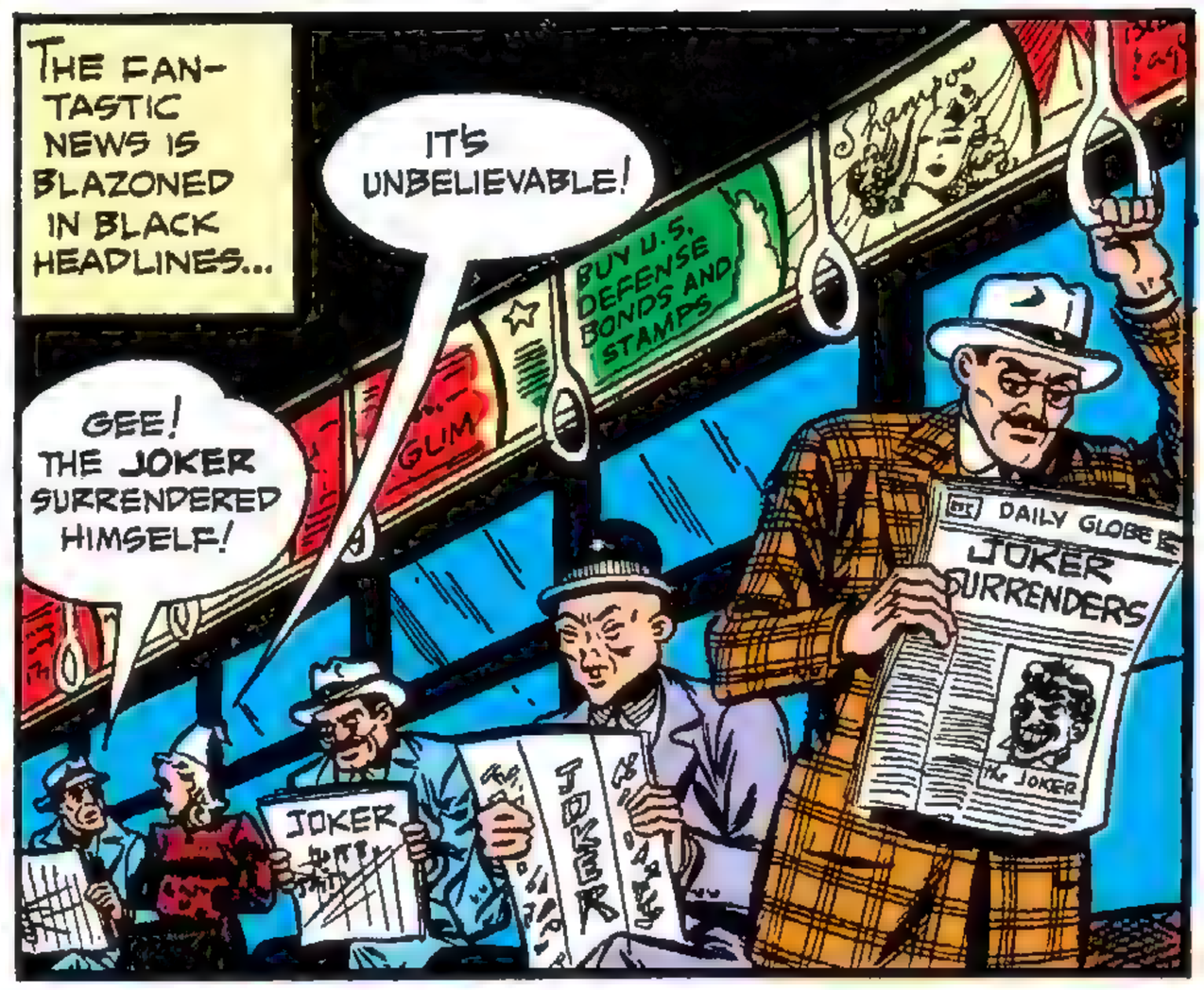

SWIFTLY, THE GRIM JESTER OUTLINES A PERILOUS PLAN!
...AND THAT'S THE IDEA. BE SURE YOU FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SPLIT-SECOND!
BUT, BOSS, YOU AIN'T GONNA REALLY REFORM, ARE YOU?


OF COURSE NOT! OUR BUSINESS WILL GO ON AS USUAL...THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT I'LL BE FREE! THE JOKER SHALL DIE SO THAT HE MAY LIVE AGAIN!

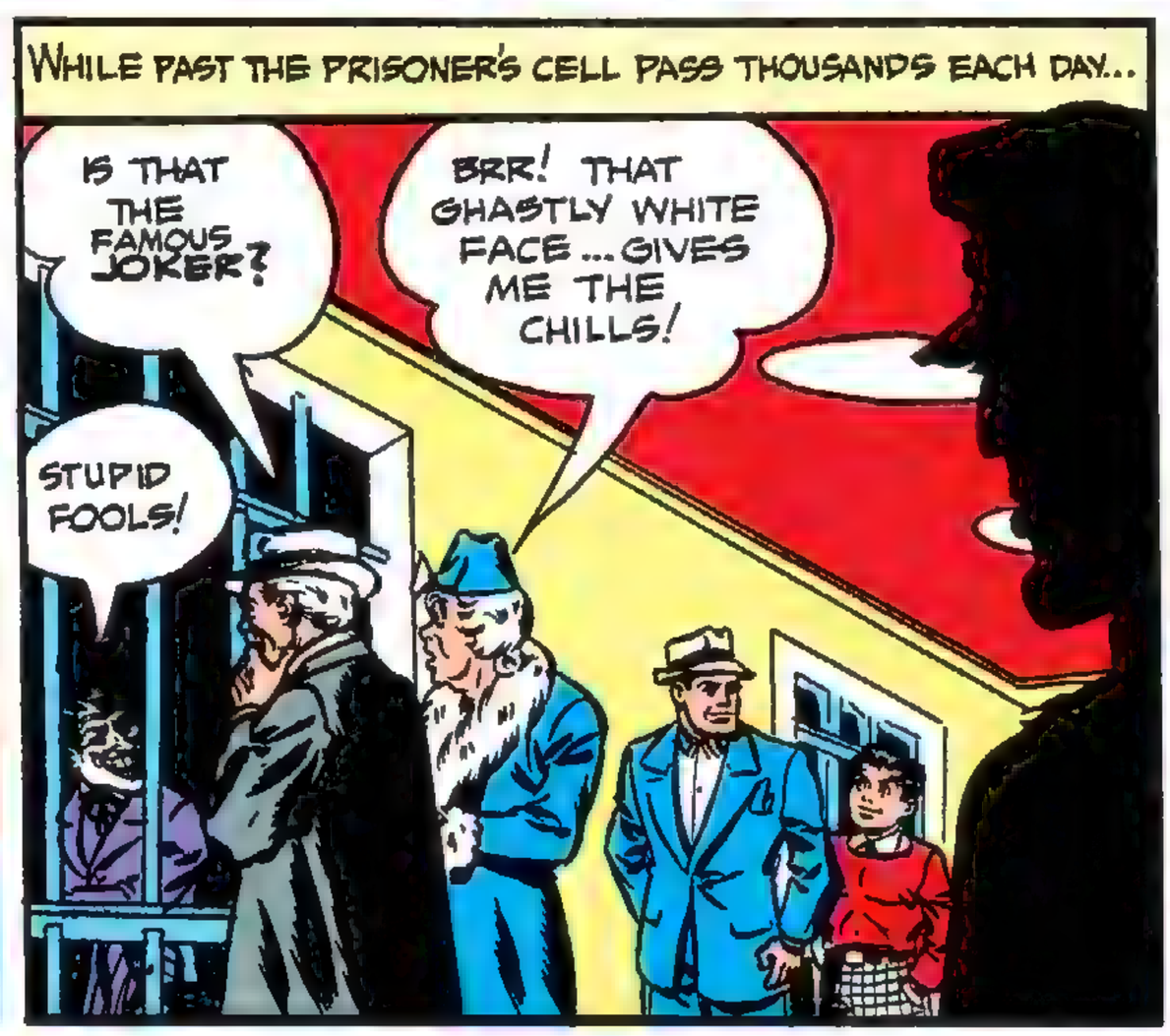
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS THE FOLLOWING DAY..
HO, HUM.. JUST A ROUTINE DAY! NOTHING EVER HAPPENS AROUND HERE!
BOY, I WISH I COULD GET MY HANDS ON THE JOKER! I COULD USE A HUNDRED-THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD!


THE DOORS FLY OPEN!
GREETINGS, MY UNIFORMED FRIENDS!
THE JOKER!
I MUST BE DREAMING!

PLEASE, DON'T CROWD ME, GENTLEMEN. I SHALL BE HERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME... I'VE COME TO SURRENDER... AND CONFESS!
POLICE
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
WE GOT HIM!

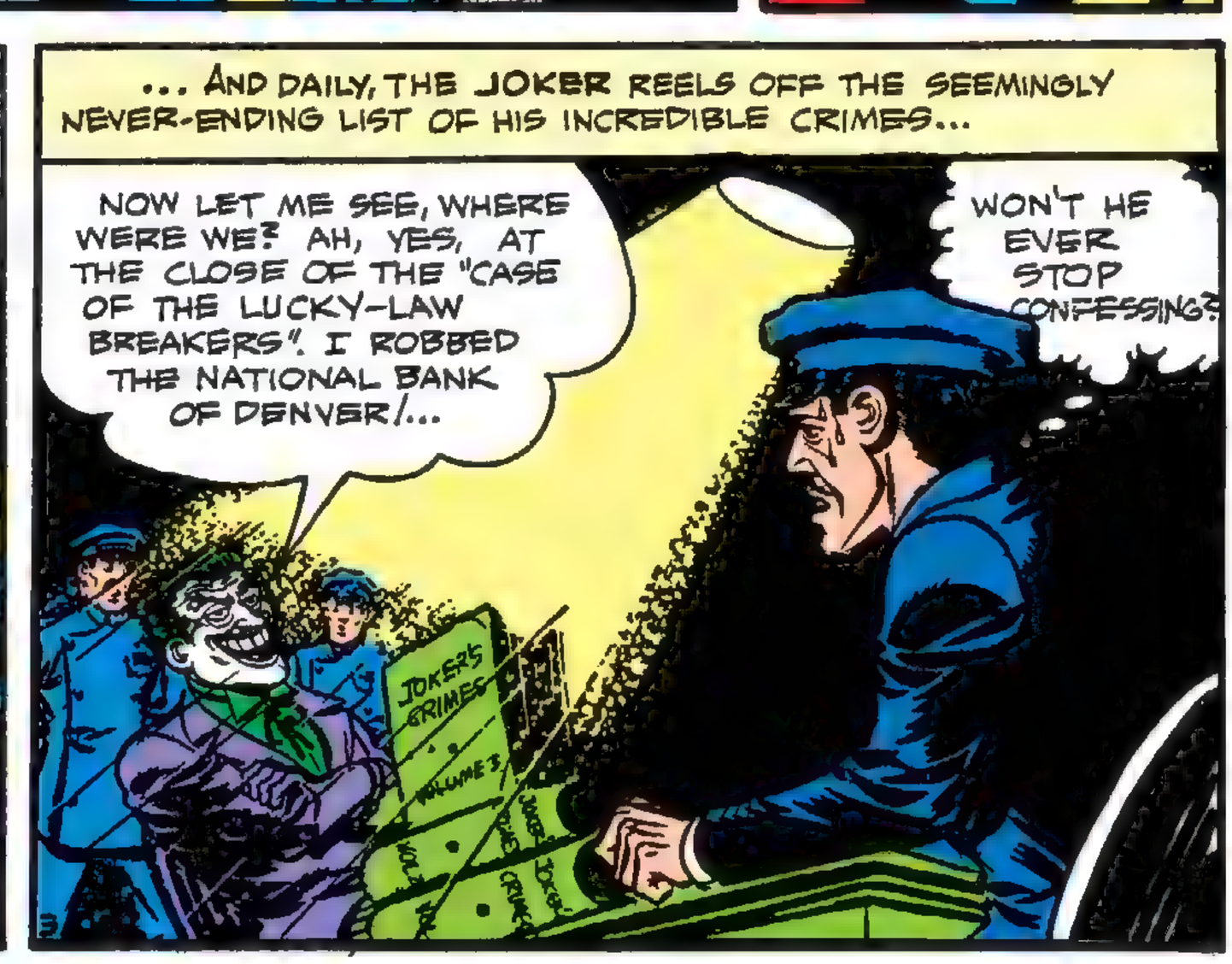

THE FANTASTIC NEWS IS BLAZONED IN BLACK HEADLINES...
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
GEE! THE JOKER SURRENDERED HIMSELF!
BUY U.S. DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS
GUM
DAILY GLOBE
JOKER SURRENDERS
JOKER
JOKER

AND BROADCAST TO THE CORNERS OF THE WORLD!
WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST OF THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF BATMAN TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL BULLETIN. THE JOKER HAS BEEN CAPTURED!
WABX


WHILE PAST THE PRISONER'S CELL PASS THOUSANDS EACH DAY...
IS THAT THE FAMOUS JOKER?
BRR! THAT GHASTLY WHITE FACE... GIVES ME THE CHILLS!
STUPID FOOLS!

THAT'S THE JOKER, ALL RIGHT! BRUCE-TO THINK THAT HE DELIBERATELY GAVE HIMSELF UP!
IT'S AMAZING, ROBIN! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THERE MUST BE A CATCH SOMEWHERE!

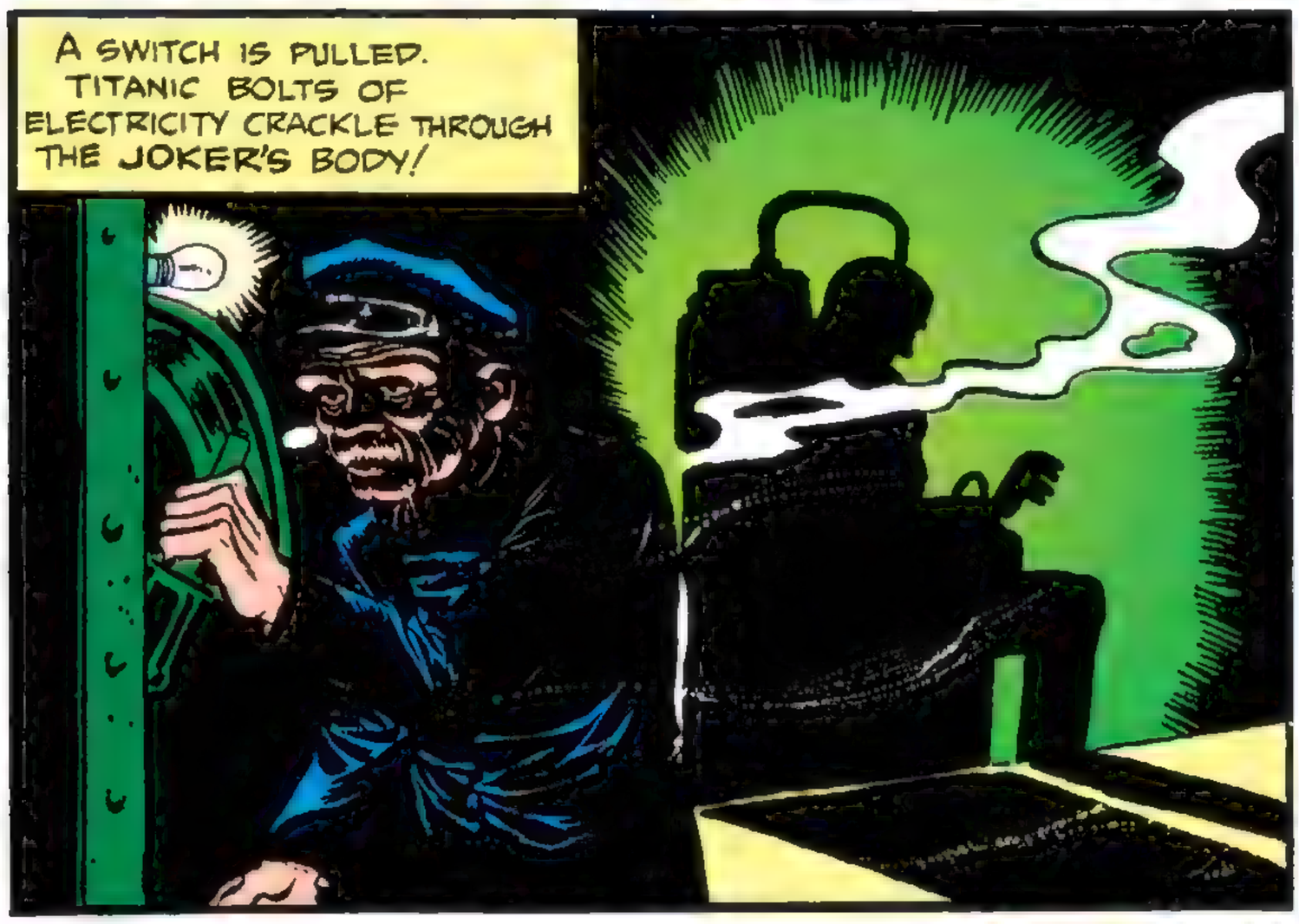
STEP ASIDE, FOLKS! VISITIN' HOURS ARE OVER!
YEP! IT'S TIME FOR THE JOKER'S CONFESSION SESSION! COME ON, JOKER!


... AND DAILY, THE JOKER REELS OFF THE SEEMINGLY NEVER-ENDING LIST OF HIS INCREDIBLE CRIMES...
NOW LET ME SEE, WHERE WERE WE? AH, YES, AT THE CLOSE OF THE "CASE OF THE LUCKY-LAW BREAKERS". I ROBBED THE NATIONAL BANK OF DENVER/...
WON'T HE EVER STOP CONFESSING?
JOKER'S CRIMES
VOLUME 3

CONFESSION LEADS TO SPEEDY TRIAL AND...
SPEAK UP, YOU OLD FOSSIL! YOU CAN'T FRIGHTEN THE JOKER!
YOU HAVE PLEADED GUILTY, JOKER. FOR ALL YOUR CRIMES THERE CAN BE BUT ONE PENALTY...THE SUPREME PENALTY!

I SENTENCE YOU TO... DEATH!
HA-HA-HA-HA!

SWIFTLY, THE DREAD DOOM OF JUSTICE OVERTAKES THE MOCKING JESTER!
SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS LAST MILE, EH? DON'T CRY, BOYS...THIS WILL HURT ME WORSE THAN IT'LL HURT YOU! HA! HA!
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, JOKER! AREN'T YOU EVER AFRAID?


A SWITCH IS PULLED. TITANIC BOLTS OF ELECTRICITY CRACKLE THROUGH THE JOKER'S BODY!

I PRONOUNCE THIS MAN DEAD!
THE JOKER'S CAREER IS OVER. HE'S PAID THIS PENALTY FOR HIS CRIMES!

MINUTES LATER, IN THE PRISON MORGUE...
STEP ASIDE, COPPER! WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FRIEND!
HURRY UP, GUYS! THE JOKER SAID WE ONLY HAD FIFTEEN MINUTES OR THE SERUM WOULDN'T WORK!
OH-H-H!

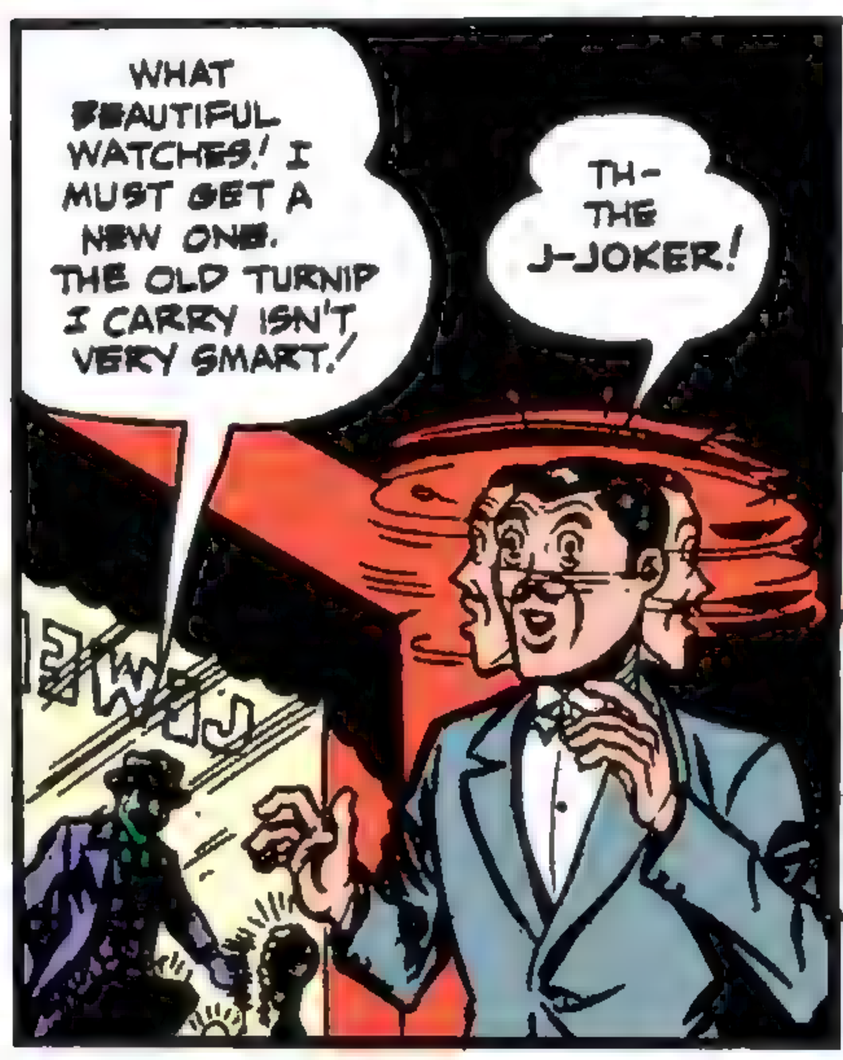
MAKE IT SNAPPY, YOU GUYS! HOW MUCH MORE TIME WE GOT, CHARLEY?
NOT MUCH! MAYBE A MINUTE OR TWO!
4

AND NEARBY, IN THE JOKER'S PRIVATE AMBULANCE...
FORCE THE SERUM INTO HIS MOUTH! QUICK!
TIME'S ALMOST UP... GEE, D'YA THINK IT'LL WORK?

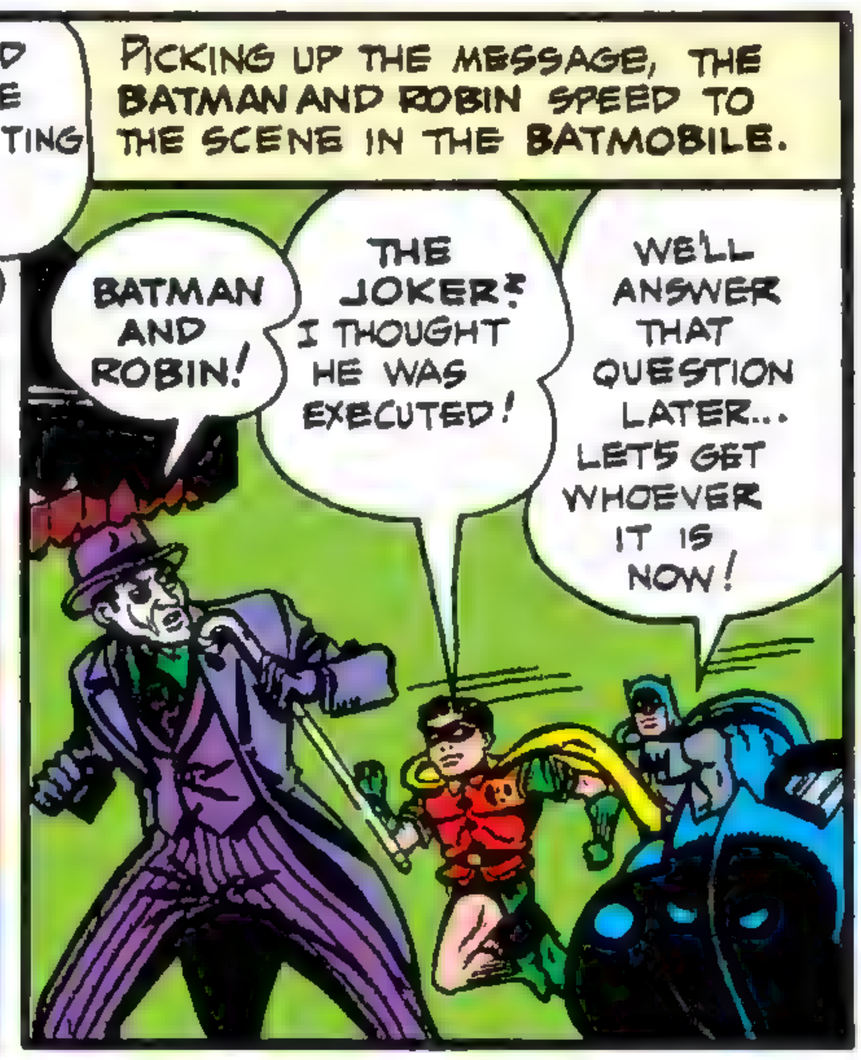
GEE, CHARLEY...
SHUT UP! IT'S WORKING!
I...

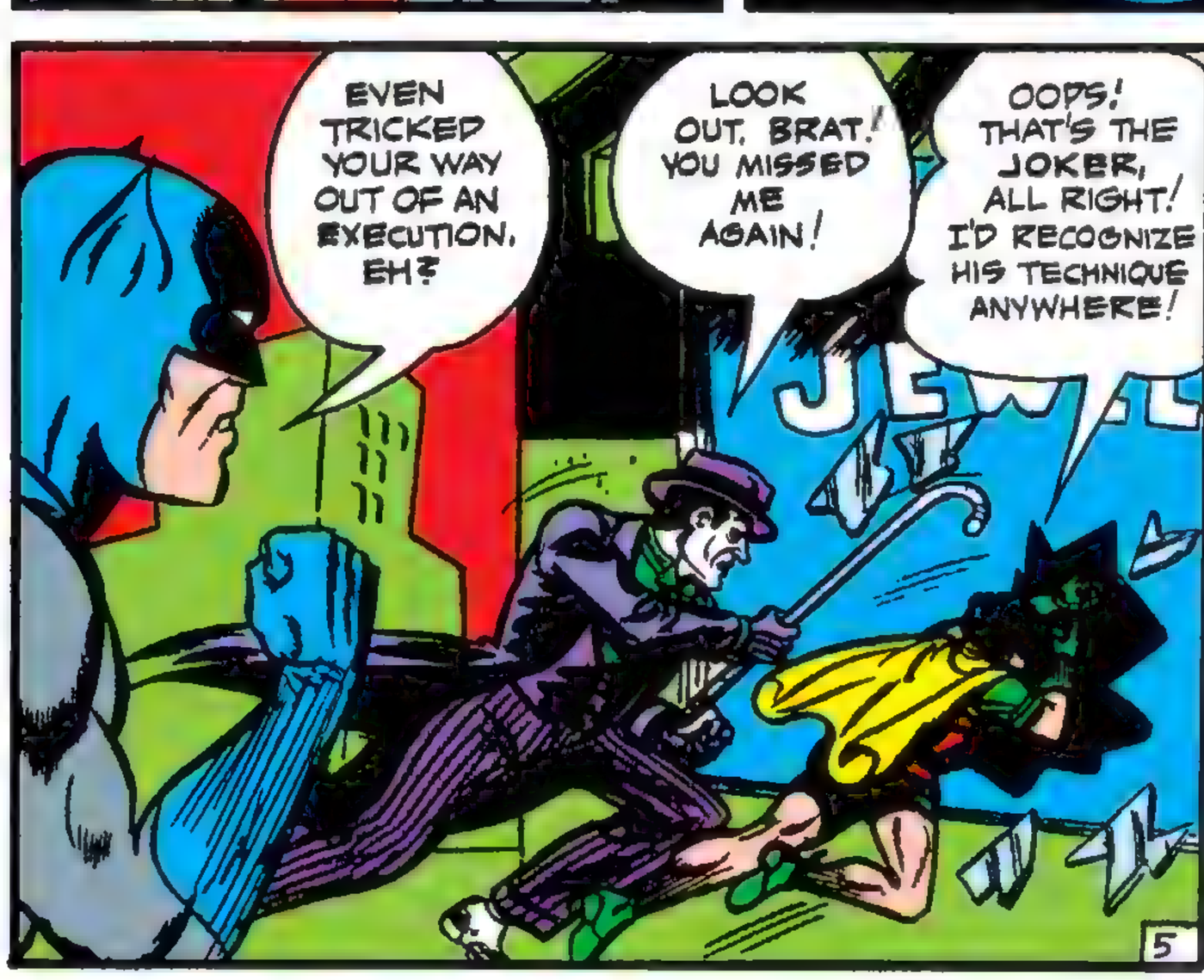
THE SECRET DRUG COURSES THRU THE JOKER'S BODY, SHOCKING HIM BACK TO LIFE!
YOU'RE-ALIVE!
RECLAIMED FROM THE DEAD! ALL CRIMES PAID FOR! THE SLATE WIPED CLEAN! THE JOKER IS FREE! HA! HA!

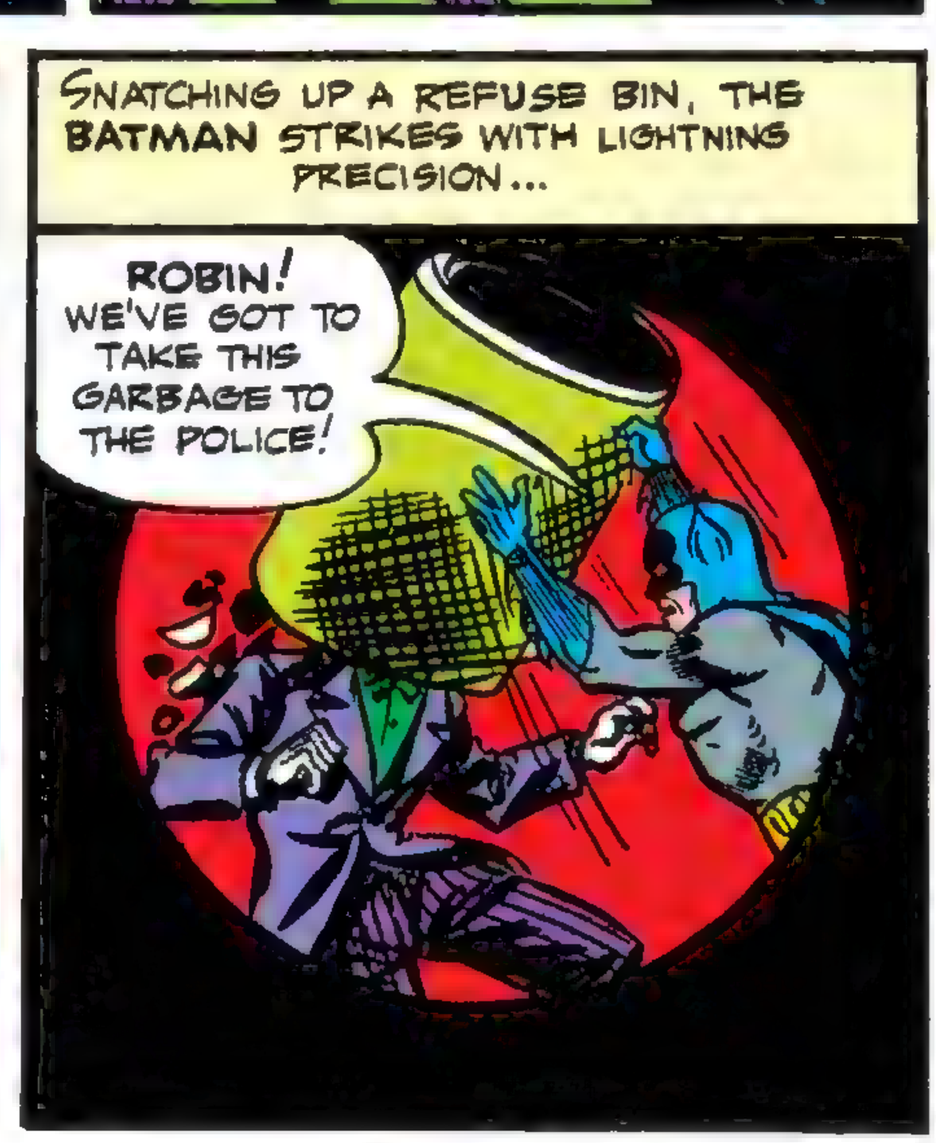
THE NEXT DAY...
THE PLANS ARE SET. YOU KNOW HOW TO GET MY MESSAGES. NOW GO! I WANT TO WINDOW-SHOP!
RIGHT, BOSS!


WHAT BEAUTIFUL WATCHES! I MUST GET A NEW ONE. THE OLD TURNIP I CARRY ISN'T VERY SMART!
TH-THE J-JOKER!

A FRANTIC CALL FOR HELP... AND INSTANTLY A POLICE CALL FLASHES THRU THE CITY.
POLICE! SEND HELP! TH-THE JOKER'S GETTING READY TO ROB MY STORE!
THE JOKER? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MUST BE SOME THUG IMITATING HIM! I'LL SEND OUT A WARNING.


PICKING UP THE MESSAGE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SPEED TO THE SCENE IN THE BATMOBILE.
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
THE JOKER? I THOUGHT HE WAS EXECUTED!
WE'LL ANSWER THAT QUESTION LATER... LET'S GET WHOEVER IT IS NOW!

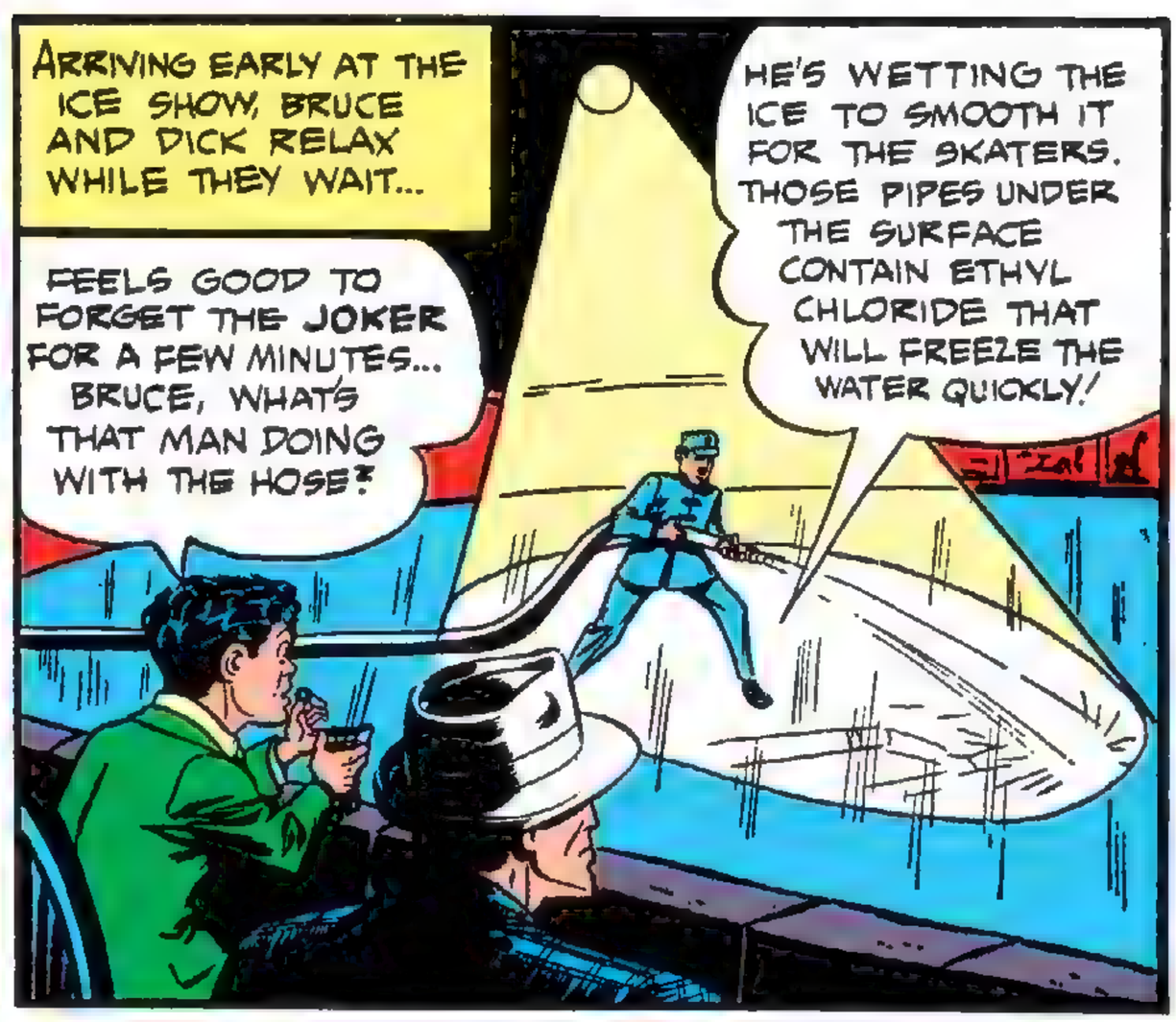

EVEN TRICKED YOUR WAY OUT OF AN EXECUTION, EH?
LOOK OUT, BRAT! YOU MISSED ME AGAIN!
OOPS! THAT'S THE JOKER, ALL RIGHT! I'D RECOGNIZE HIS TECHNIQUE ANYWHERE!
5

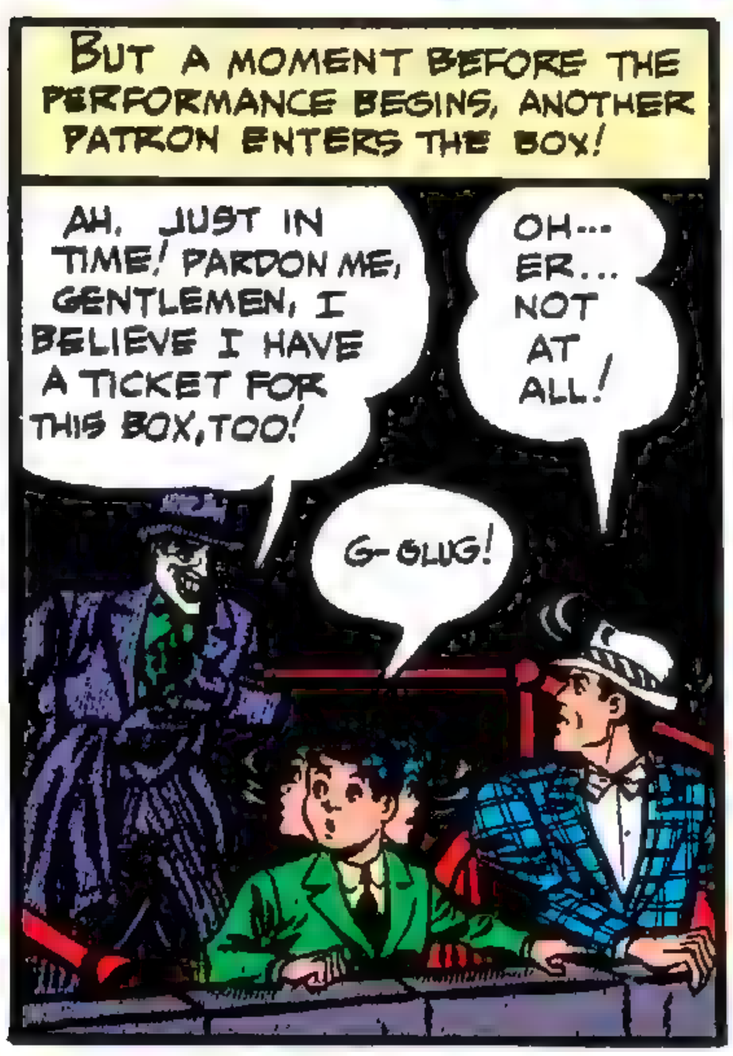

SNATCHING UP A REFUSE BIN, THE BATMAN STRIKES WITH LIGHTNING PRECISION...
ROBIN! WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS GARBAGE TO THE POLICE!

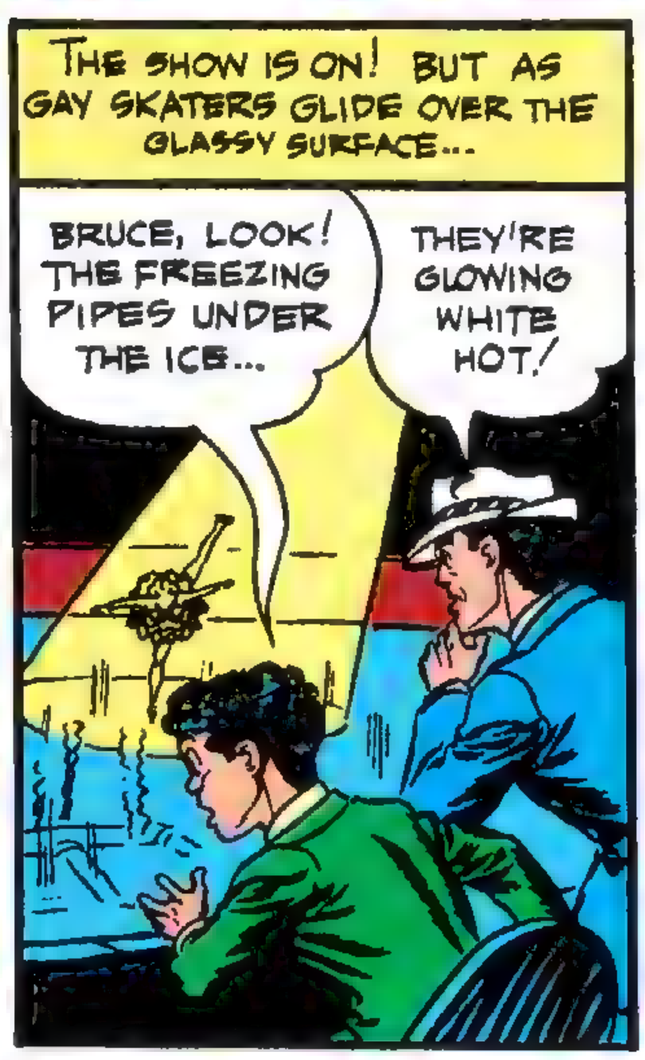
AT THE POLICE COURT, BATMAN DUMPS HIS BUNDLE OF REFUSE....
HERE'S A PRESENT FOR THE POLICE. LOCK HIM UP FOR KEEPS THIS TIME!
LOCK ME UP? RIDICULOUS? I'VE ALREADY PAID THE PENALTY FOR MY CRIMES. THE LAW SAYS A MAN CANNOT BE PLACED IN DOUBLE JEOPARDY FOR THE SAME CRIMES!
THROUGH A CUNNING LEGAL TRICK, THE JOKER IS FREE!
UNFORTUNATELY, THE JOKER IS RIGHT. SINCE HE WAS EXECUTED HE IS FREE NOW!
BATMAN, I COULD CHARGE YOU WITH ASSAULT, BUT NOW THAT I'M FREE, I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME GENEROUS! GOOD DAY, SIR!
YES, THE JOKER IS FREE, BUT STILL THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MAINTAIN A CEASELESS WATCH BY DAY...
SO FAR HE HASN'T LEFT HIS APARTMENT ALL DAY!
ANYTHING SO FAR, BRUCE?
NOTHING, DICK! HE HASN'T MADE A MOVE!
AND BY NIGHT
SHINE, KID. ANYTHING YET, DICK?
OKAY, MISTER... NOTHING, BRUCE!
WHILE INSIDE THE JOKER'S ROOM...
HA! THOSE STUPID DETECTIVES WATCH THE JOKER. THEY NEVER DREAM THAT I'M SENDING MESSAGES TO MY MEN WITH THIS HOTEL SIGN BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES!
I KNOW THE POLICE ARE TAPPING MY PHONE.. BUT THEY CAN'T SUSPECT THIS TRICK.. A CORD CONNECTED TO A SWITCH I'VE SPLICED ONTO THE CURRENT WIRES... HA! HA! HA! HA!
AND AS THE SIGN BLINKS OFF A DOT AND DASH CODE. FAR ACROSS THE CITY...
THE JOKER SAYS FOR US TO PULL THE ARENA JOB TONIGHT.. AND TO ROB HIM, TOO, SO'S HE'LL LOOK INNOCENT!

LATER... THE WAYNE HOME...
WE KNOW THE JOKER WON'T GO STRAIGHT! FREE, HE'S A GREATER MENACE THAN BEFORE! WE'VE GOT TO TRAP HIM!
BUT HOW?

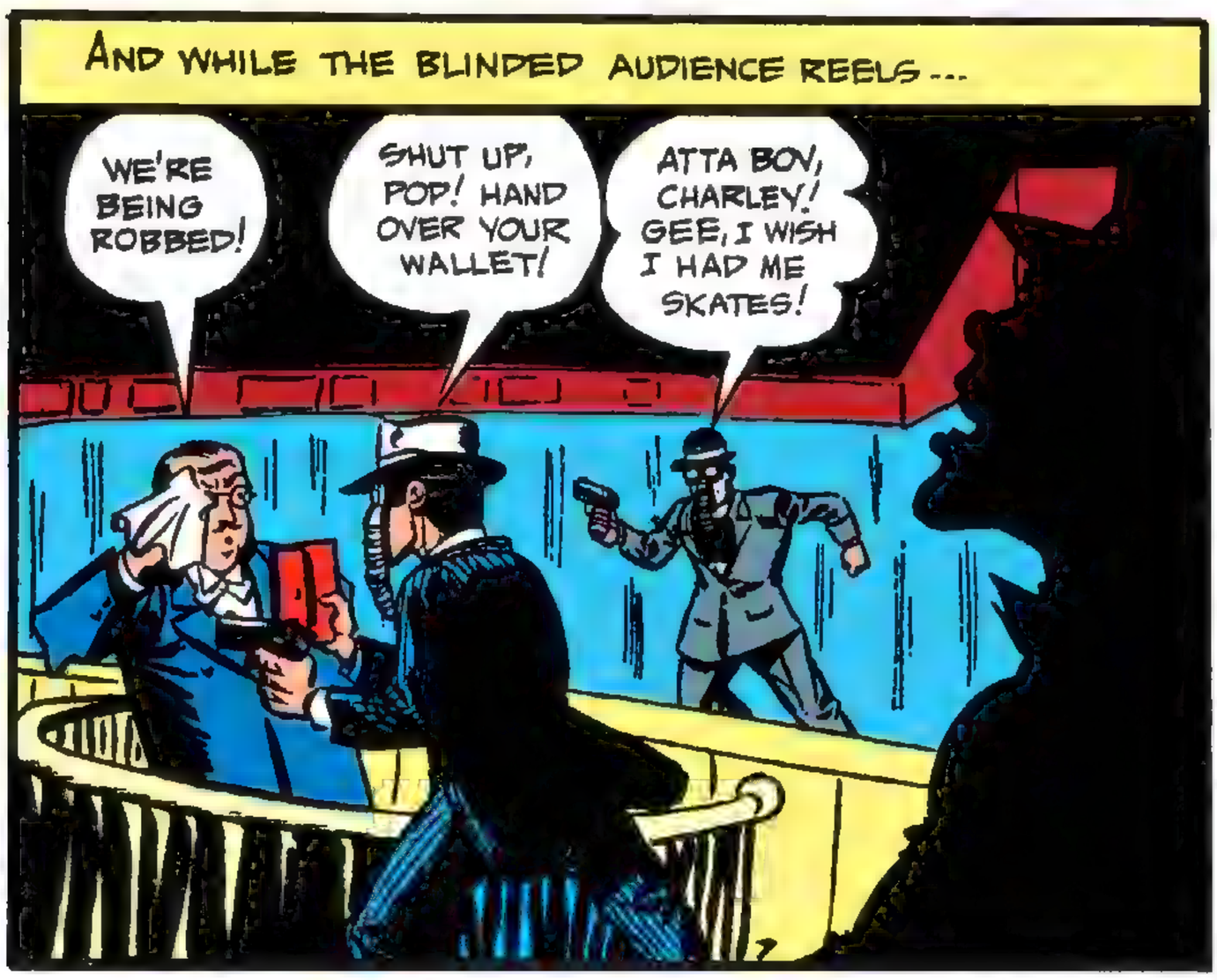
WE'LL DOPE OUT SOMETHING. RIGHT NOW, LET'S GET SOME ENTERTAINMENT. YOU'VE WORKED HARD ENOUGH!
SWELL, BRUCE! LET'S SEE THE ICE SHOW!

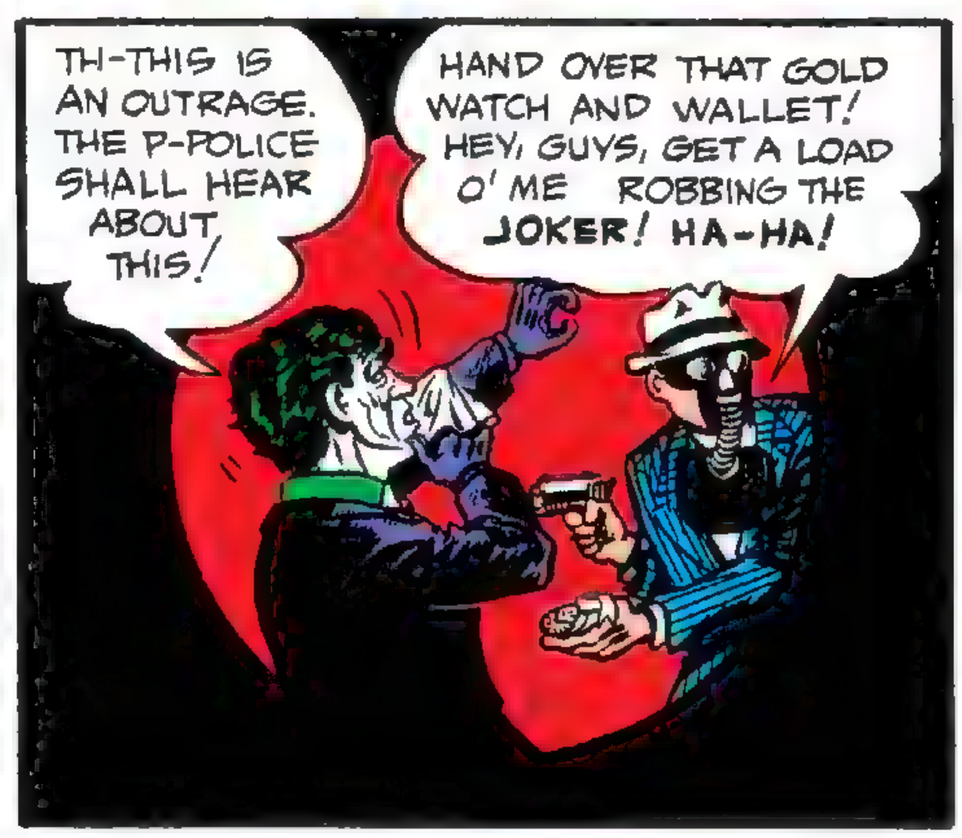

ARRIVING EARLY AT THE ICE SHOW, BRUCE AND DICK RELAX WHILE THEY WAIT...
FEELS GOOD TO FORGET THE JOKER FOR A FEW MINUTES... BRUCE, WHAT'S THAT MAN DOING WITH THE HOSE?
HE'S WETTING THE ICE TO SMOOTH IT FOR THE SKATERS. THOSE PIPES UNDER THE SURFACE CONTAIN ETHYL CHLORIDE THAT WILL FREEZE THE WATER QUICKLY!

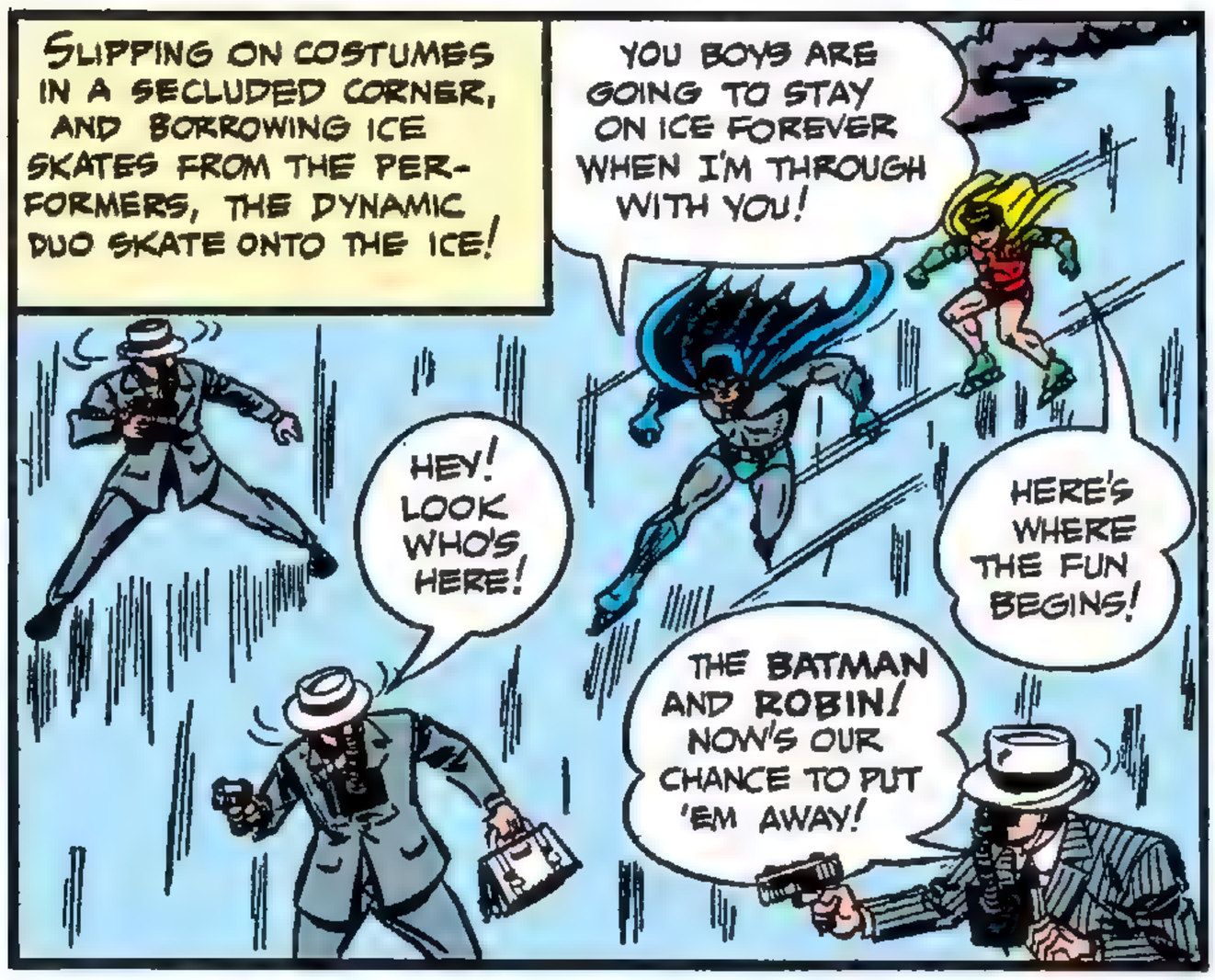

BUT A MOMENT BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE BEGINS, ANOTHER PATRON ENTERS THE BOX!
AH, JUST IN TIME! PARDON ME, GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE I HAVE A TICKET FOR THIS BOX, TOO!
OH... ER... NOT AT ALL!
G-GLUG!


THE SHOW IS ON! BUT AS GAY SKATERS GLIDE OVER THE GLASSY SURFACE...
BRUCE, LOOK! THE FREEZING PIPES UNDER THE ICE...
THEY'RE GLOWING WHITE HOT!

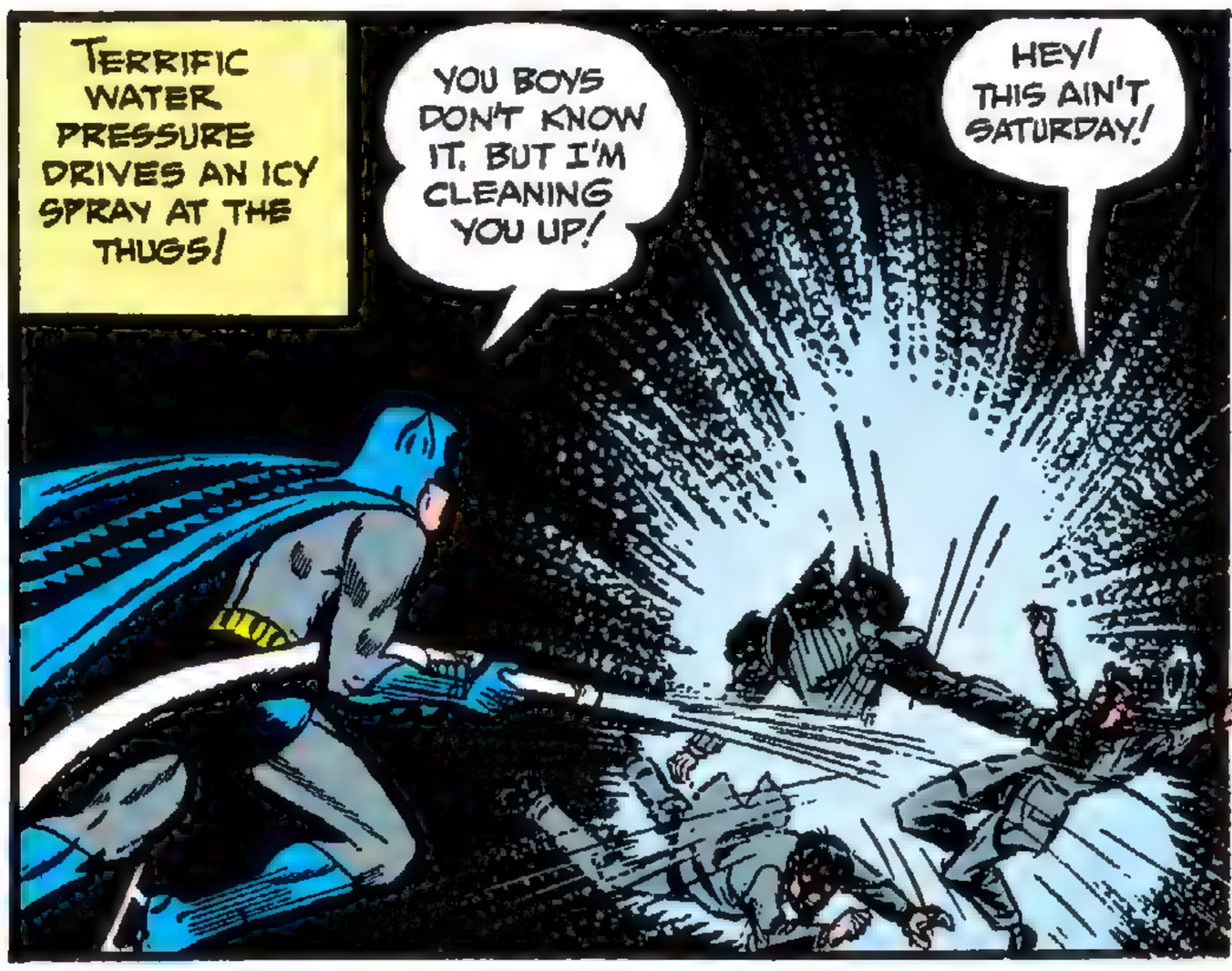
THE PIPES BLAST OPEN AT ONE END OF THE ARENA, RELEASING FUMES OF CHOKING ETHYL CHLORIDE GAS!
SOMEONE HEATED THE FREEZING SOLUTION AND RAN IT THROUGH THE FREEZING SYSTEM.
G-GAS! IT'S GETTING IN M-MY EYES!

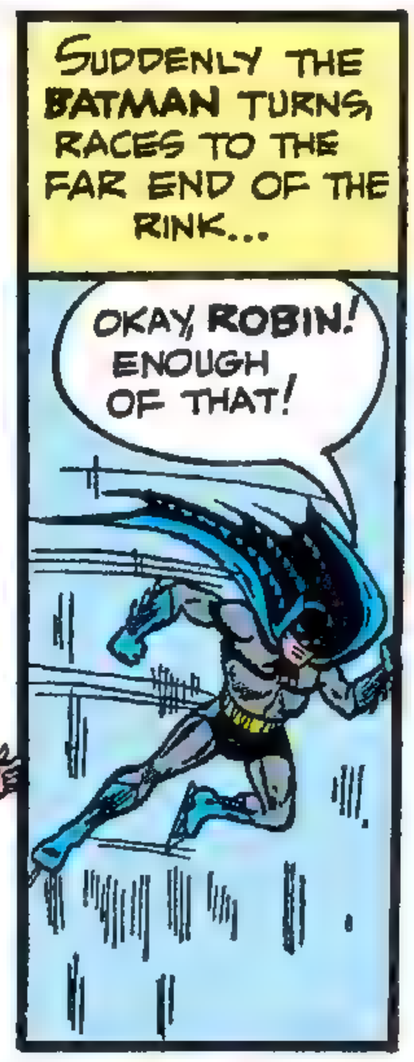

AND WHILE THE BLINDED AUDIENCE REELS...
WE'RE BEING ROBBED!
SHUT UP, POP! HAND OVER YOUR WALLET!
ATTA BOY, CHARLEY! GEE, I WISH I HAD ME SKATES!


TH-THIS IS AN OUTRAGE. THE P-POLICE SHALL HEAR ABOUT THIS!
HAND OVER THAT GOLD WATCH AND WALLET! HEY, GUYS, GET A LOAD O' ME ROBBING THE JOKER! HA-HA!

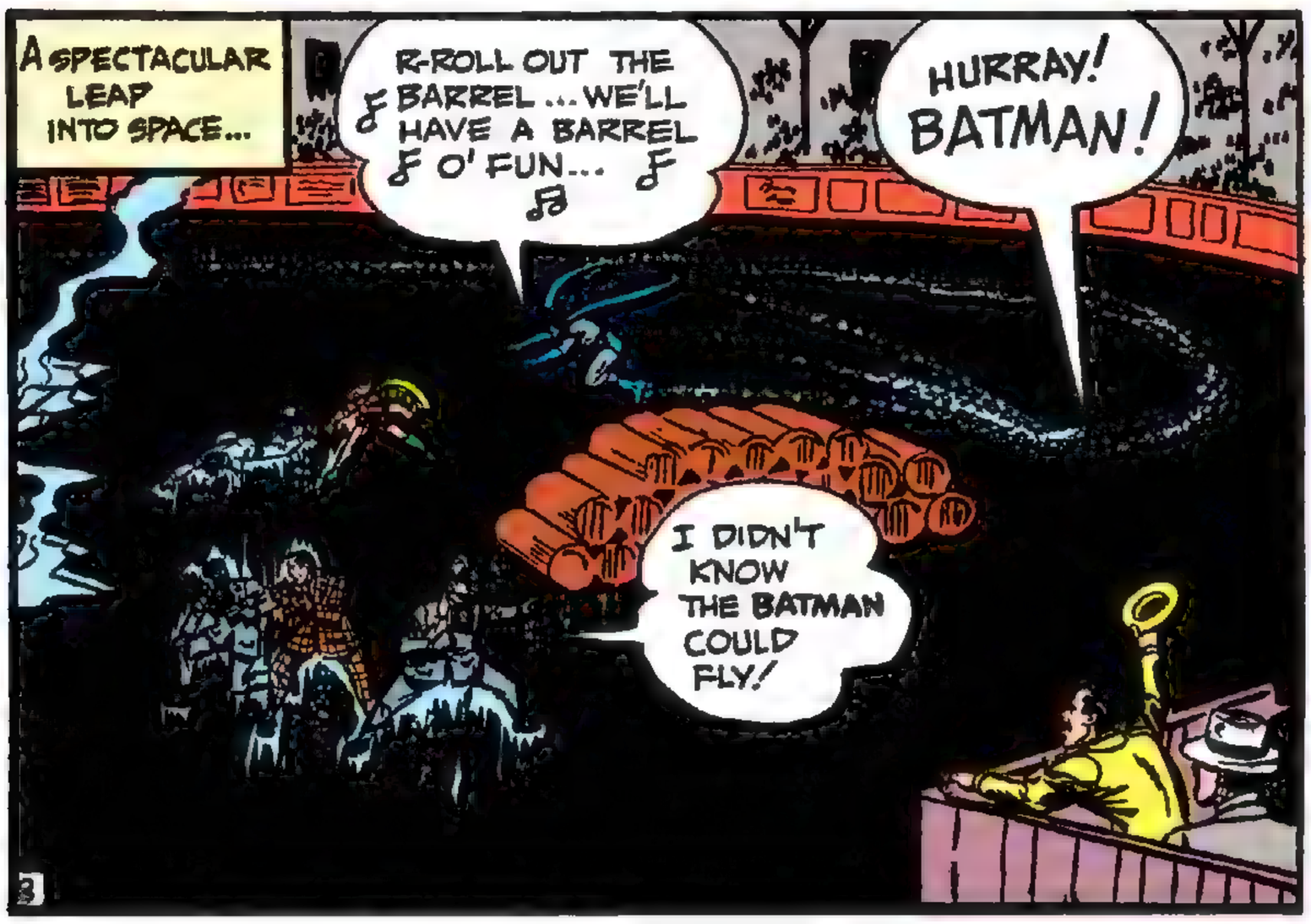

SLIPPING ON COSTUMES IN A SECLUDED CORNER, AND BORROWING ICE SKATES FROM THE PERFORMERS, THE DYNAMIC DUO SKATE ONTO THE ICE!
YOU BOYS ARE GOING TO STAY ON ICE FOREVER WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!
HEY! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
HERE'S WHERE THE FUN BEGINS!
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO PUT 'EM AWAY!

DON'T SHOOT HIM DOWN TOO FAST, GUYS. THIS AIN'T A PLEASURE WE'LL EVER REPEAT! LET'S ENJOY IT!
QUICK, ROBIN! TURN ON THE WATER FULL FORCE!


TERRIFIC WATER PRESSURE DRIVES AN ICY SPRAY AT THE THUGS!
YOU BOYS DON'T KNOW IT, BUT I'M CLEANING YOU UP!
HEY! THIS AIN'T SATURDAY!

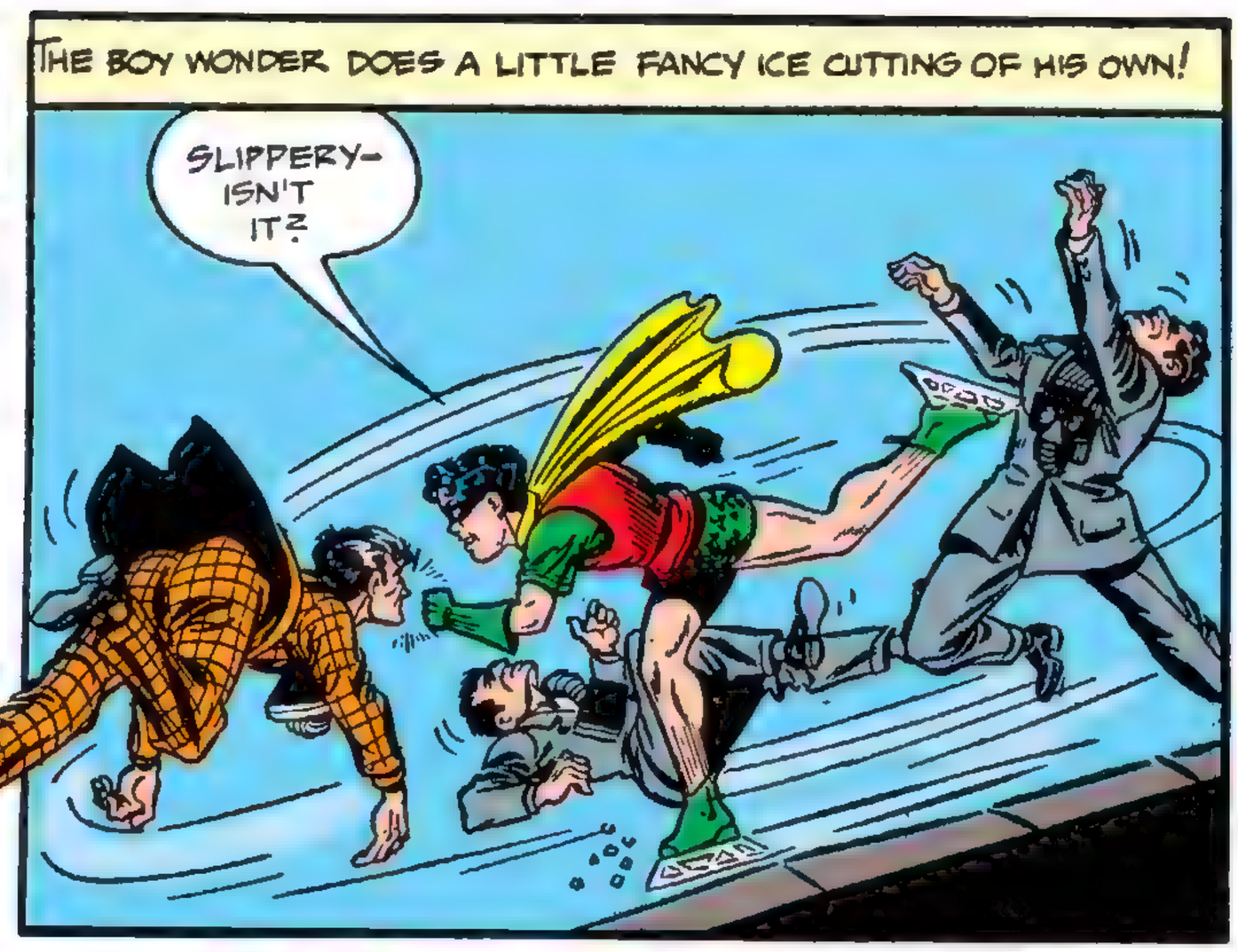

SUDDENLY THE BATMAN TURNS, RACES TO THE FAR END OF THE RINK...
OKAY, ROBIN! ENOUGH OF THAT!

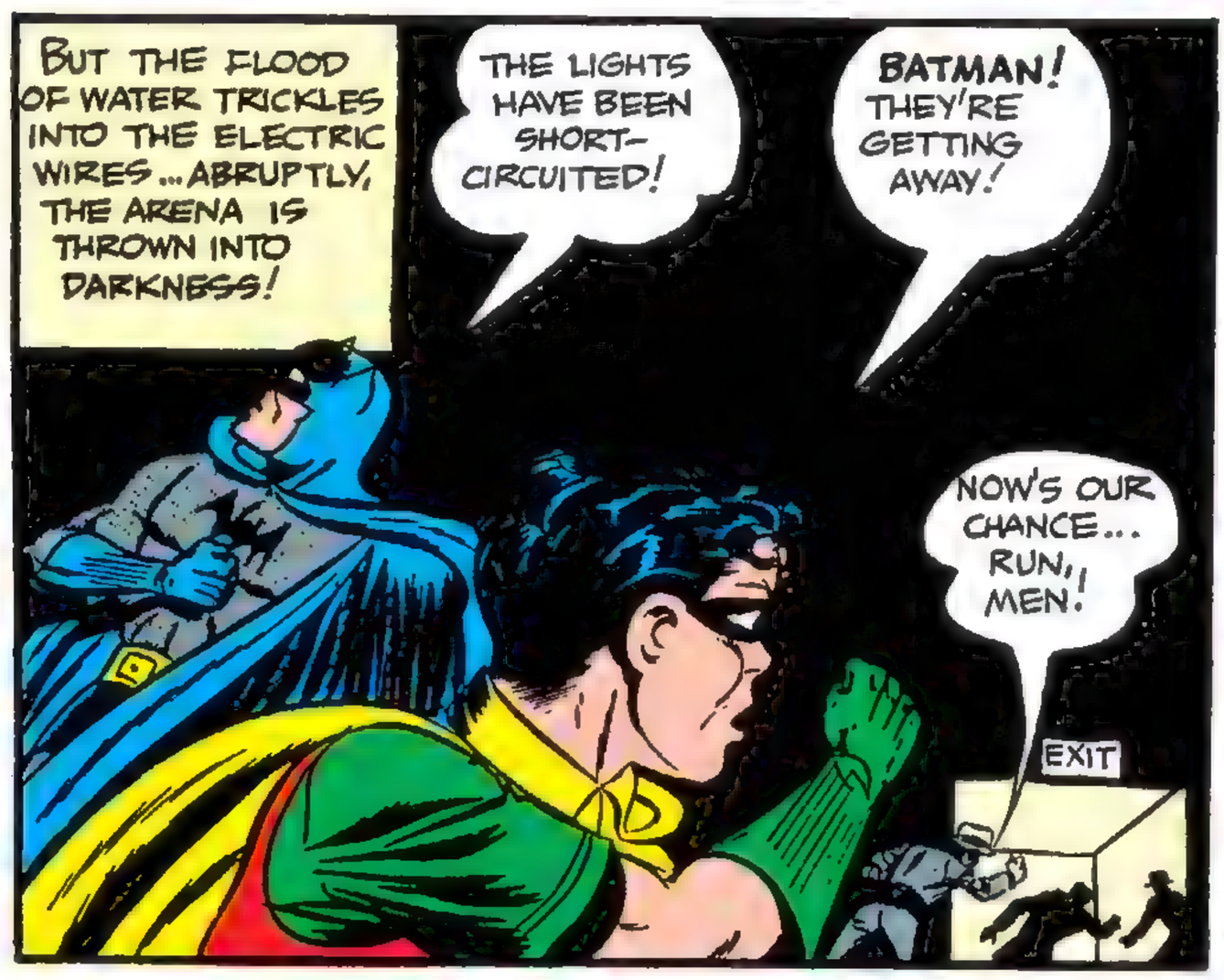
..SWINGS BACK IN A WIDE ARC, AND RETURNS AT A BREATHTAKING SPEED...
HERE GOES NOTHING!

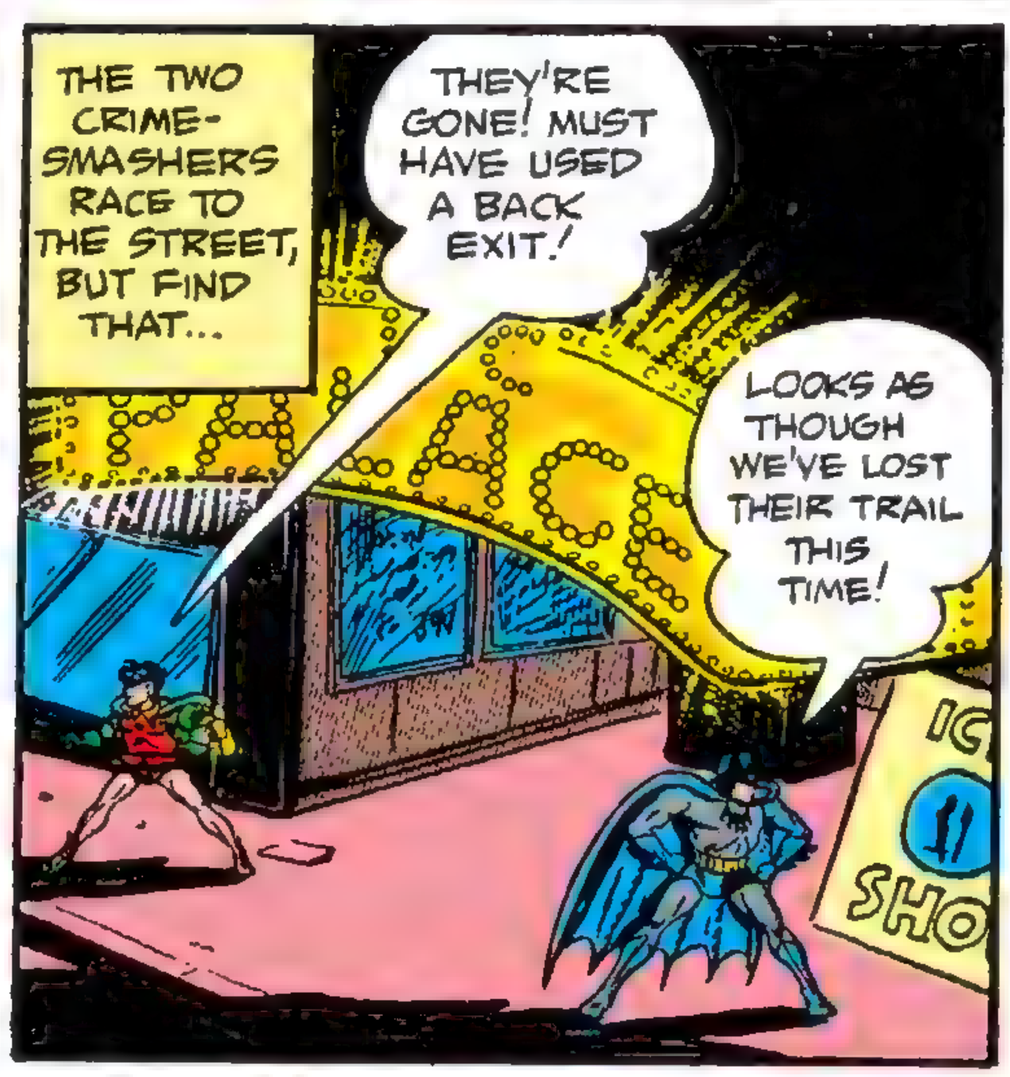

A SPECTACULAR LEAP INTO SPACE...
R-ROLL OUT THE BARREL ... WE'LL HAVE A BARREL O' FUN...
HURRAY! BATMAN!
I DIDN'T KNOW THE BATMAN COULD FLY!

OOPS! PARDON ME, GENTLEMEN! I MUST HAVE SLIPPED. TSK-TSK!

H-HEY, CH-CHARLEY, C-CAN'T YOU KILL T-THOSE T-TWO W-WILDCATS?
I-I-M-SH-SHAKIN' S-SO M-MUCH FROM TH-THIS C-COLD WATER I C-CAN'T AIM S-S-STRAIGHT!
COLD, BOYS? I'LL MAKE THINGS HOT FOR YOU!

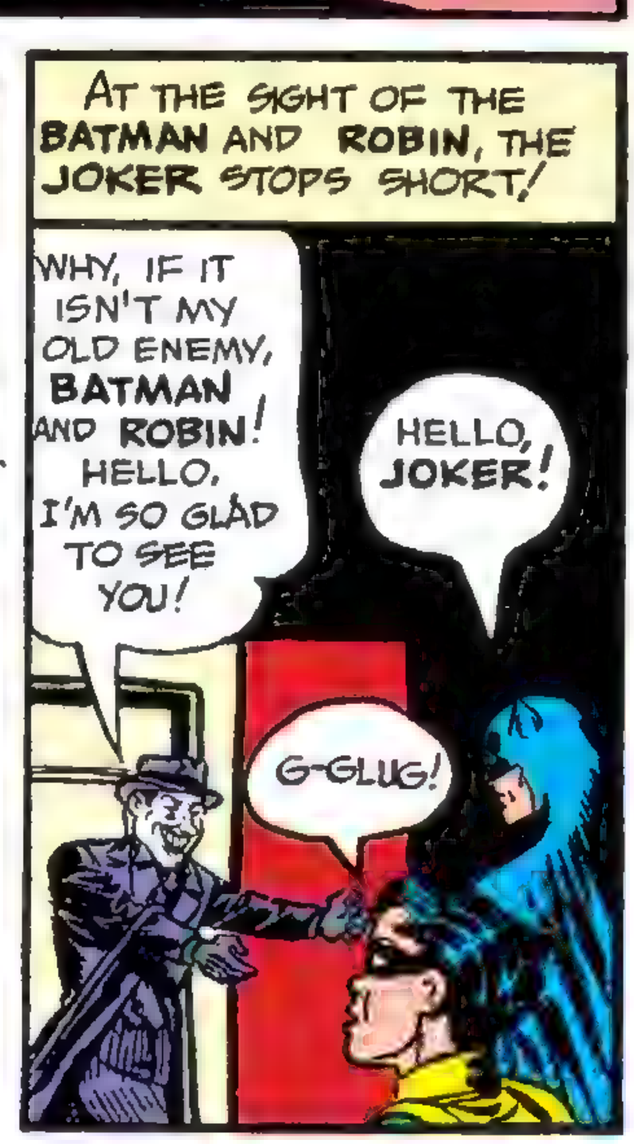

THE BOY WONDER DOES A LITTLE FANCY ICE CUTTING OF HIS OWN!
SLIPPERY-ISN'T IT?


BUT THE FLOOD OF WATER TRICKLES INTO THE ELECTRIC WIRES...ABRUPTLY, THE ARENA IS THROWN INTO DARKNESS!
THE LIGHTS HAVE BEEN SHORT-CIRCUITED!
BATMAN! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE... RUN, MEN!
EXIT


THE TWO CRIME-SMASHERS RACE TO THE STREET, BUT FIND THAT...
THEY'RE GONE! MUST HAVE USED A BACK EXIT!
LOOKS AS THOUGH WE'VE LOST THEIR TRAIL THIS TIME!

MEANWHILE, AT THE ARENA EXIT...
OUR INSURANCE COVERS THIS THEFT. IF YOU WILL TELL US WHAT WAS STOLEN, WE'LL SEE THAT YOU'RE COMPENSATED FOR THE LOSS.
THANK YOU! I WAS ROBBED OF MY WRISTWATCH, AND STICK-PIN!
ICE SHOW
MANAGER
9

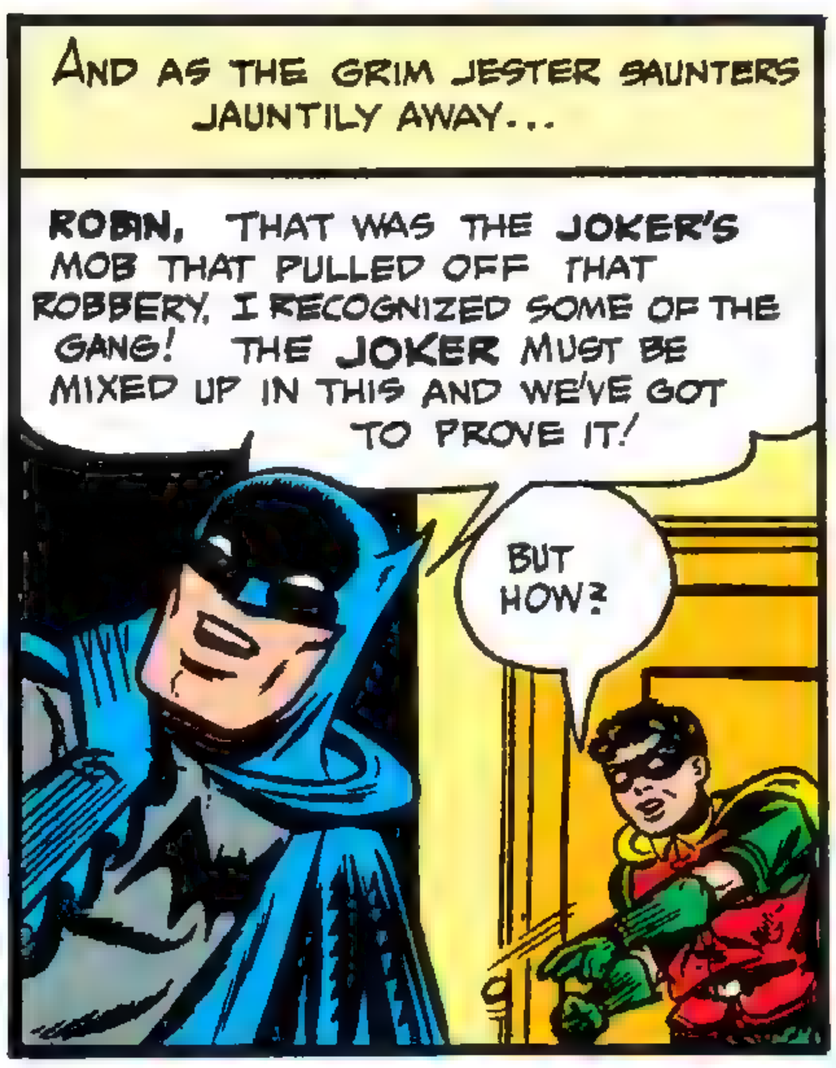
D'YOU HEAR THAT? HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I LOST A LARGE GOLD HUNTING-CASE WATCH AND MY WALLET CONTAINING FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. THAT'S ALL!


AT THE SIGHT OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE JOKER STOPS SHORT!
WHY, IF IT ISN'T MY OLD ENEMY, BATMAN AND ROBIN! HELLO, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!
HELLO, JOKER!
G-GLUG!

SHAKE, BATMAN! I'D LIKE TO COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR SPLENDID PERFORMANCE INSIDE! MAGNIFICENT!
OHH... THANKS, JOKER... YOU OUGHT TO KNOW!

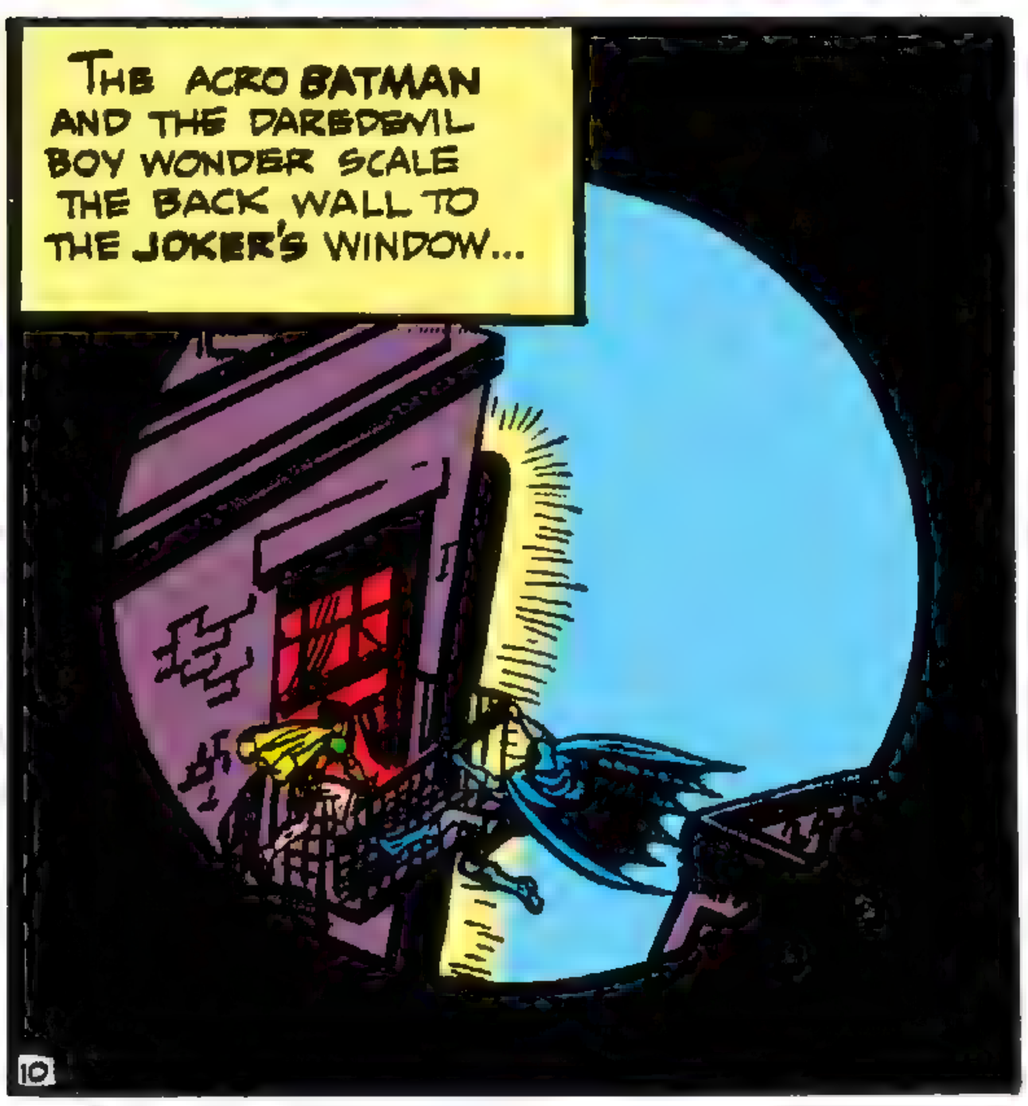
AND ROBIN... I SEE YOUR FIST HASN'T LOST ITS OLD PUNCH, MY BOY! EXCELLENT! HERE'S A QUARTER. BUY YOURSELF A SODA!
HUH!

BOTH OF YOU MUST VISIT ME SOON. I'M AT THE HOTEL BOCKLEY... WELL, TA-TA!
?

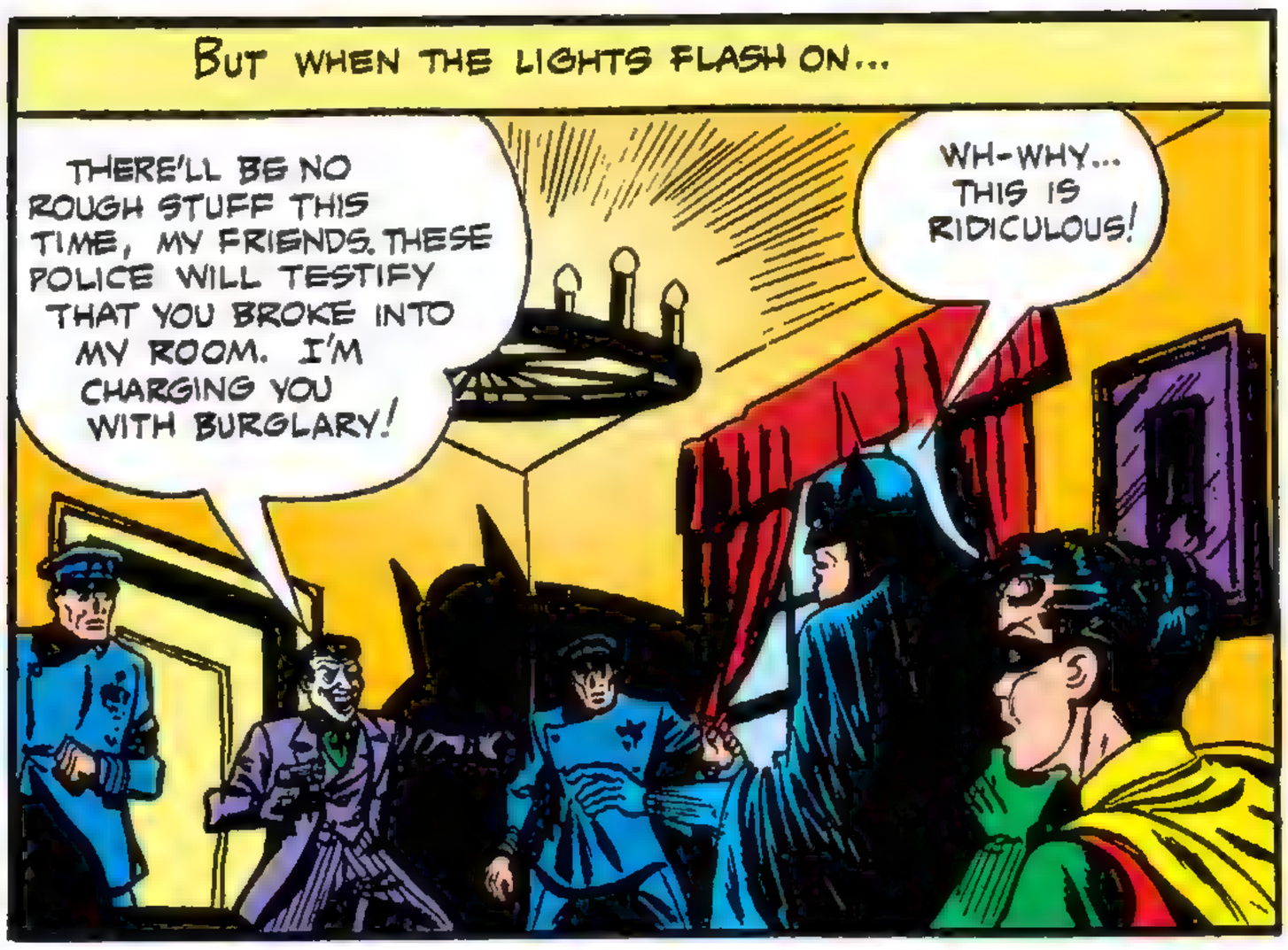

AND AS THE GRIM JESTER SAUNTERS JAUNTILY AWAY...
ROBIN, THAT WAS THE JOKER'S MOB THAT PULLED OFF THAT ROBBERY. I RECOGNIZED SOME OF THE GANG! THE JOKER MUST BE MIXED UP IN THIS AND WE'VE GOT TO PROVE IT!
BUT HOW?

I HAVE A HUNCH THAT EVEN THAT WATCH-STEALING SCENE WAS PHONEY... WE'RE GOING TO VISIT THE JOKER TONIGHT, SEARCH HIS APARTMENT!

LATE THAT NIGHT!
BATMAN! WHAT FOOLS WE'VE BEEN! LOOK AT THE WAY THAT SIGN IS BLINKING. IT'S CODE! THAT'S HOW THE JOKER HAS BEEN SIGNALING TO HIS MEN!
HOTEL
WELL, HE ISN'T GOING TO SIGNAL ANY MORE. COME ON! TO THE FIRE ESCAPE!


THE ACRO BATMAN AND THE DAREDEVIL BOY WONDER SCALE THE BACK WALL TO THE JOKER'S WINDOW...

Suddenly...
COME IN, BATMAN! ENTER, ROBIN! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU TWO!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET MORE THAN YOU EXPECT, JOKER!

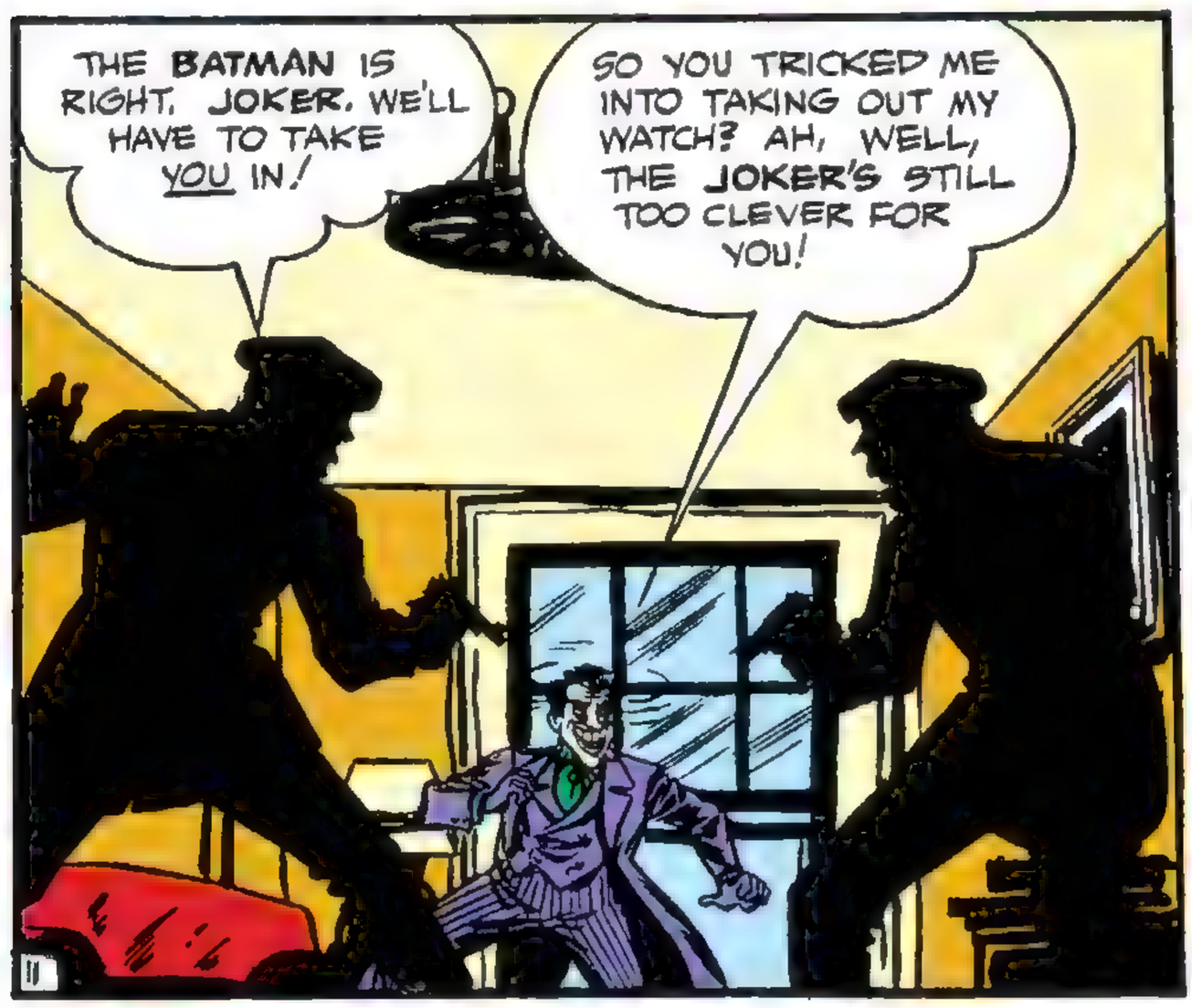

BUT WHEN THE LIGHTS FLASH ON...
THERE'LL BE NO ROUGH STUFF THIS TIME, MY FRIENDS. THESE POLICE WILL TESTIFY THAT YOU BROKE INTO MY ROOM. I'M CHARGING YOU WITH BURGLARY!
WH-WHY... THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

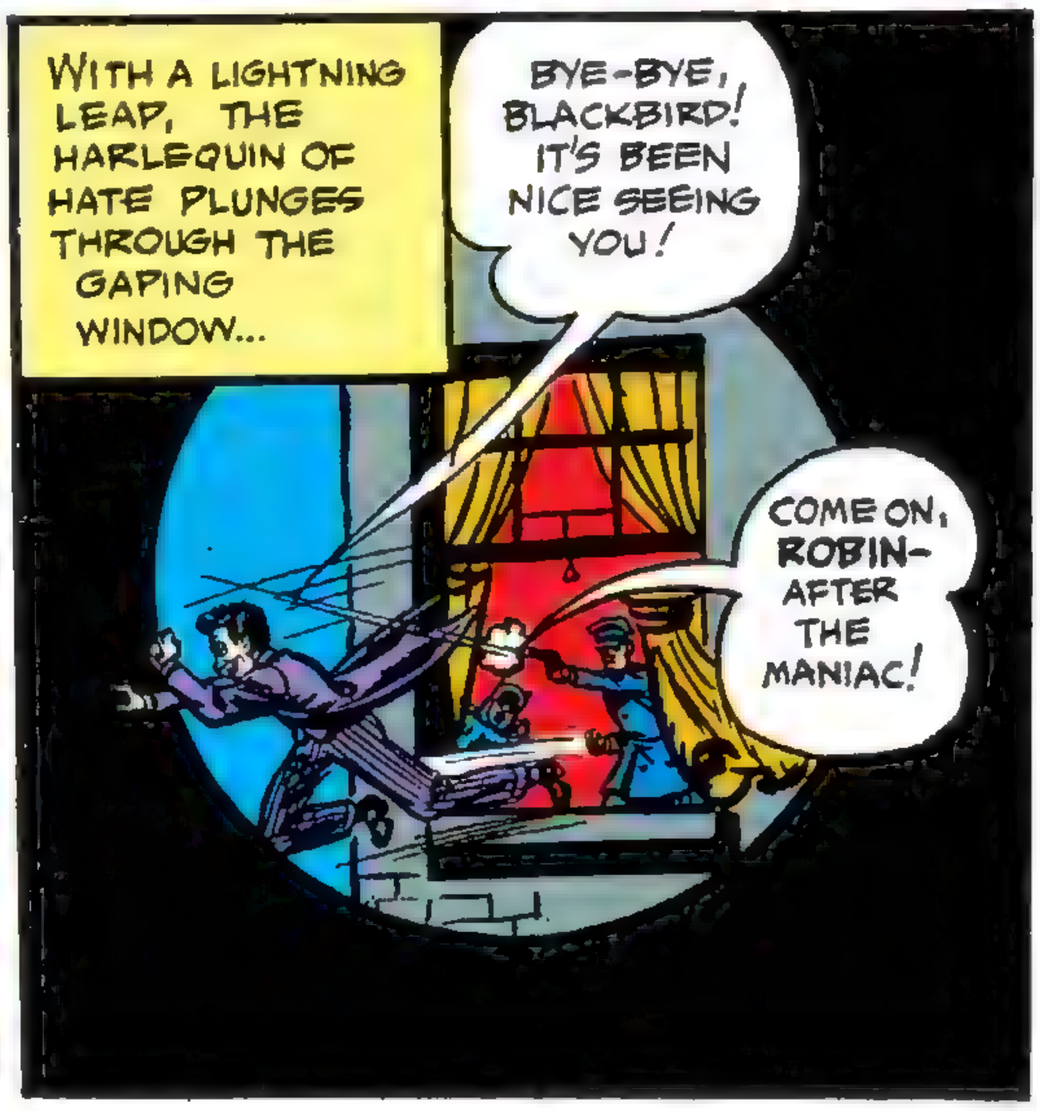
A GRIM TURN OF THE TABLES SWITCHES THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TO THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW!
SORRY, BATMAN, BUT YOU'RE GUILTY, ALL RIGHT! WE GOT TO TAKE YOU IN!
WAIT, GIVE ME JUST A MINUTE... THAT'S ALL I ASK... NO MORE ...NO LESS!
I HOPE THIS WORKS!

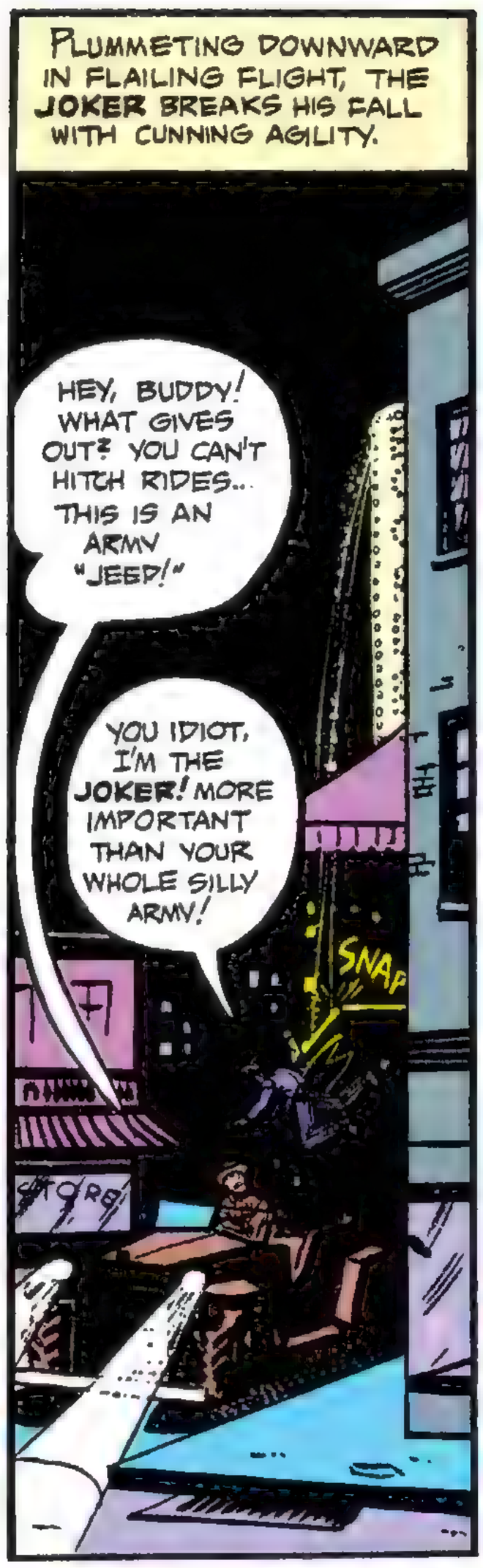
UNAWARE OF THE BATMAN'S RUSE, THE JOKER TAKES OUT HIS GOLD WATCH TO TIME HIS ENEMY. Then...
ONE MINUTE! I...ER...

TOO LATE TO HIDE IT, JOKER! THAT'S THE GOLD WATCH THAT WAS STOLEN FROM THE JOKER THIS EVENING AT THE ICE SHOW!
WHAT ABOUT IT?

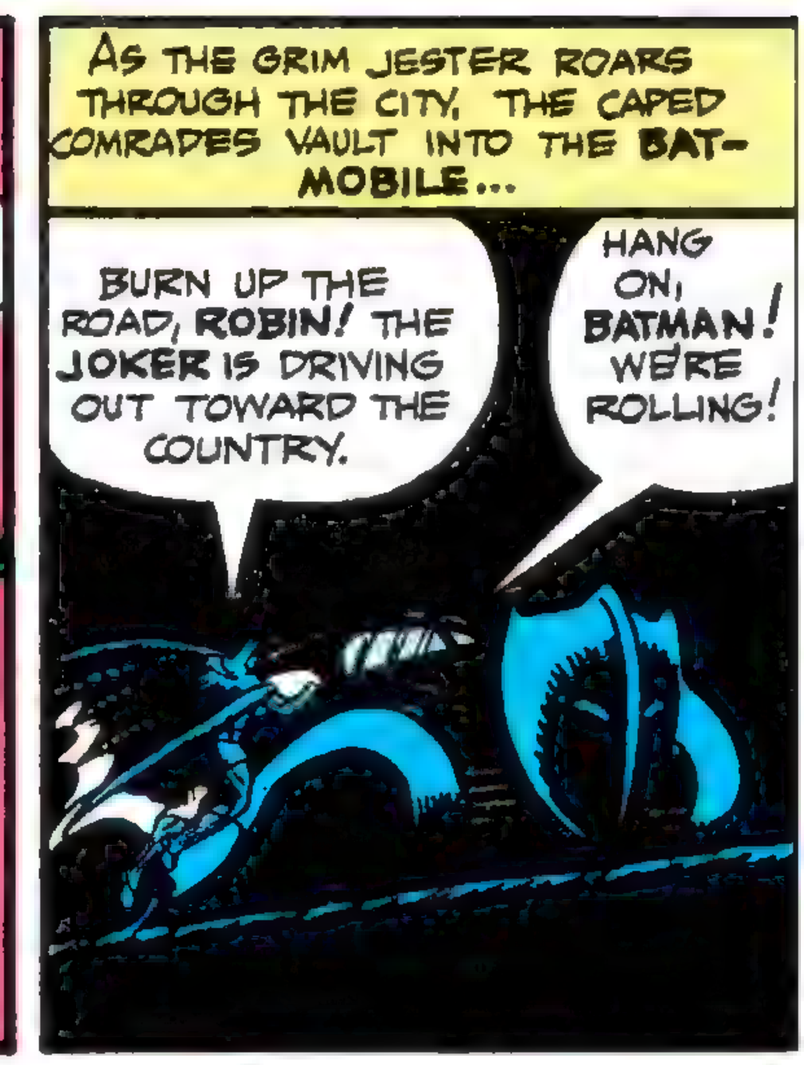
THE JOKER COULD ONLY HAVE RECEIVED HIS WATCH FROM THE CROOKS! THAT MAKES HIM AN ACCESSORY TO THE CRIME AND GUILTY OF RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS!

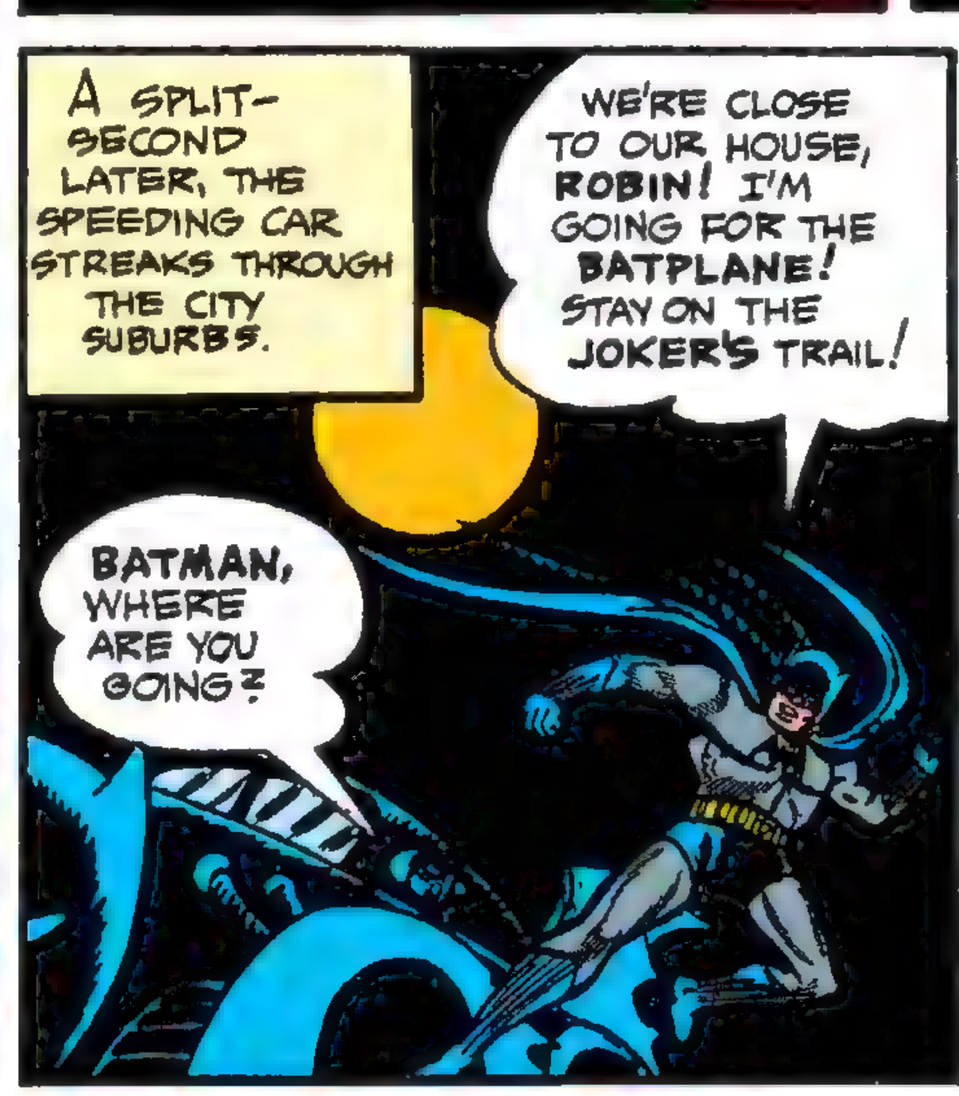

THE BATMAN IS RIGHT, JOKER. WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN!
SO YOU TRICKED ME INTO TAKING OUT MY WATCH? AH, WELL, THE JOKER'S STILL TOO CLEVER FOR YOU!


WITH A LIGHTNING LEAP, THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE PLUNGES THROUGH THE GAPING WINDOW...
BYE-BYE, BLACKBIRD! IT'S BEEN NICE SEEING YOU!
COME ON, ROBIN- AFTER THE MANIAC!

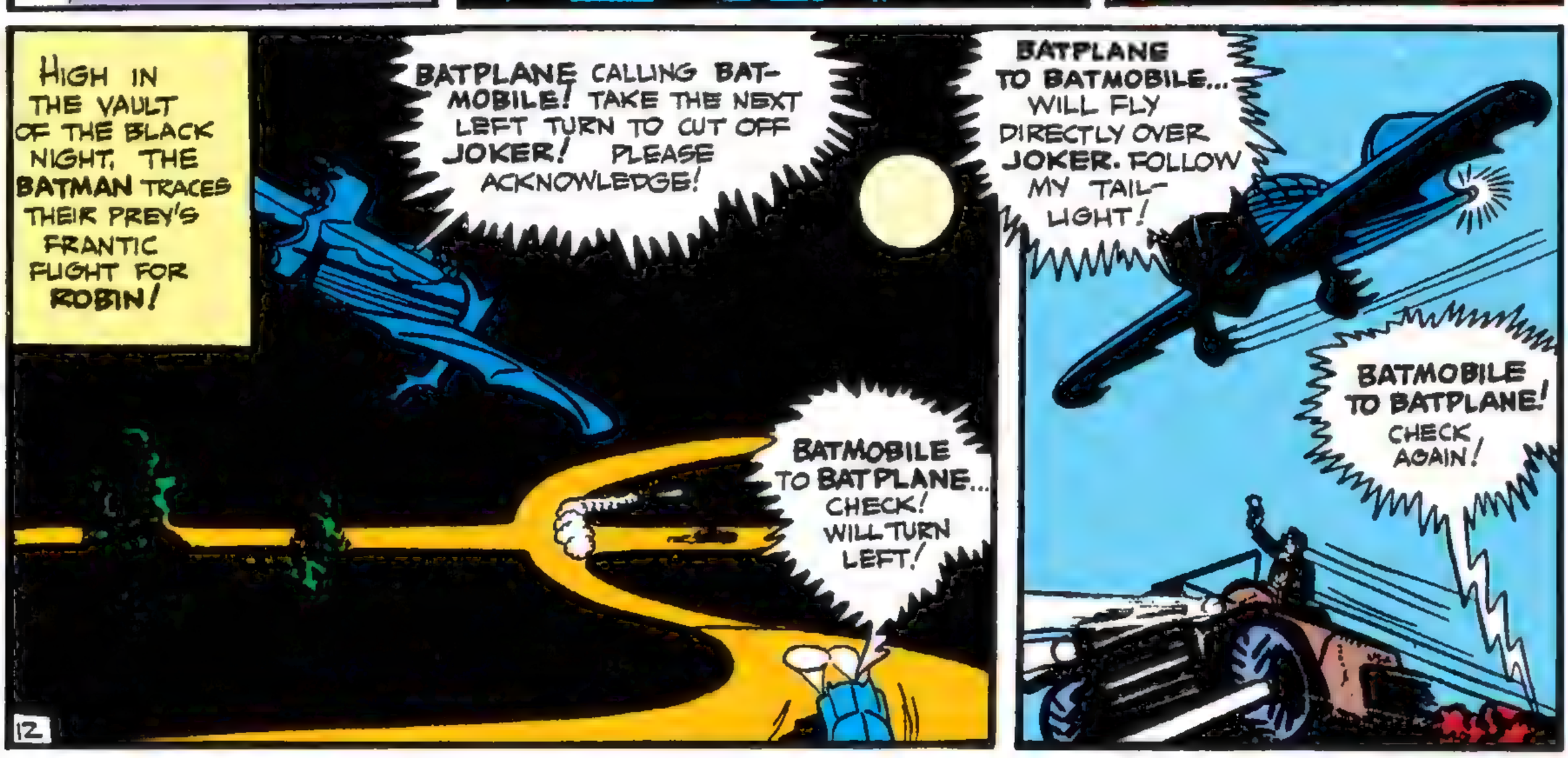

PLUMMETING DOWNWARD IN FLAILING FLIGHT, THE JOKER BREAKS HIS FALL WITH CUNNING AGILITY.
HEY, BUDDY! WHAT GIVES OUT? YOU CAN'T HITCH RIDES... THIS IS AN ARMY "JEEP!"
YOU IDIOT, I'M THE JOKER! MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR WHOLE SILLY ARMY!
SNAP

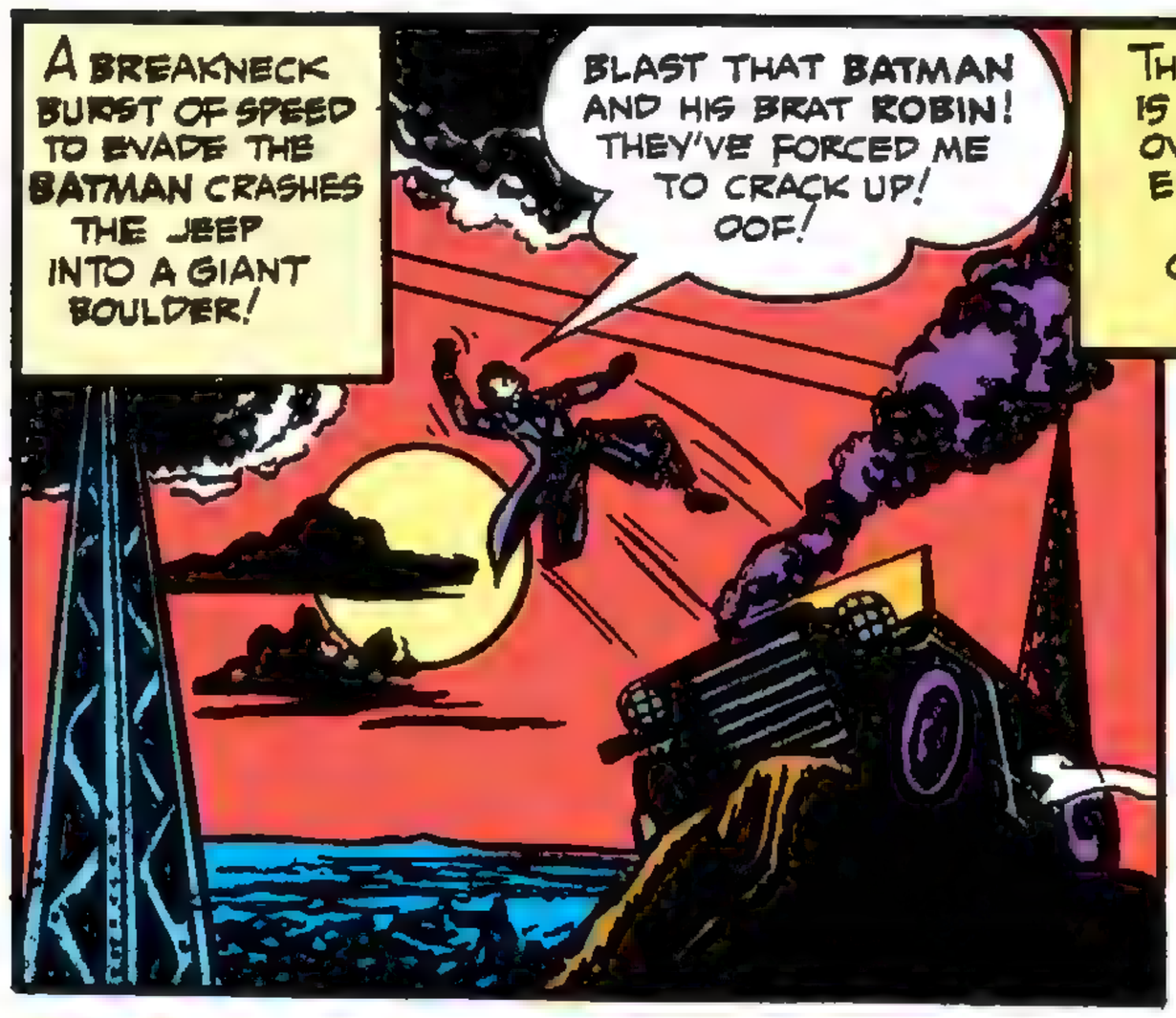
SORRY, BUT THE JOKER PERMITS NO HITCH-RIDERS IN HIS JEEP!
OWWW!

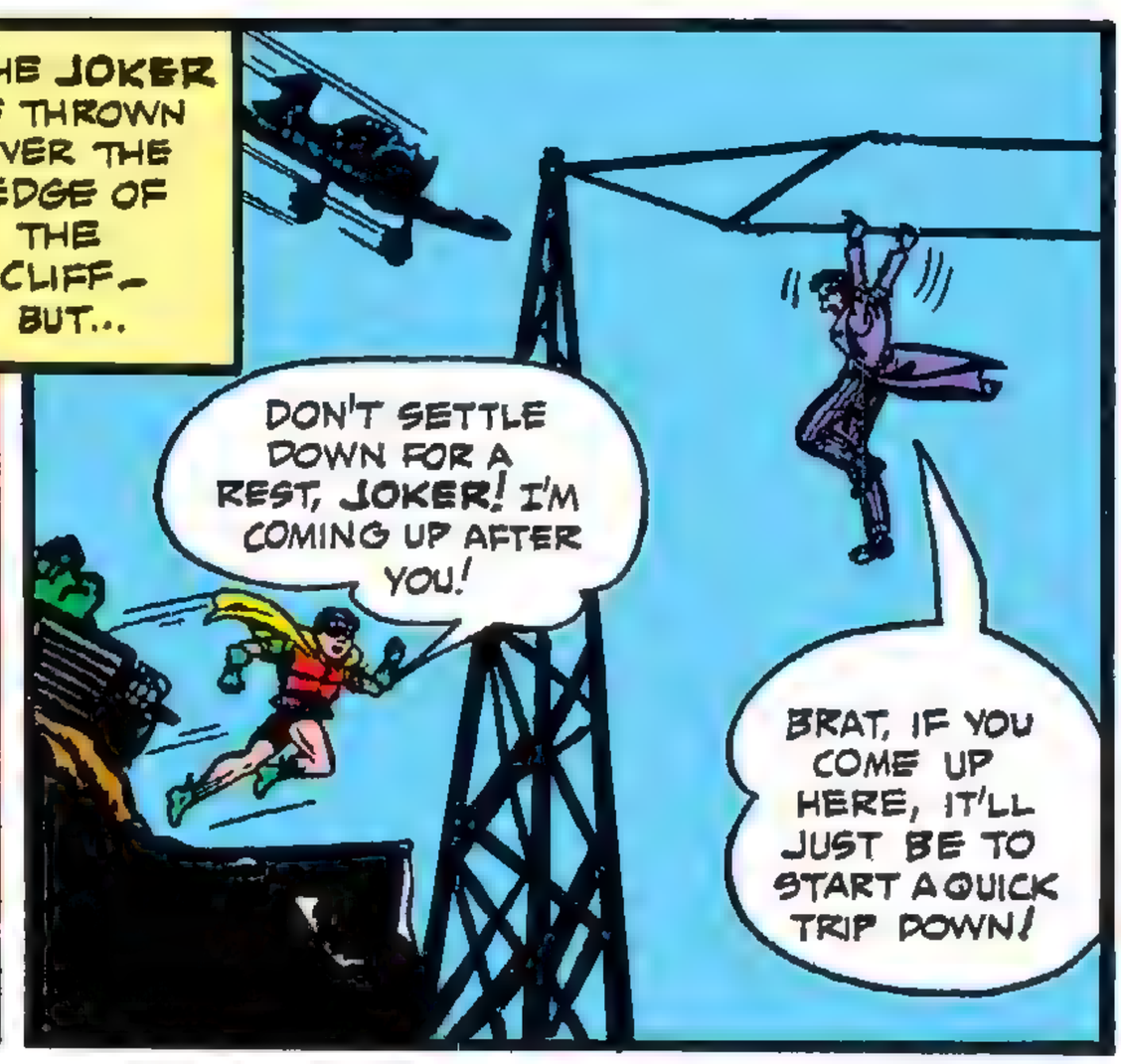

AS THE GRIM JESTER ROARS THROUGH THE CITY, THE CAPED COMRADES VAULT INTO THE BAT-MOBILE...
BURN UP THE ROAD, ROBIN! THE JOKER IS DRIVING OUT TOWARD THE COUNTRY.
HANG ON, BATMAN! WE'RE ROLLING!


A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE SPEEDING CAR STREAKS THROUGH THE CITY SUBURBS.
WE'RE CLOSE TO OUR HOUSE, ROBIN! I'M GOING FOR THE BATPLANE! STAY ON THE JOKER'S TRAIL!
BATMAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

IN THAT JEEP HE CAN LEAVE THE ROAD AND GO ANY-WHERE. ONLY A PLANE COULD TAIL HIM!


HIGH IN THE VAULT OF THE BLACK NIGHT, THE BATMAN TRACES THEIR PREY'S FRANTIC FLIGHT FOR ROBIN!
BATPLANE CALLING BAT-MOBILE! TAKE THE NEXT LEFT TURN TO CUT OFF JOKER! PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE!
BATMOBILE TO BATPLANE... CHECK! WILL TURN LEFT!
BATPLANE TO BATMOBILE... WILL FLY DIRECTLY OVER JOKER. FOLLOW MY TAIL-LIGHT!
BATMOBILE TO BATPLANE! CHECK AGAIN!
12

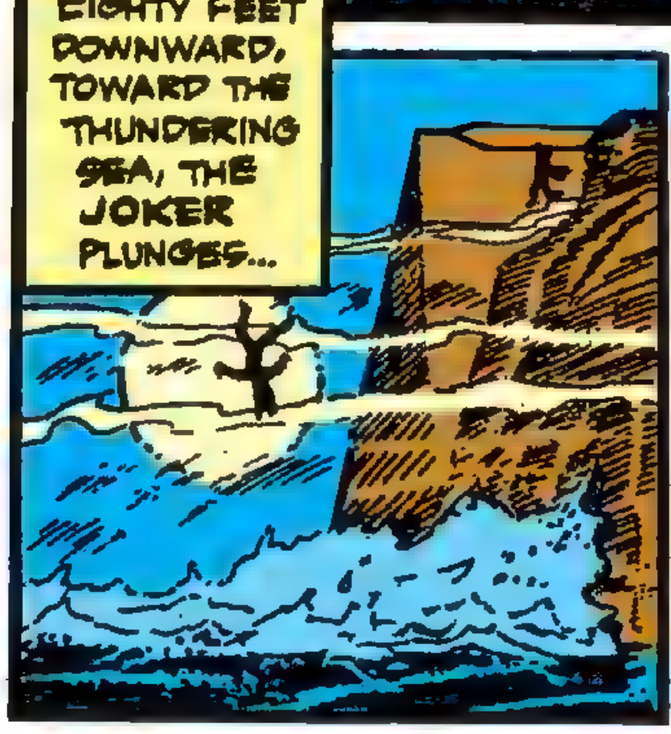

A BREAKNECK BURST OF SPEED TO EVADE THE BATMAN CRASHES THE JEEP INTO A GIANT BOULDER!
BLAST THAT BATMAN AND HIS BRAT ROBIN! THEY'VE FORCED ME TO CRACK UP! OOF!


THE JOKER IS THROWN OVER THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF— BUT...
DON'T SETTLE DOWN FOR A REST, JOKER! I'M COMING UP AFTER YOU!
BRAT, IF YOU COME UP HERE, IT'LL JUST BE TO START A QUICK TRIP DOWN!

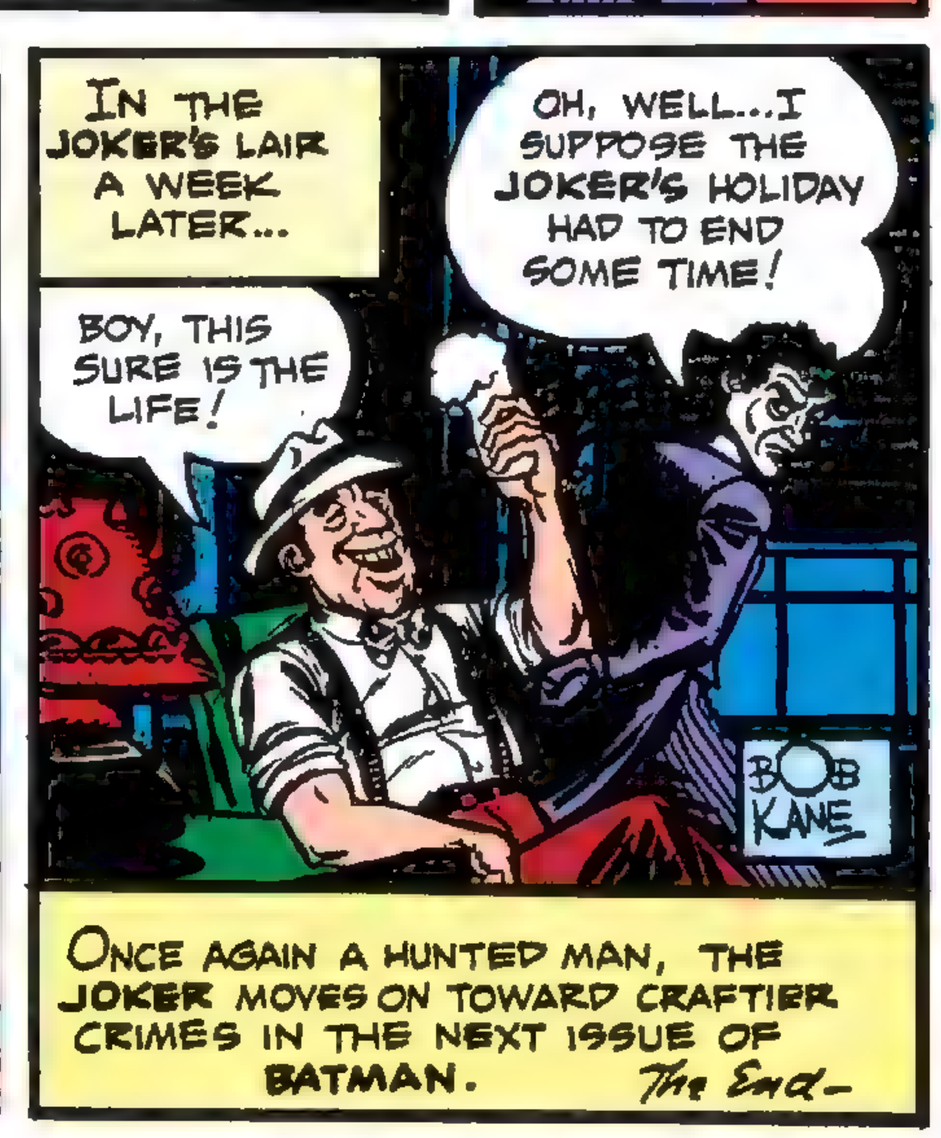
WITH UNCANNY ACCURACY, A TRAILING ROPE FROM THE BATPLANE MEET ROBIN'S EAGER HANDS!
EASY, ROBIN... I'LL LIFT THE SHIP SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE WIRES!
BANG! BANG!
I WARN YOU BOTH... YOU'LL FIND MORE THAN THE JOKER UP HERE/ YOU'LL FIND DEATH! HA! HA!

YOU MAY AS WELL DROP YOUR GUN, JOKER! YOUR SHOOTING DAYS ARE OVER!
AND THAT'S THE LAST KICK YOU'LL EVER DELIVER, BRAT!

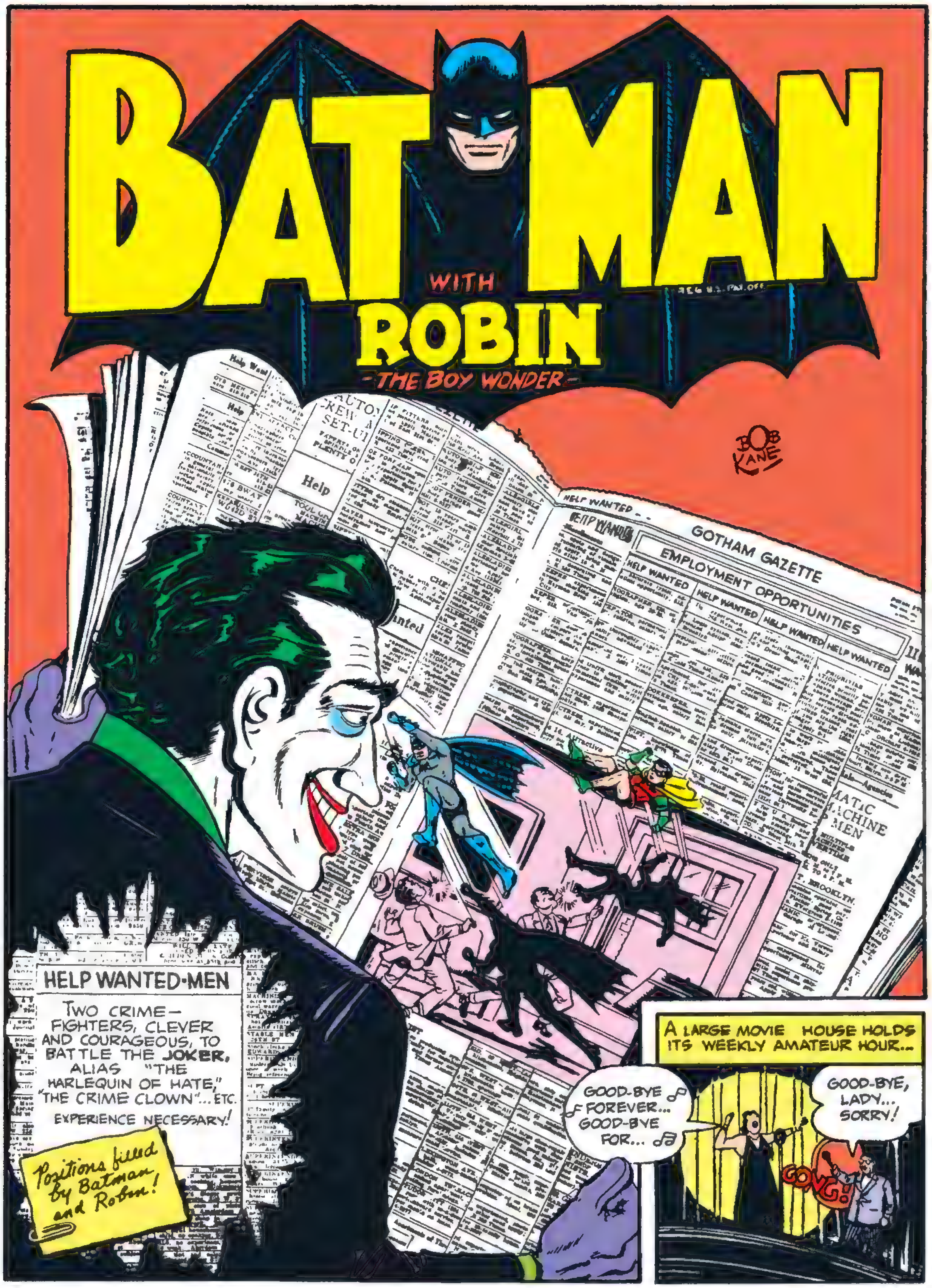
AS THE BATPLANE CIRCLES TO LAND, THE HEAVY KNOTTED ROPE SLASHES ACROSS THE WIRES!
OH, MY FACE! MY FACE!


EIGHTY FEET DOWNWARD, TOWARD THE THUNDERING SEA, THE JOKER PLUNGES...

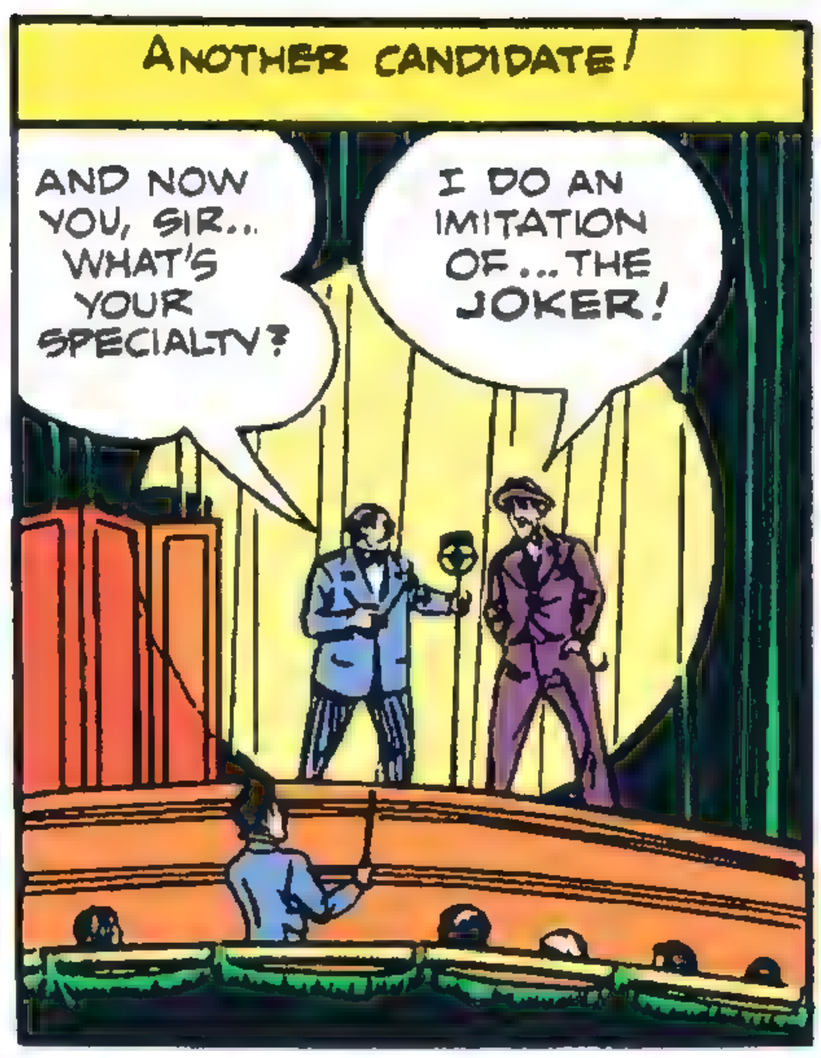
I WONDER IF HE ESCAPED?
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE JOKER ANYWHERE... BUT THEN, NO LIVING THING COULD WITHSTAND THE POUNDING OF THAT WATER!
13


IN THE JOKER'S LAIR A WEEK LATER...
BOY, THIS SURE IS THE LIFE!
OH, WELL...I SUPPOSE THE JOKER'S HOLIDAY HAD TO END SOME TIME!
BOB KANE
ONCE AGAIN A HUNTED MAN, THE JOKER MOVES ON TOWARD CRAFTIER CRIMES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF BATMAN. The End—

No. 11 JUNE JULY
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
IND
BATMAN
K
J
R
A

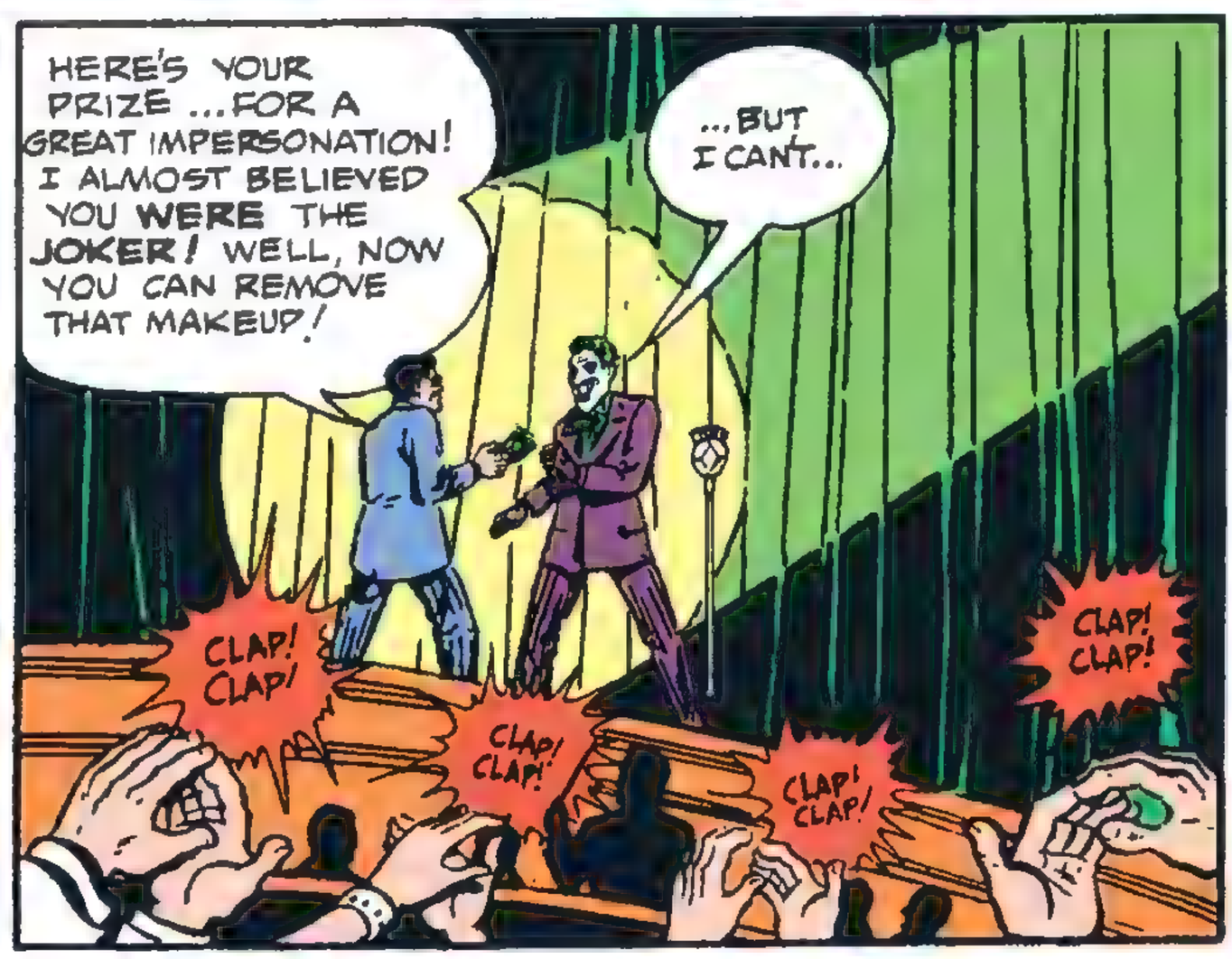

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
BOB KANE
HELP WANTED
GOTHAM GAZETTE
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
HELP WANTED
HELP WANTED-MEN
TWO CRIME-FIGHTERS, CLEVER AND COURAGEOUS, TO BATTLE THE JOKER, ALIAS "THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE," "THE CRIME CLOWN"... ETC.
EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
Positions filled by Batman and Robin!
A LARGE MOVIE HOUSE HOLDS ITS WEEKLY AMATEUR HOUR...
GOOD-BYE FOREVER... GOOD-BYE FOR...
GOOD-BYE, LADY... SORRY!
GONG!

THE SECOND CONTESTANT GIVES HIS IMPRESSION OF A FAMOUS COMEDIAN!
HA-CHA-CHA-CHA!


ANOTHER CANDIDATE!
AND NOW YOU, SIR... WHAT'S YOUR SPECIALTY?
I DO AN IMITATION OF...THE JOKER!

BEHIND A SCREEN, THE MAN BUSIES HIMSELF WITH MAKEUP
WELL, FOLKS, I GUESS YOU'D BETTER PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR A SCARE! WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE JOKER...BRR!

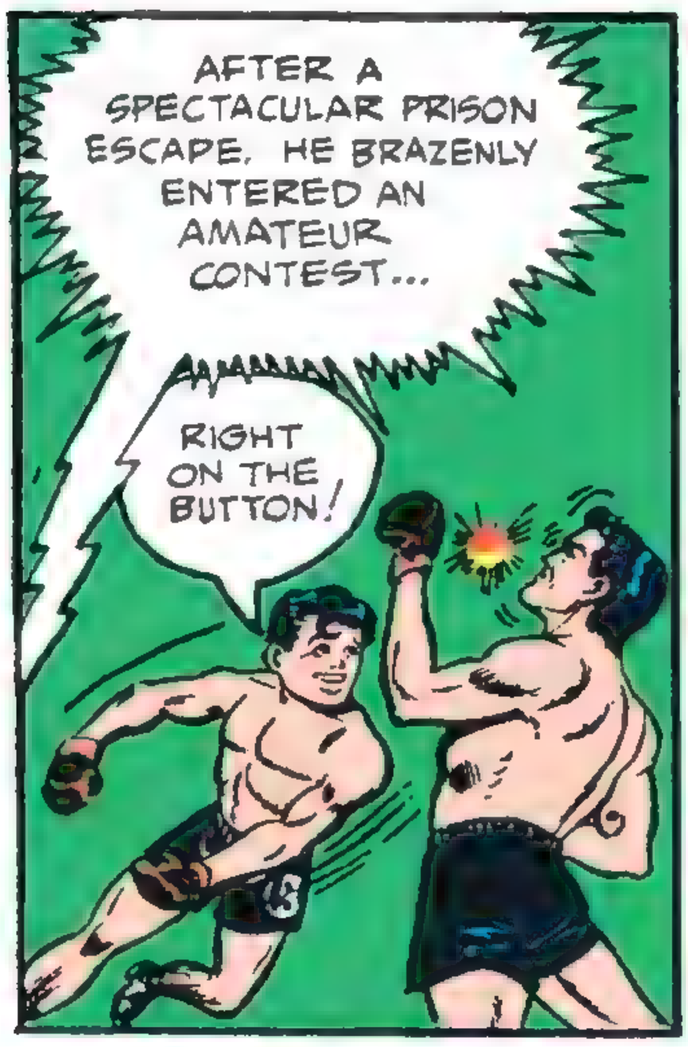
A MOMENT LATER, OUT STEPS A PERFECT DOUBLE FOR THAT CUNNING CRIME CLOWN- THE JOKER!
HA! HA! I'LL BEAT THE BATMAN YET! HA! HA!

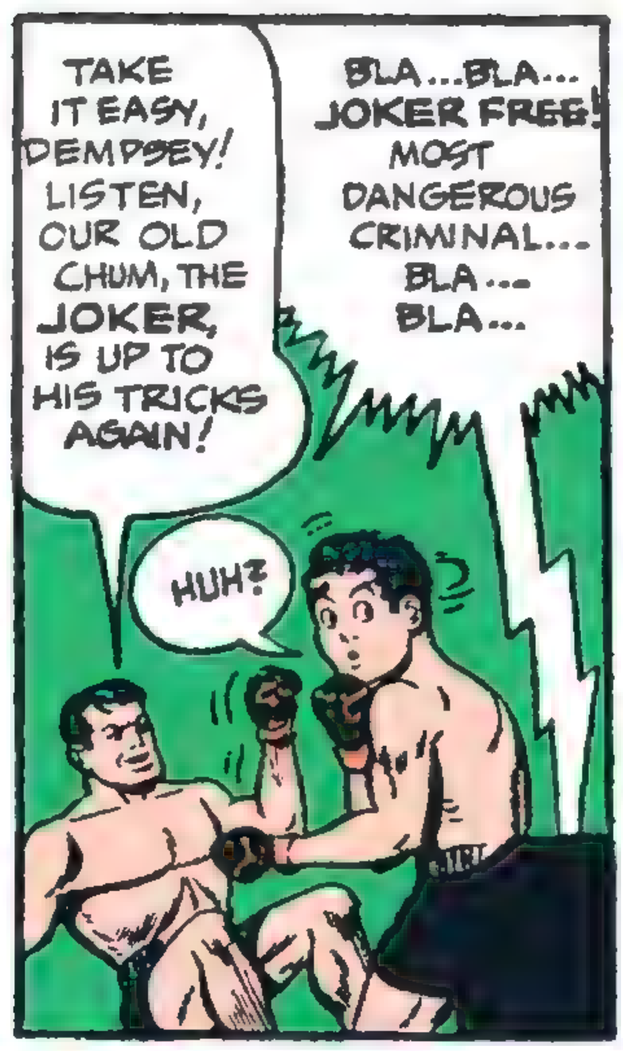

HERE'S YOUR PRIZE ...FOR A GREAT IMPERSONATION! I ALMOST BELIEVED YOU WERE THE JOKER! WELL, NOW YOU CAN REMOVE THAT MAKEUP!
...BUT I CAN'T...
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!

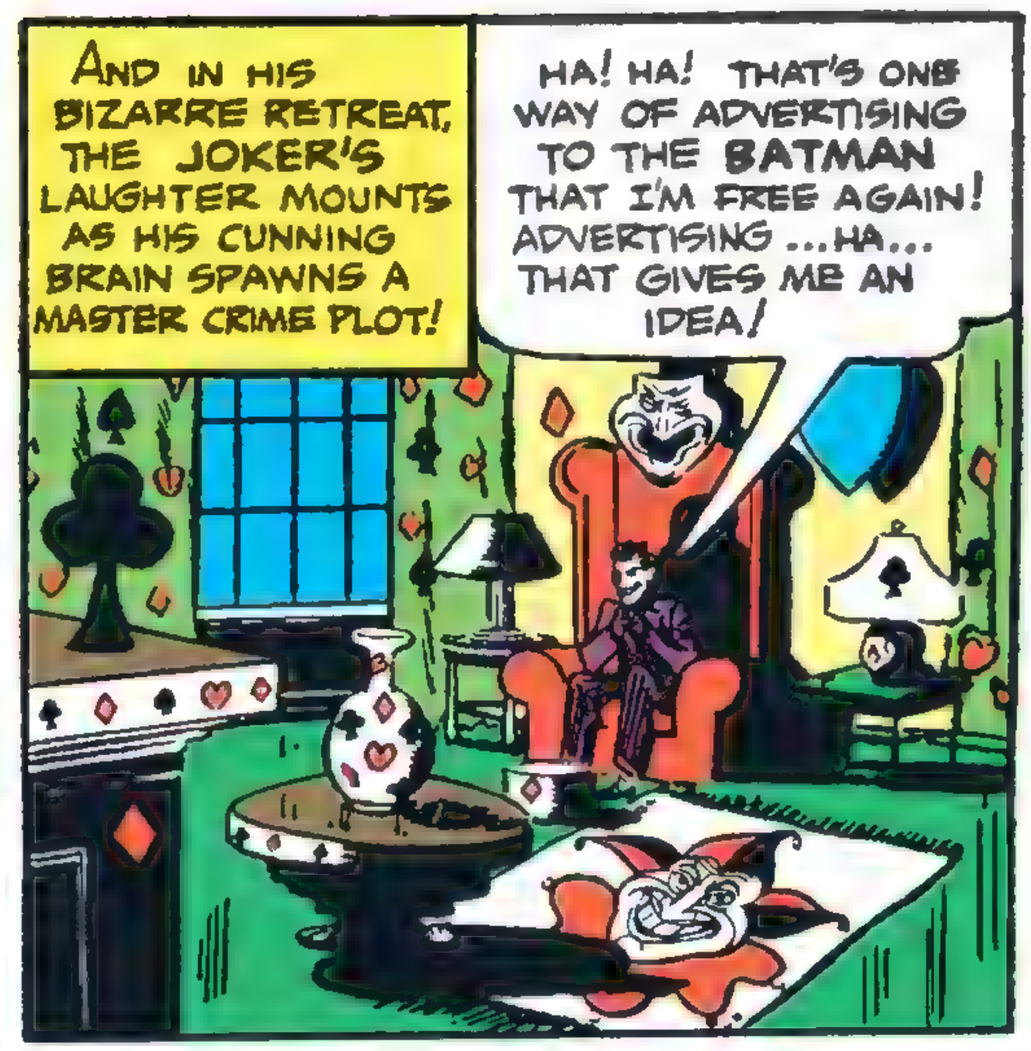
...THE OTHER WAS MAKEUP- THIS IS MY REAL FACE.. FOR I ACTUALLY AM THE JOKER! HA! HA! HA!

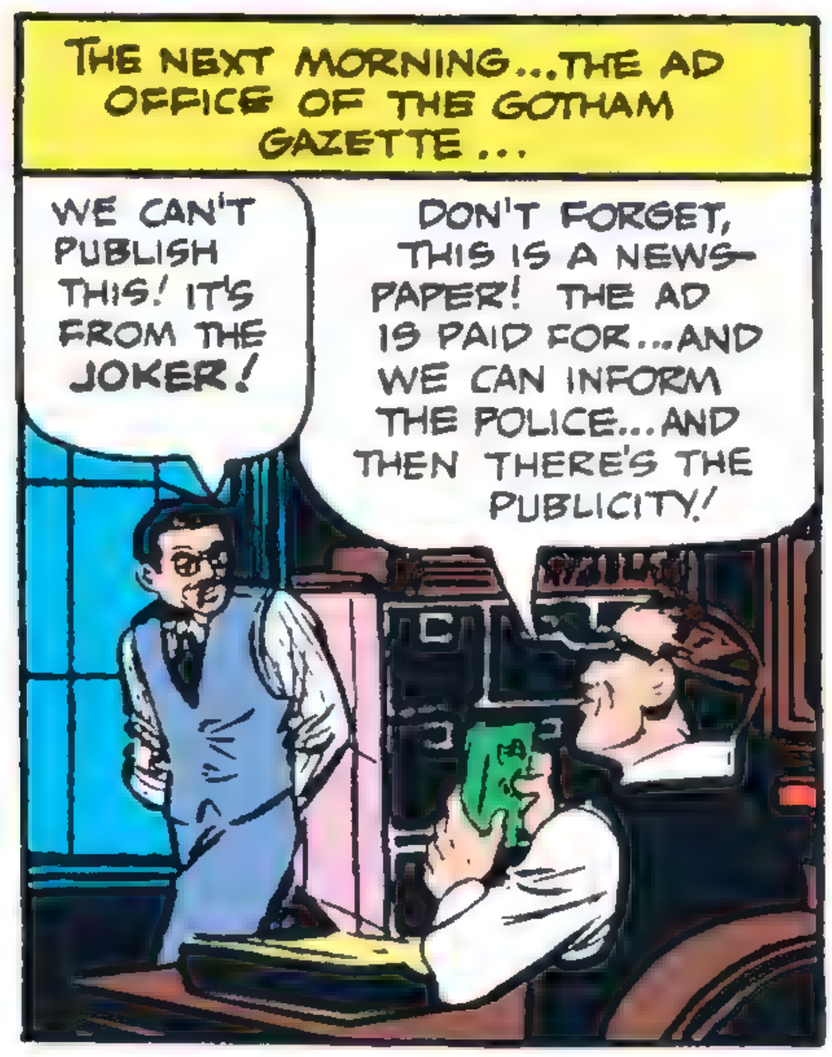
THE SCENE SHIFTS TO THE BUSY GYMNASIUM OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD DICK GRAYSON!
GET IT, NOW? LEFT UPPERCUT FIRST...AND THEN FOLLOW WITH A RIGHT CROSS!
GOLLY... I COULDN'T EVEN SEE THAT ONE!

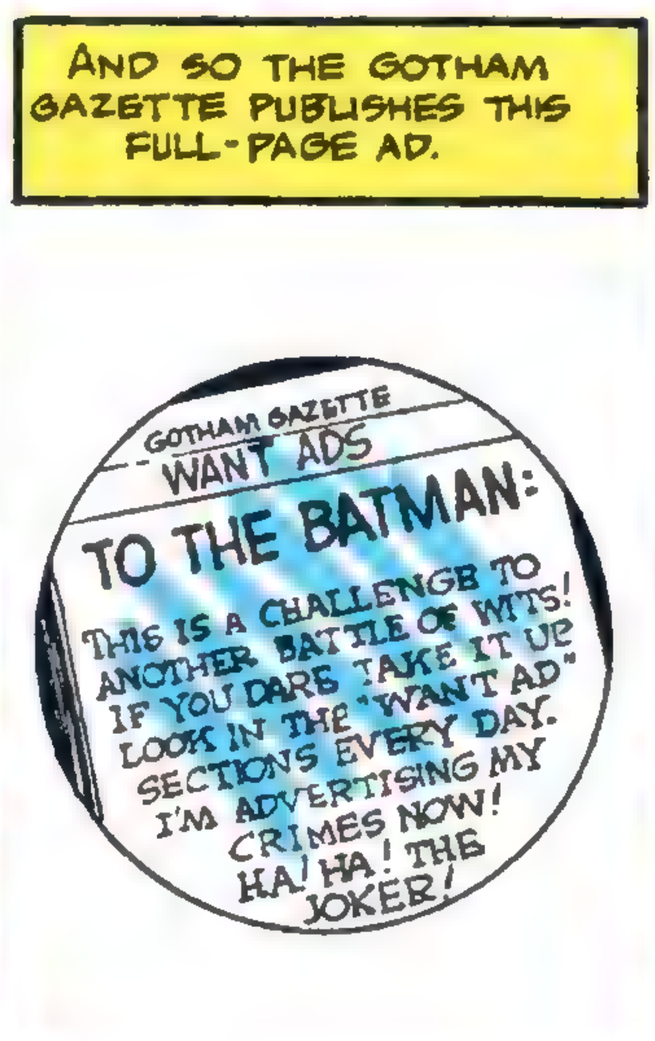
SUDDENLY, A STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT PULLS BRUCE OFF GUARD... BUT DICK IS TOO INTENT AND EAGER...AND-
WE INTERRUPT TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! THE JOKER HAS ESCAPED FROM JAIL!
HUH?


AFTER A SPECTACULAR PRISON ESCAPE, HE BRAZENLY ENTERED AN AMATEUR CONTEST...
RIGHT ON THE BUTTON!

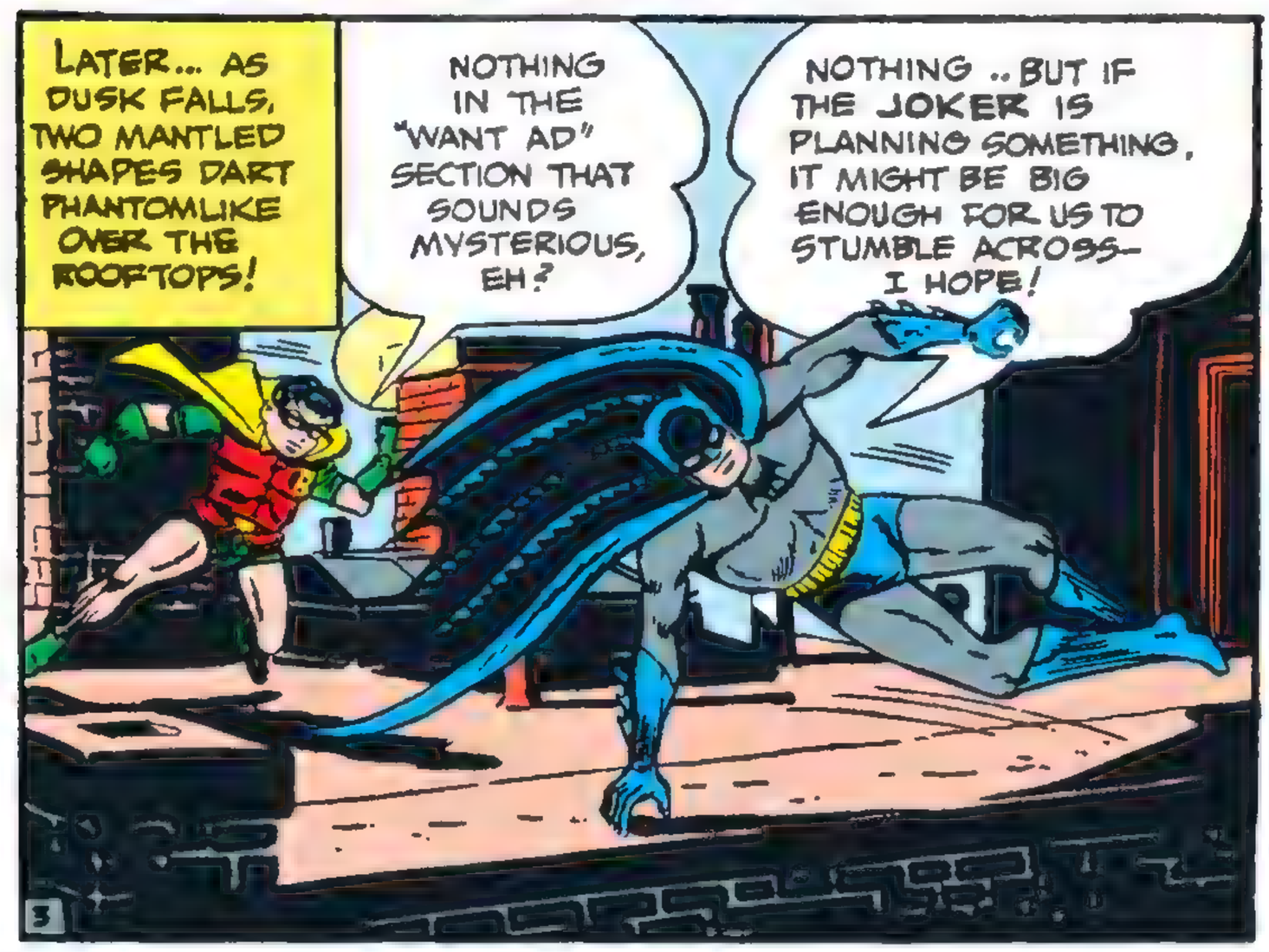

TAKE IT EASY, DEMPSEY! LISTEN, OUR OLD CHUM, THE JOKER, IS UP TO HIS TRICKS AGAIN!
HUH?
BLA...BLA... JOKER FREE! MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL... BLA... BLA...

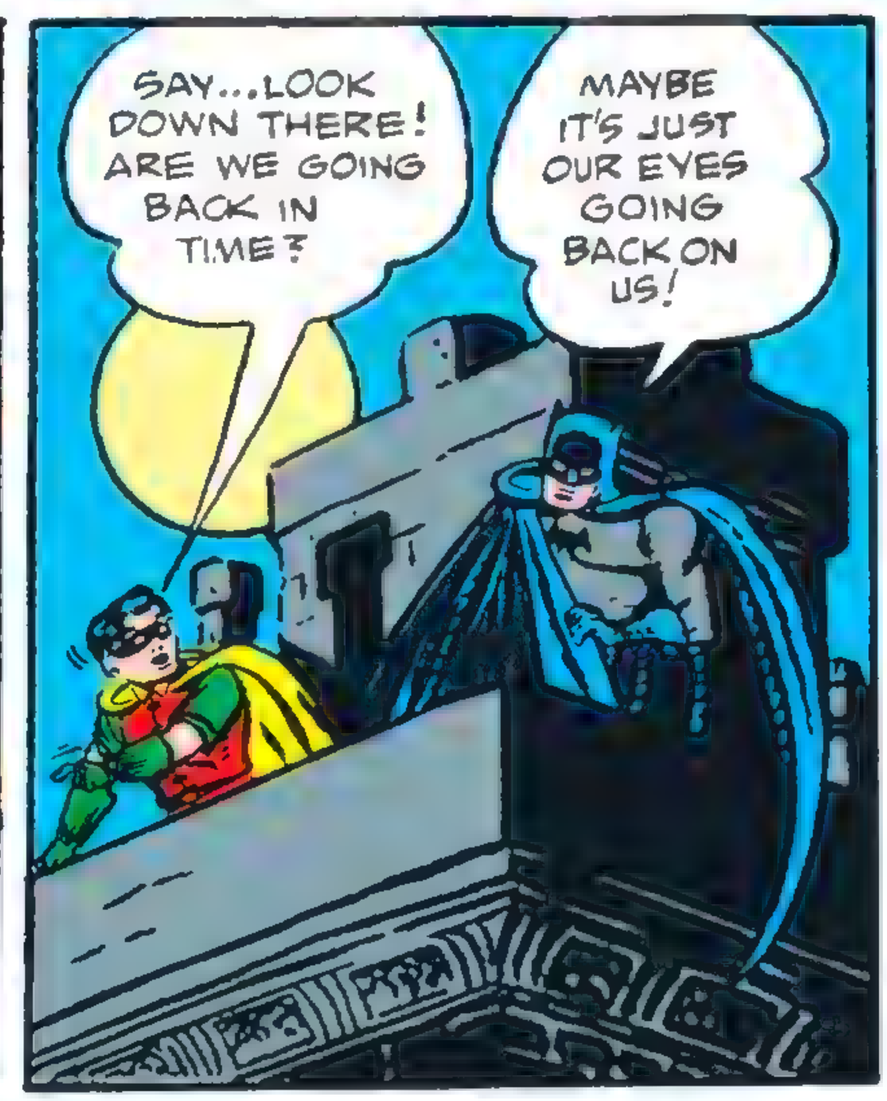

AND IN HIS BIZARRE RETREAT, THE JOKER'S LAUGHTER MOUNTS AS HIS CUNNING BRAIN SPAWNS A MASTER CRIME PLOT!
HA! HA! THAT'S ONE WAY OF ADVERTISING TO THE BATMAN THAT I'M FREE AGAIN! ADVERTISING ...HA... THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

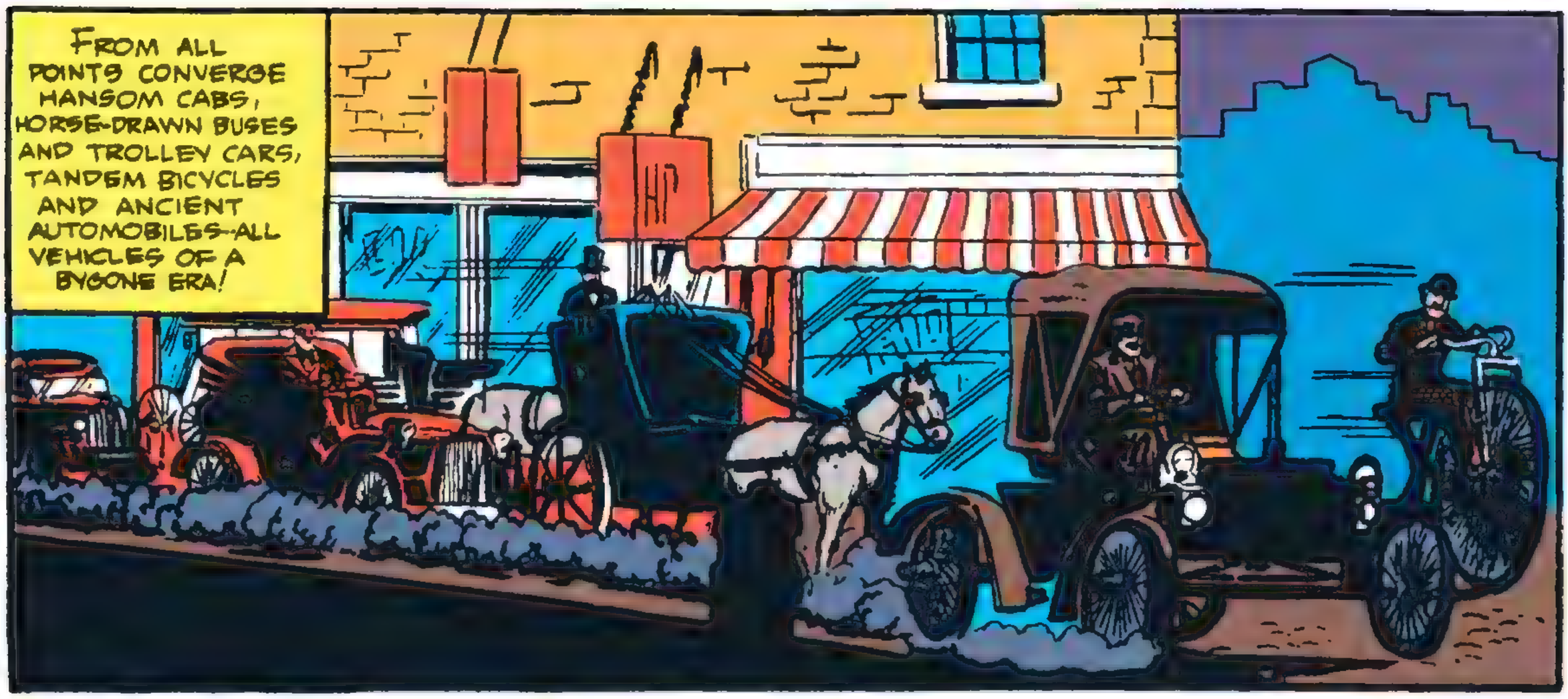

THE NEXT MORNING...THE AD OFFICE OF THE GOTHAM GAZETTE...
WE CAN'T PUBLISH THIS! IT'S FROM THE JOKER!
DON'T FORGET, THIS IS A NEWSPAPER! THE AD IS PAID FOR...AND WE CAN INFORM THE POLICE...AND THEN THERE'S THE PUBLICITY!


AND SO THE GOTHAM GAZETTE PUBLISHES THIS FULL-PAGE AD.
GOTHAM GAZETTE WANT ADS
TO THE BATMAN:
THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO ANOTHER BATTLE OF WITS! IF YOU DARE TAKE IT UP LOOK IN THE "WANT AD" SECTIONS EVERY DAY. I'M ADVERTISING MY CRIMES NOW! HA! HA! THE JOKER!

DICKEY, MY LAD, LAY OUT OUR WORKING CLOTHES! WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS AGAIN! NOW...WHERE'S THE "WANT AD" SECTION?

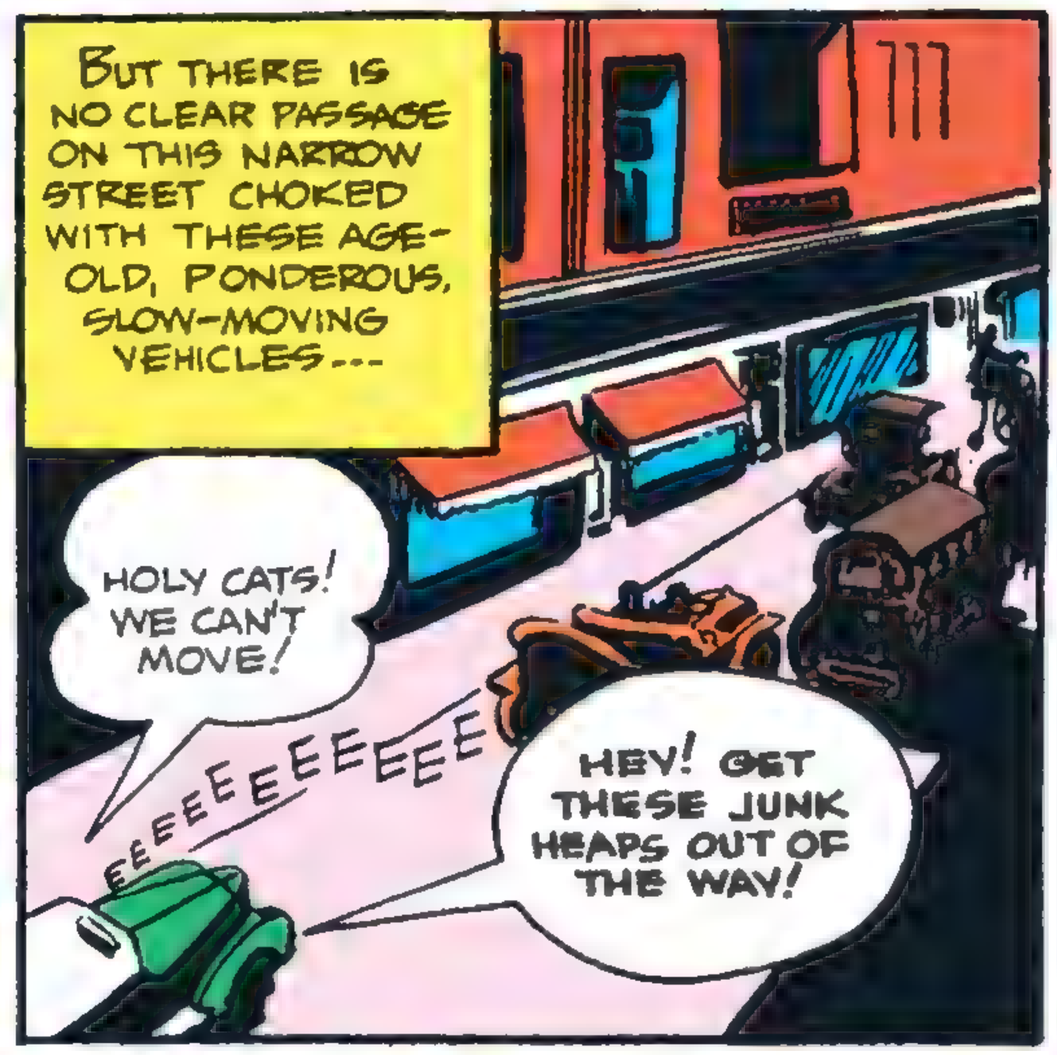

LATER... AS DUSK FALLS, TWO MANTLED SHAPES DART PHANTOMLIKE OVER THE ROOFTOPS!
NOTHING IN THE "WANT AD" SECTION THAT SOUNDS MYSTERIOUS, EH?
NOTHING ..BUT IF THE JOKER IS PLANNING SOMETHING, IT MIGHT BE BIG ENOUGH FOR US TO STUMBLE ACROSS— I HOPE!

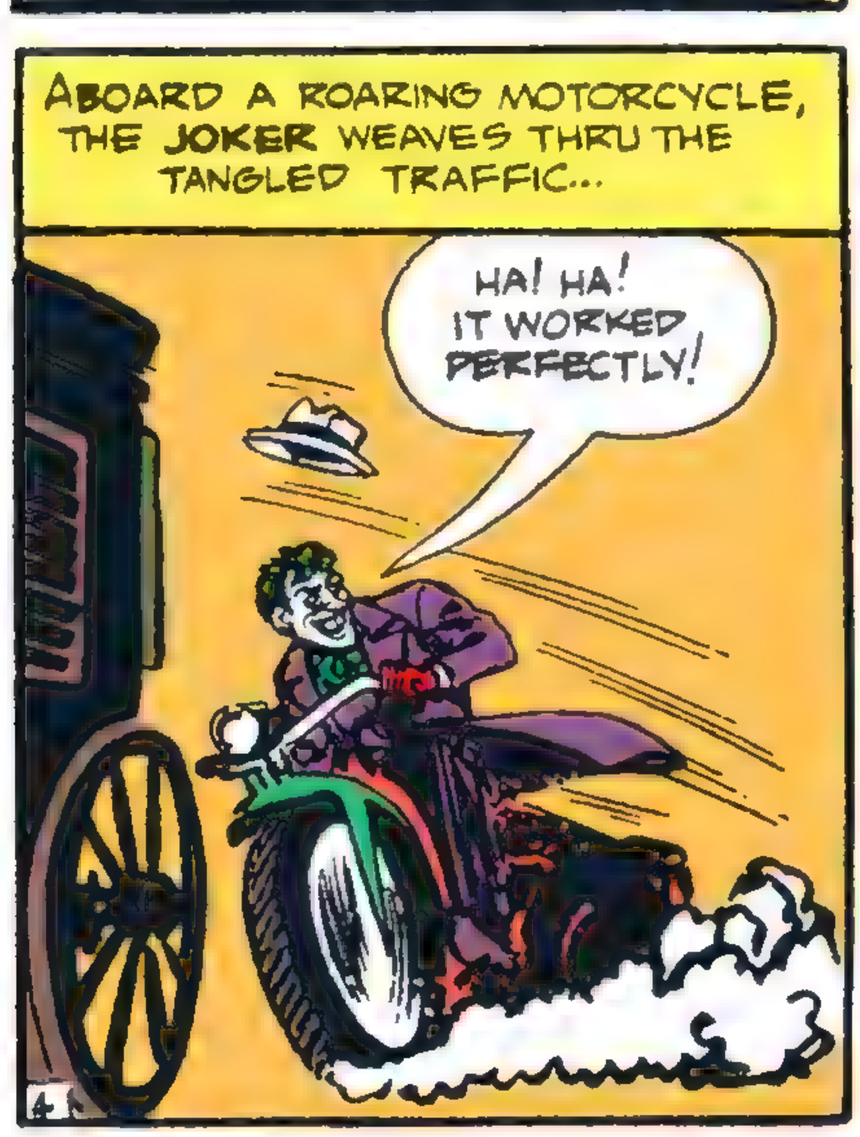

SAY...LOOK DOWN THERE! ARE WE GOING BACK IN TIME?
MAYBE IT'S JUST OUR EYES GOING BACK ON US!


FROM ALL POINTS CONVERGE HANSOM CABS, HORSE-DRAWN BUSES AND TROLLEY CARS, TANDEM BICYCLES AND ANCIENT AUTOMOBILES--ALL VEHICLES OF A BYGONE ERA!

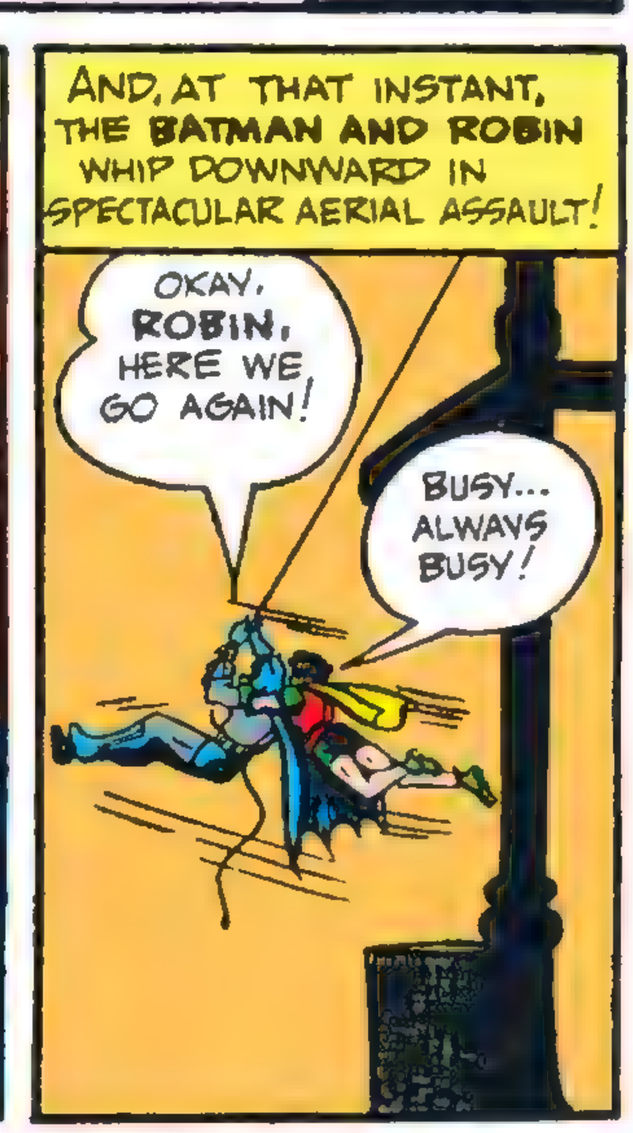
SUDDENLY, A CRY!... AND A TERRIBLY FAMILIAR LAUGH!
HA! HA, HA!
THE JOKER! HELP!
JEWELRY

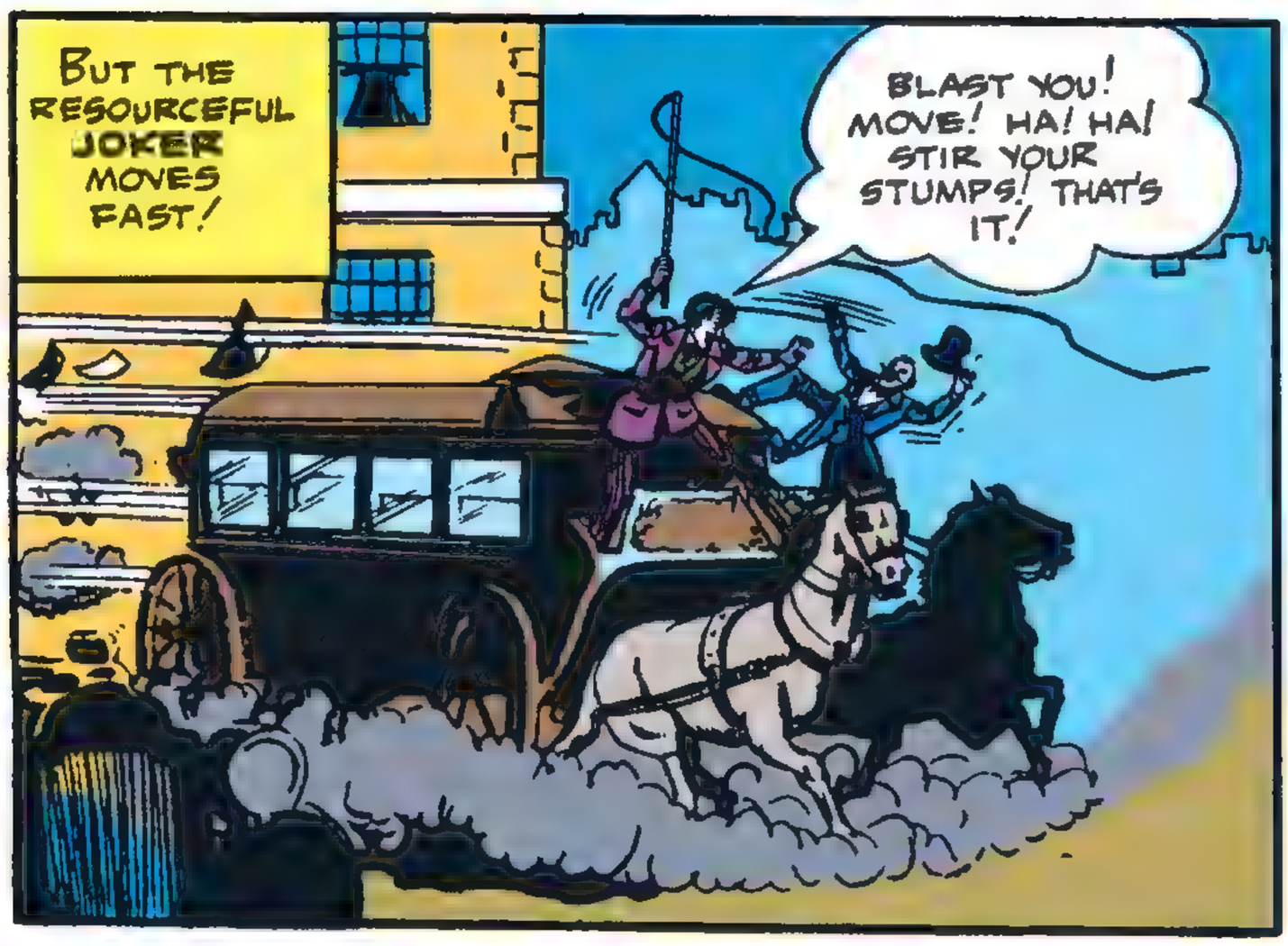
CRUISING POLICE CARS RACE FROM NEARBY SECTORS.
IT CAME FROM AROUND THIS CORNER!

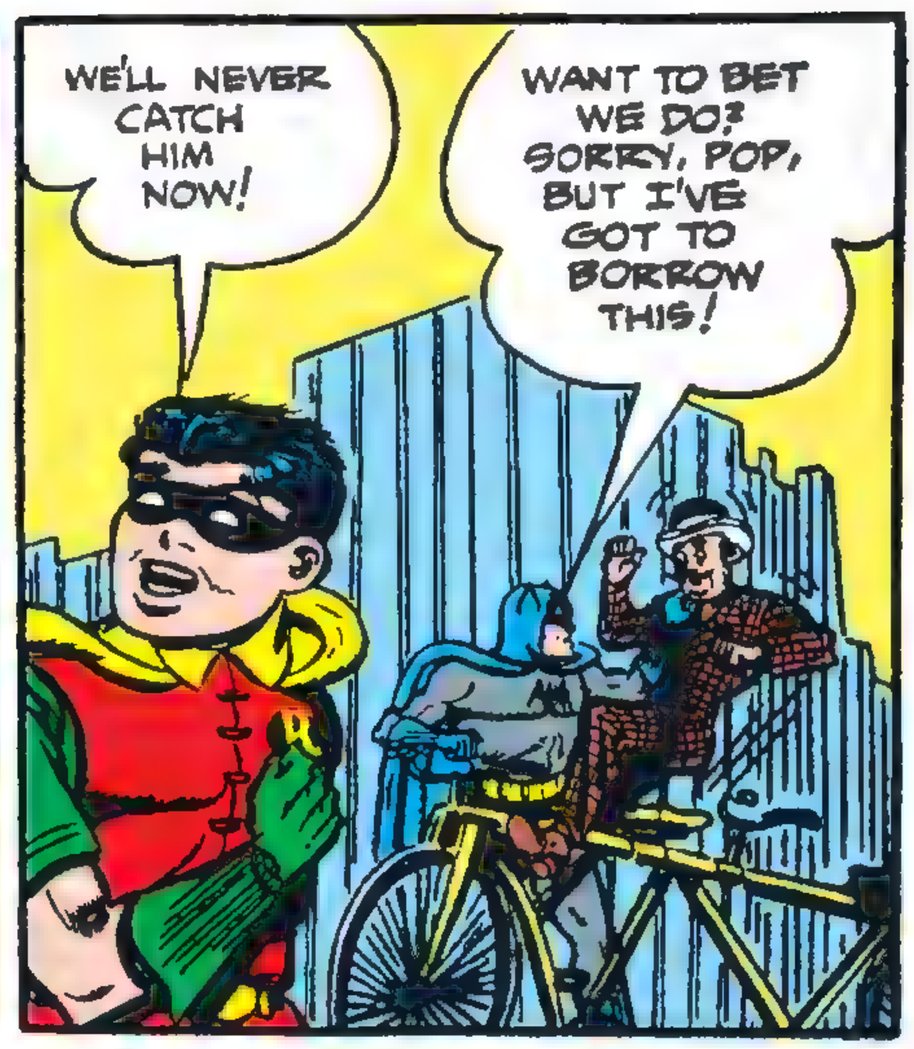

BUT THERE IS NO CLEAR PASSAGE ON THIS NARROW STREET CHOKED WITH THESE AGE-OLD, PONDEROUS, SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES---
HOLY CATS! WE CAN'T MOVE!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
HEY! GET THESE JUNK HEAPS OUT OF THE WAY!

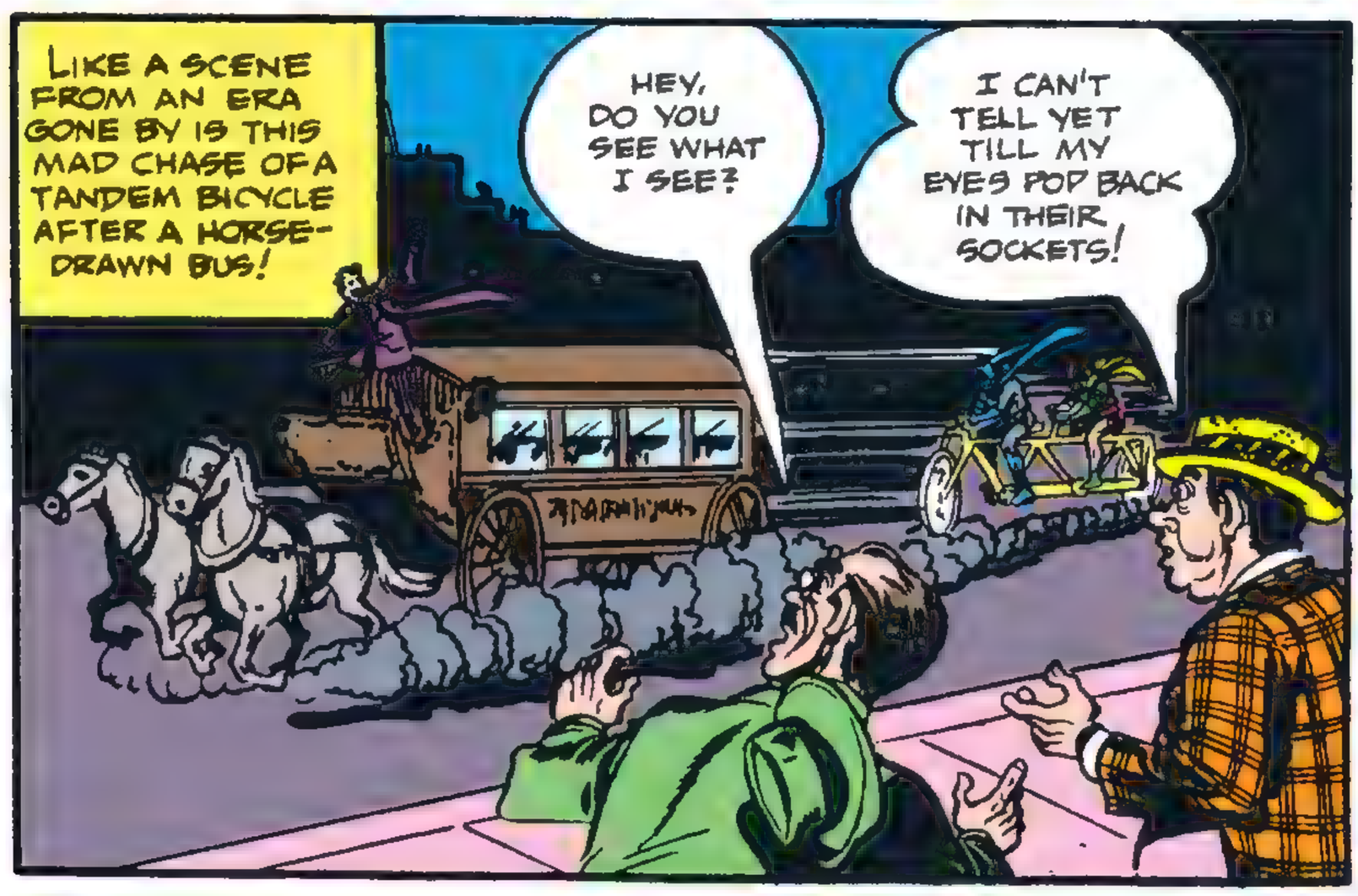

ABOARD A ROARING MOTORCYCLE, THE JOKER WEAVES THRU THE TANGLED TRAFFIC...
HA! HA! IT WORKED PERFECTLY!

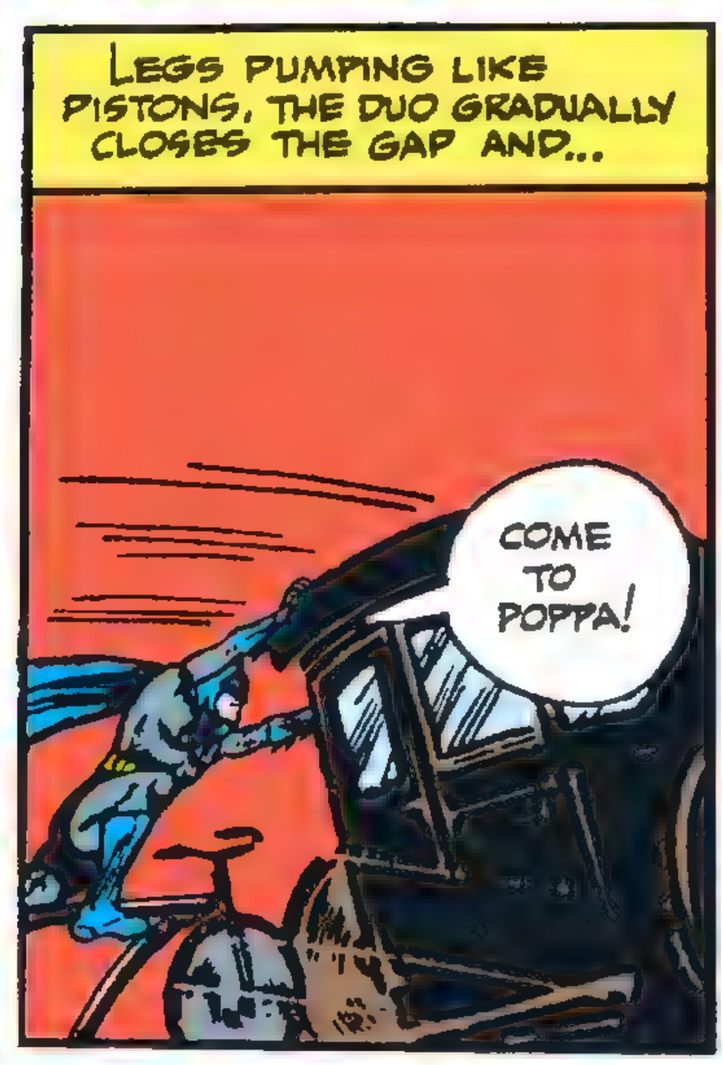
A LUCKY SHOT BLASTS A TIRE...!
BANG!
BANG


AND, AT THAT INSTANT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN WHIP DOWNWARD IN SPECTACULAR AERIAL ASSAULT!
OKAY, ROBIN, HERE WE GO AGAIN!
BUSY... ALWAYS BUSY!


BUT THE RESOURCEFUL JOKER MOVES FAST!
BLAST YOU! MOVE! HA! HA! STIR YOUR STUMPS! THAT'S IT!

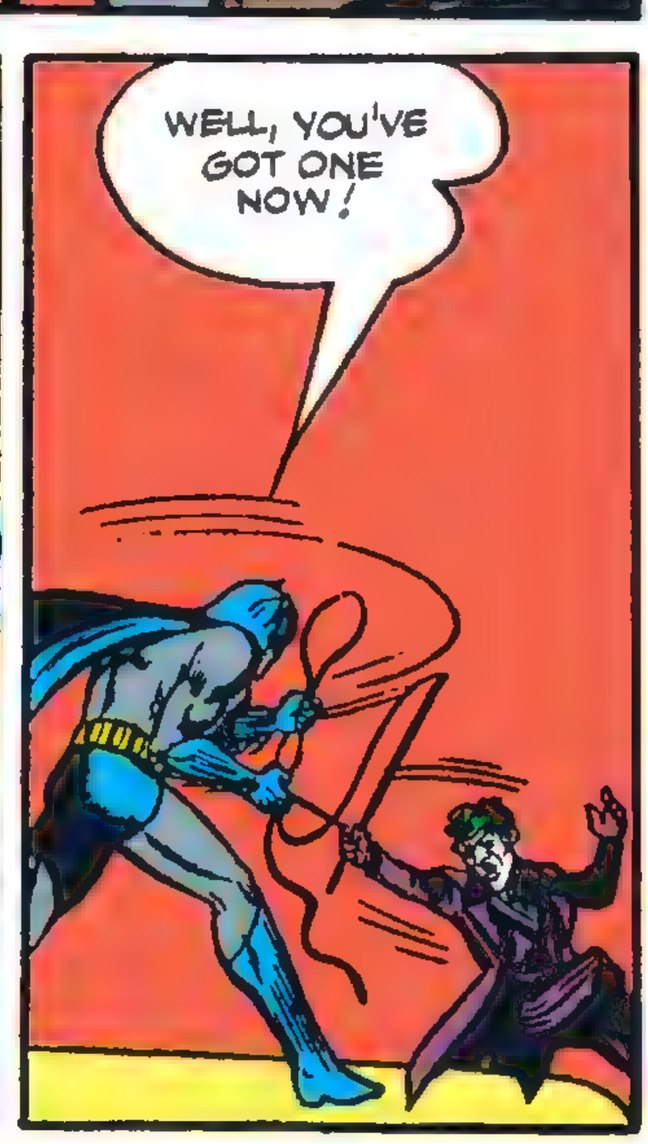

WE'LL NEVER CATCH HIM NOW!
WANT TO BET WE DO? SORRY, POP, BUT I'VE GOT TO BORROW THIS!

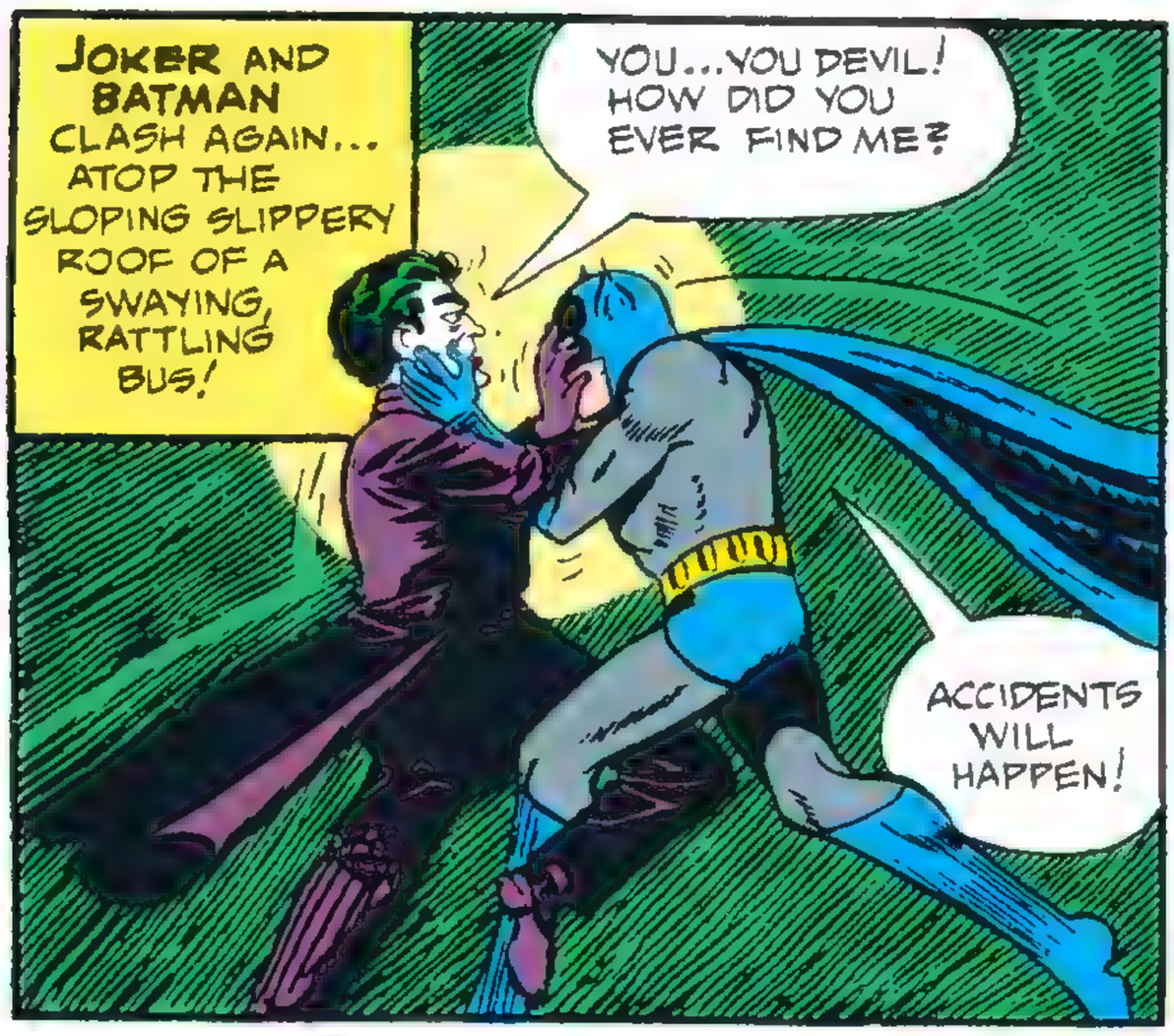

LIKE A SCENE FROM AN ERA GONE BY IS THIS MAD CHASE OF A TANDEM BICYCLE AFTER A HORSE-DRAWN BUS!
HEY, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
I CAN'T TELL YET TILL MY EYES POP BACK IN THEIR SOCKETS!

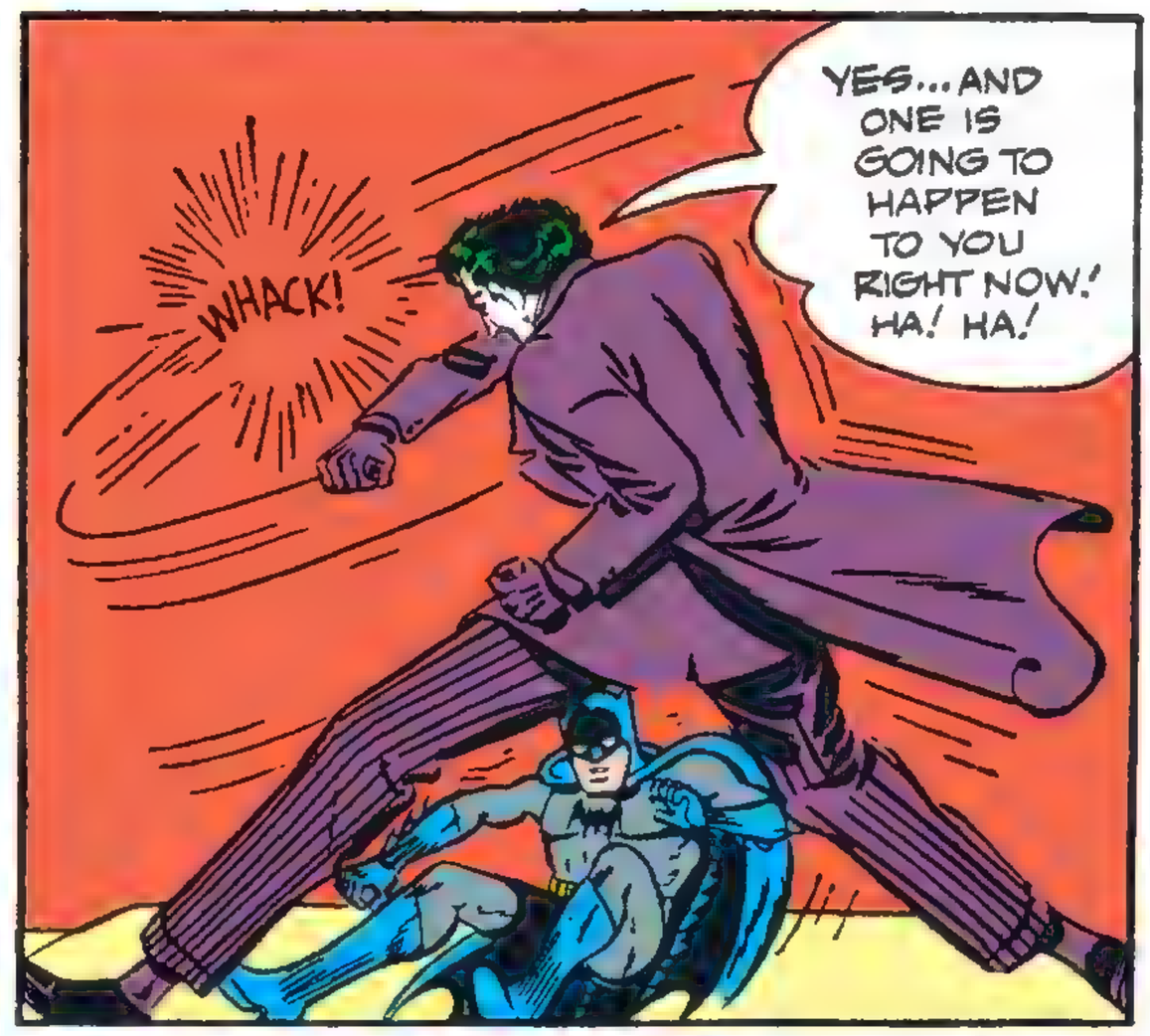

LEGS PUMPING LIKE PISTONS, THE DUO GRADUALLY CLOSES THE GAP AND...
COME TO POPPA!

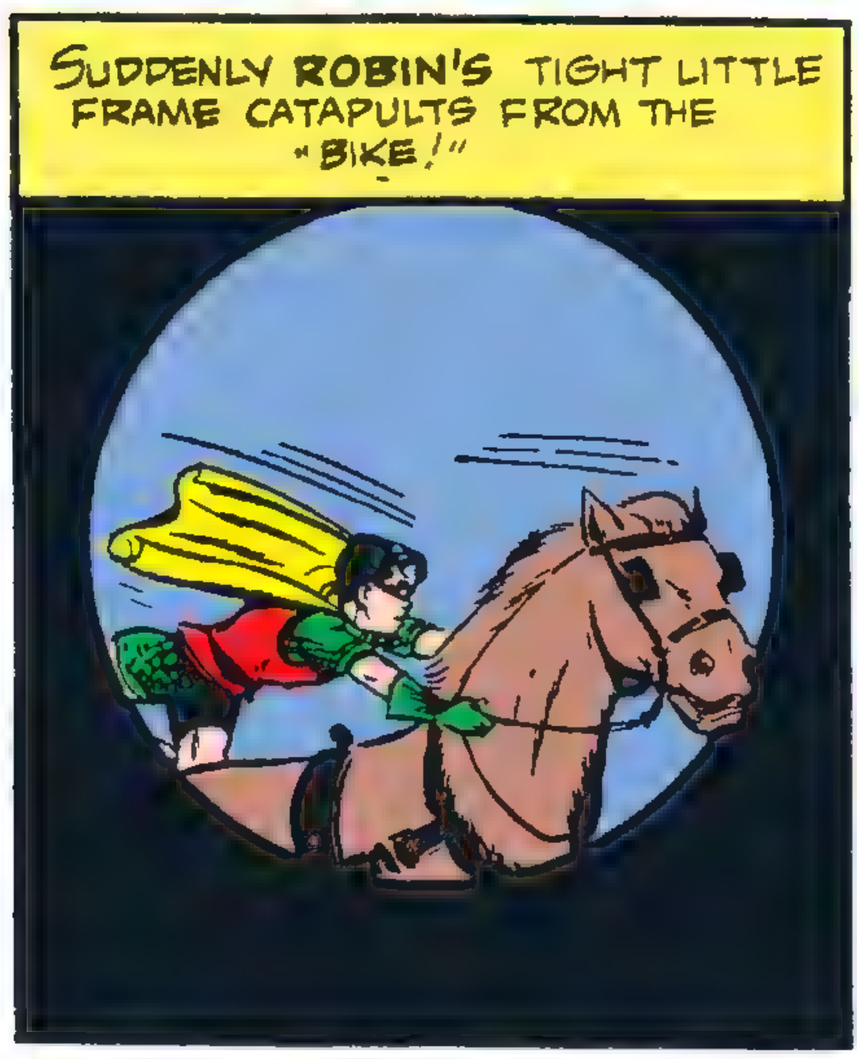
CATLIKE, THE CRIME-FIGHTER PICKS HIS WAY OVER THE LURCHING BUS THAT TEARS ALONG AT A BONE-JARRING CLIP!
5

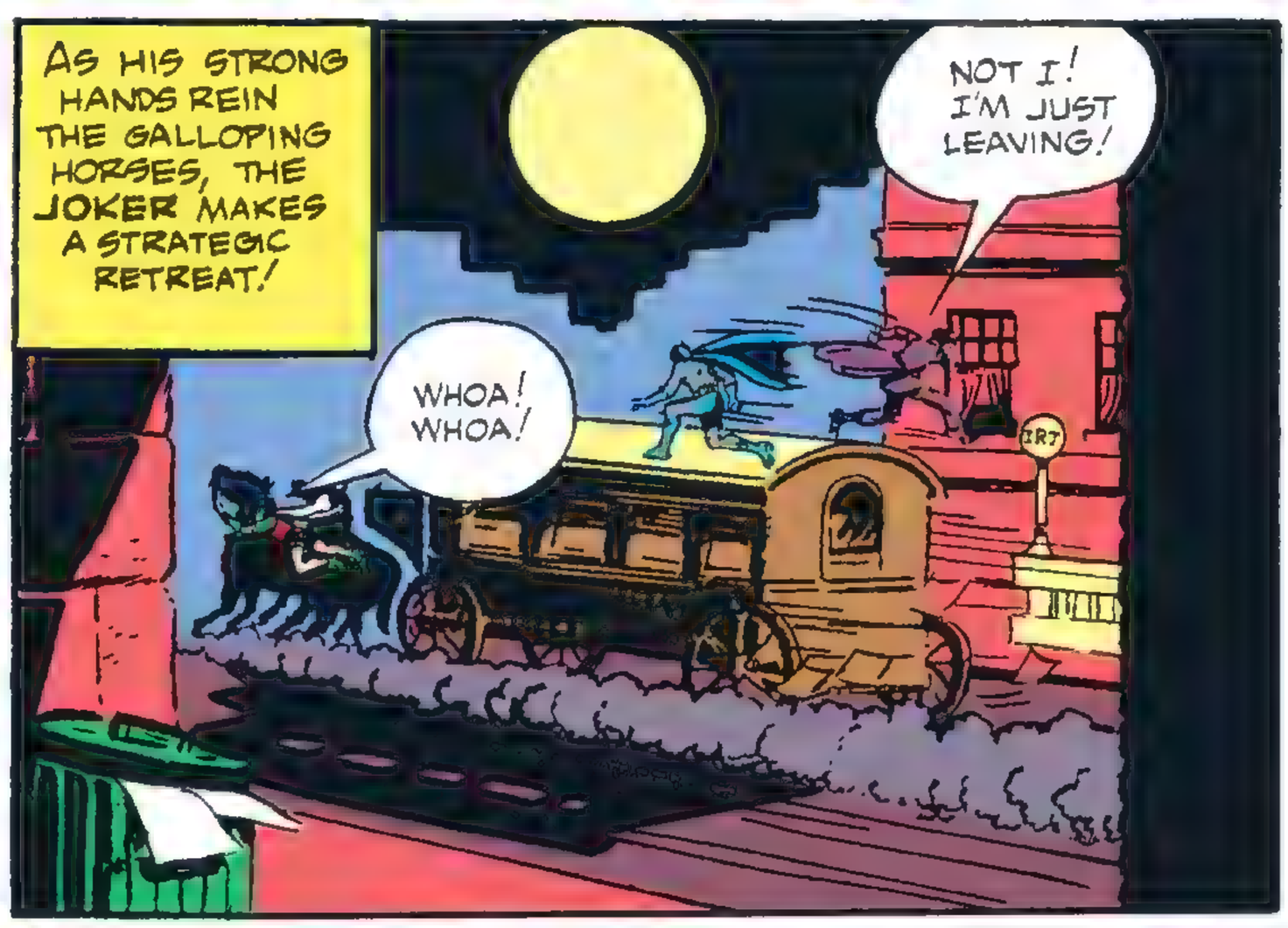
CRACK!
GET OFF! THIS BUS ISN'T TAKING ANY PASSENGERS!


WELL, YOU'VE GOT ONE NOW!


JOKER AND BATMAN CLASH AGAIN... ATOP THE SLOPING SLIPPERY ROOF OF A SWAYING, RATTLING BUS!
YOU...YOU DEVIL! HOW DID YOU EVER FIND ME?
ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN!


WHACK!
YES...AND ONE IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU RIGHT NOW! HA! HA!


SUDDENLY ROBIN'S TIGHT LITTLE FRAME CATAPULTS FROM THE "BIKE!"


AS HIS STRONG HANDS REIN THE GALLOPING HORSES, THE JOKER MAKES A STRATEGIC RETREAT!
NOT I! I'M JUST LEAVING!
WHOA! WHOA!

DOWN INTO A SUBWAY RACES THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE!
HEY, PUT IN YOUR NICKEL!
MY FRIEND BEHIND ME IS PAYING!
6

YOU WON'T MAKE IT, BATMAN! HA! HA!

DON'T FORGET TO PAY MY FARE, BATMAN! HA! HA!
SLAM!
I'LL PAY YOUR FARE SOON...TO ALCATRAZ!

Later...

THERE! THAT'S THE AD THAT DID THE TRICK FOR THE JOKER!

OLD VEHICLES FOR GAY NINETIES MOTION PICTURES! WILL PAY BIG PRICES DELIVER SHARPLY AT 8 P.M. ONLY! MAJOR PICTURES, 68 MORRIS ST.

BY MAKING ALL THOSE OLD BUGGIES APPEAR AT THE SAME TIME, AND BY PURPOSELY PICKING A NARROW STREET, THE JOKER BLOCKED OFF ALL PURSUIT BY THE POLICE! 68 MORRIS STREET HAPPENS TO BE A STORE NEXT DOOR TO THE JEWELER'S. CLEVER, EH?

AND HOW! I WONDER WHAT TRICK HE'S GOING TO PULL OUT OF HIS HAT NEXT?

THE NEXT DAY, THE TWO EAGERLY SCAN THE WANT ADS.

NO, NOT A THING HERE THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS!

AND DON'T FORGET, ANYTHING HERE MIGHT BE USED FOR CRIME IN SOME WAY... BUT HOW CAN WE PICK THE RIGHT ONE?

THE SAME AD IS READ BY THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE...

WANTED

POLICE TO KEEP AWAY CROWDS THAT WILL MOB THE PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF PRESTO THE MAGICIAN AT THE GOTHAM THEATER!

HA! HA! HERE'S A WANT AD! SWELL PUBLICITY STUNT FOR PRESTO, EH?

SAY ALMOST FORGOT! I'M GOING TO THAT SHOW, LINDA MAY PHONE IF SHE CAN MEET ME LATER, SO RELAY HER MESSAGE!

LOVE! AH, LOVE!

EVERYONE THINKS IT'S JUST PUBLICITY. EVEN THE BATMAN WON'T SUSPECT IT AS MY QUAINT WAY OF ADVERTISING ANOTHER CRIME! HA! HA!

WEALTHY "FIRST-NIGHTERS" ATTEND THE PREMIERE OF PRESTO, THE INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS MAGICIAN!

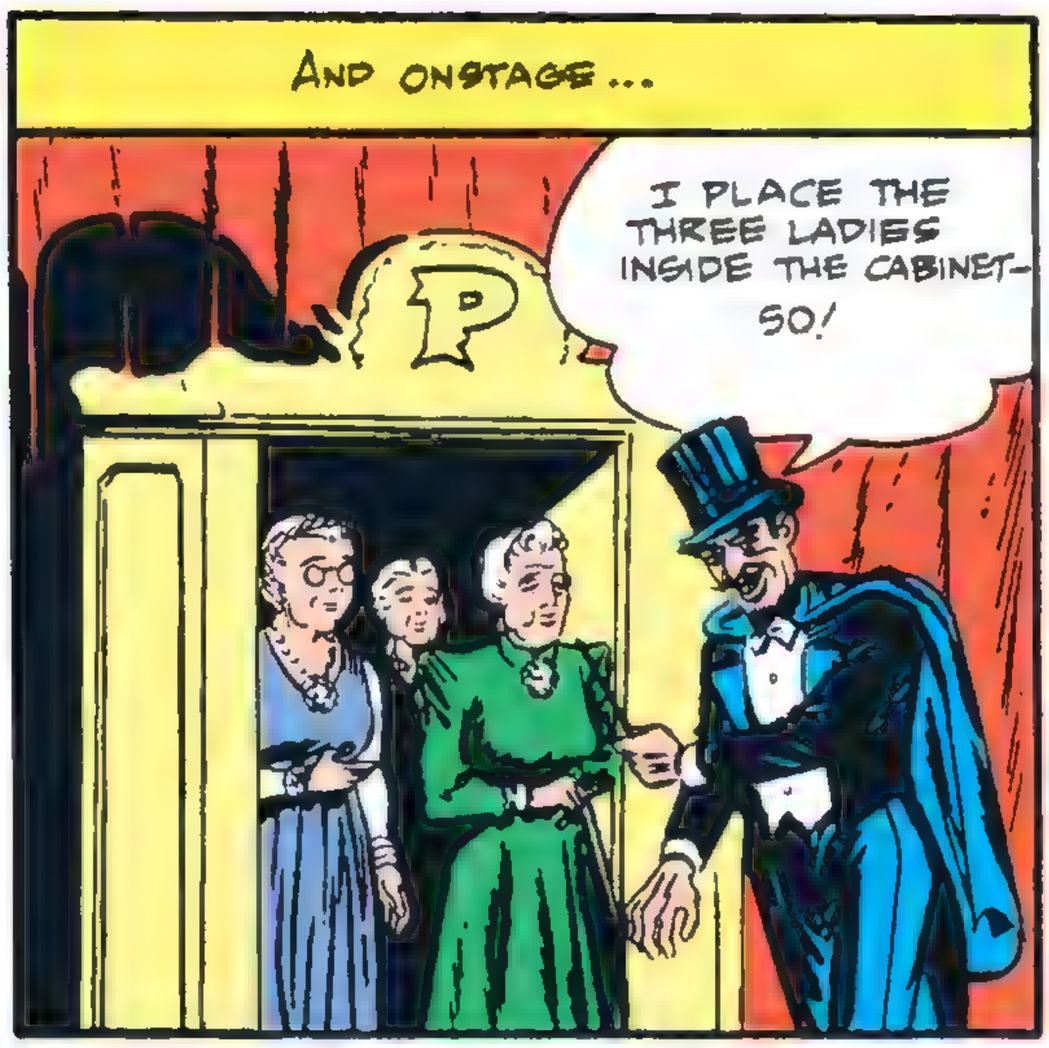
FOR MY FIRST TRICK, I WILL NEED SOME ASSISTANCE, AND SO I WILL CHOOSE THREE LADIES FROM AMONG YOU...

AT THAT INSTANT, LINDA'S MESSAGE BRINGS DICK BEFORE THE THEATRE IN TIME TO OVERHEAR...

YOU MEAN, THAT YOU, THE PUBLICITY AGENT, DIDN'T PLACE THAT AD IN THE PAPER?

I WISH I HAD THOUGHT OF IT, BUT I DIDN'T! THE PAPER GOT THE MONEY AND INSTRUCTIONS ANONYMOUSLY THROUGH THE MAIL. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

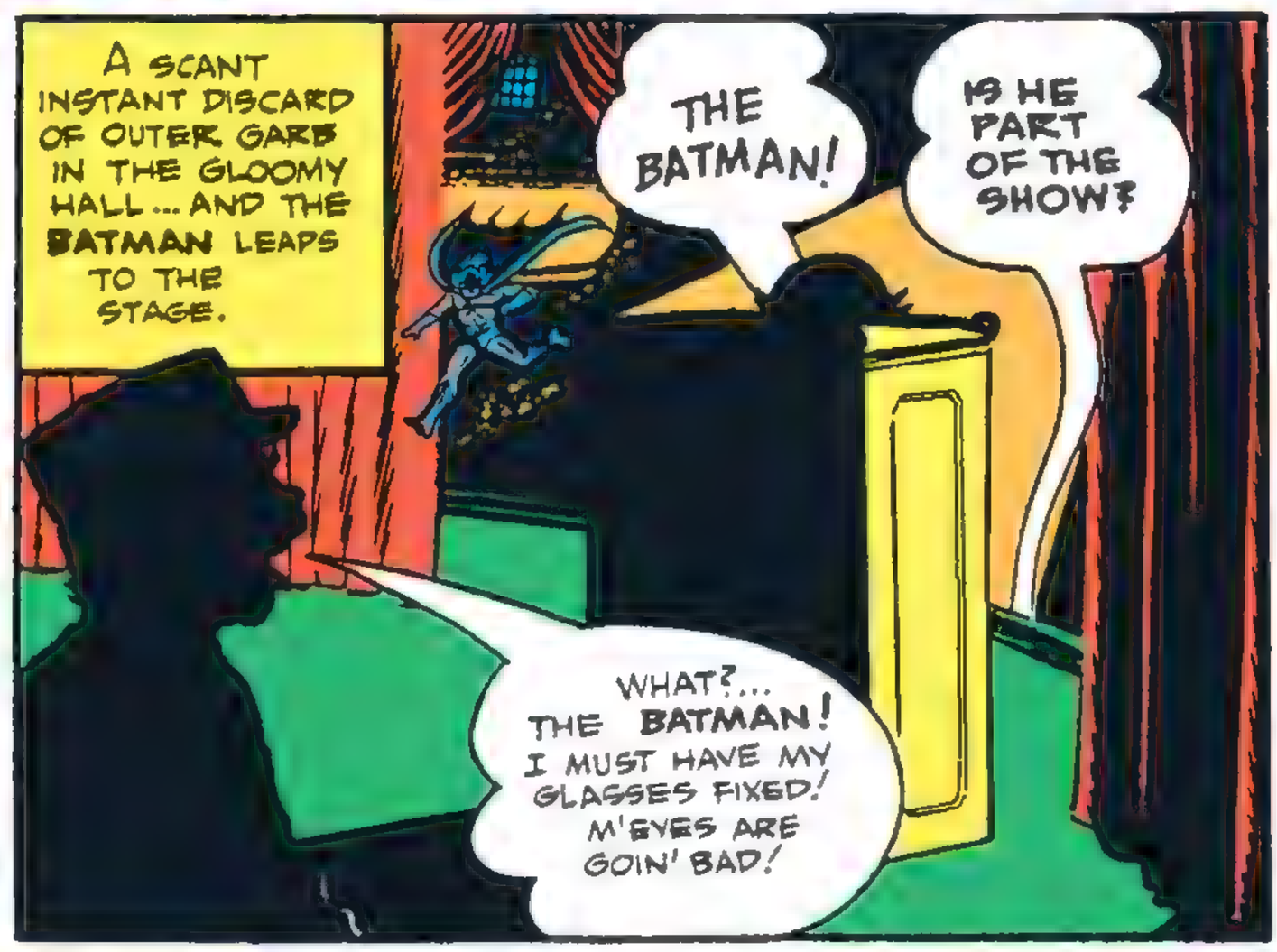
BUT I CAN- THE JOKER!

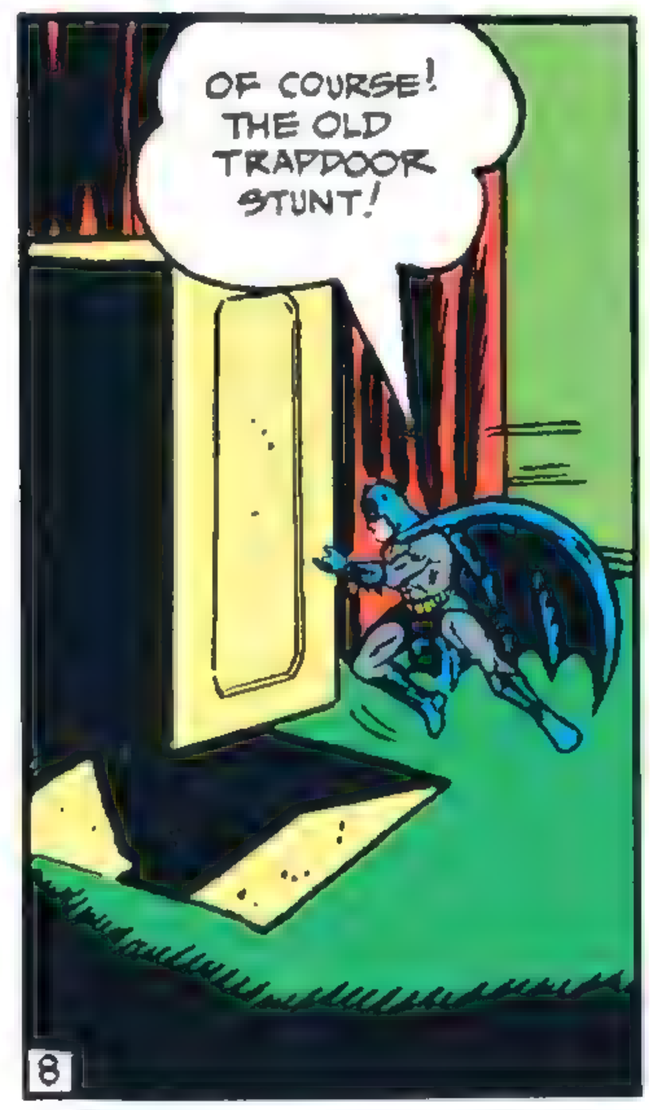

AND ONSTAGE...
I PLACE THE THREE LADIES INSIDE THE CABINET- SO!

I CLOSE THE DOOR... WAVE MY WAND...

AND PRESTO!... EMPTY! THEY HAVE DISAPPEARED!

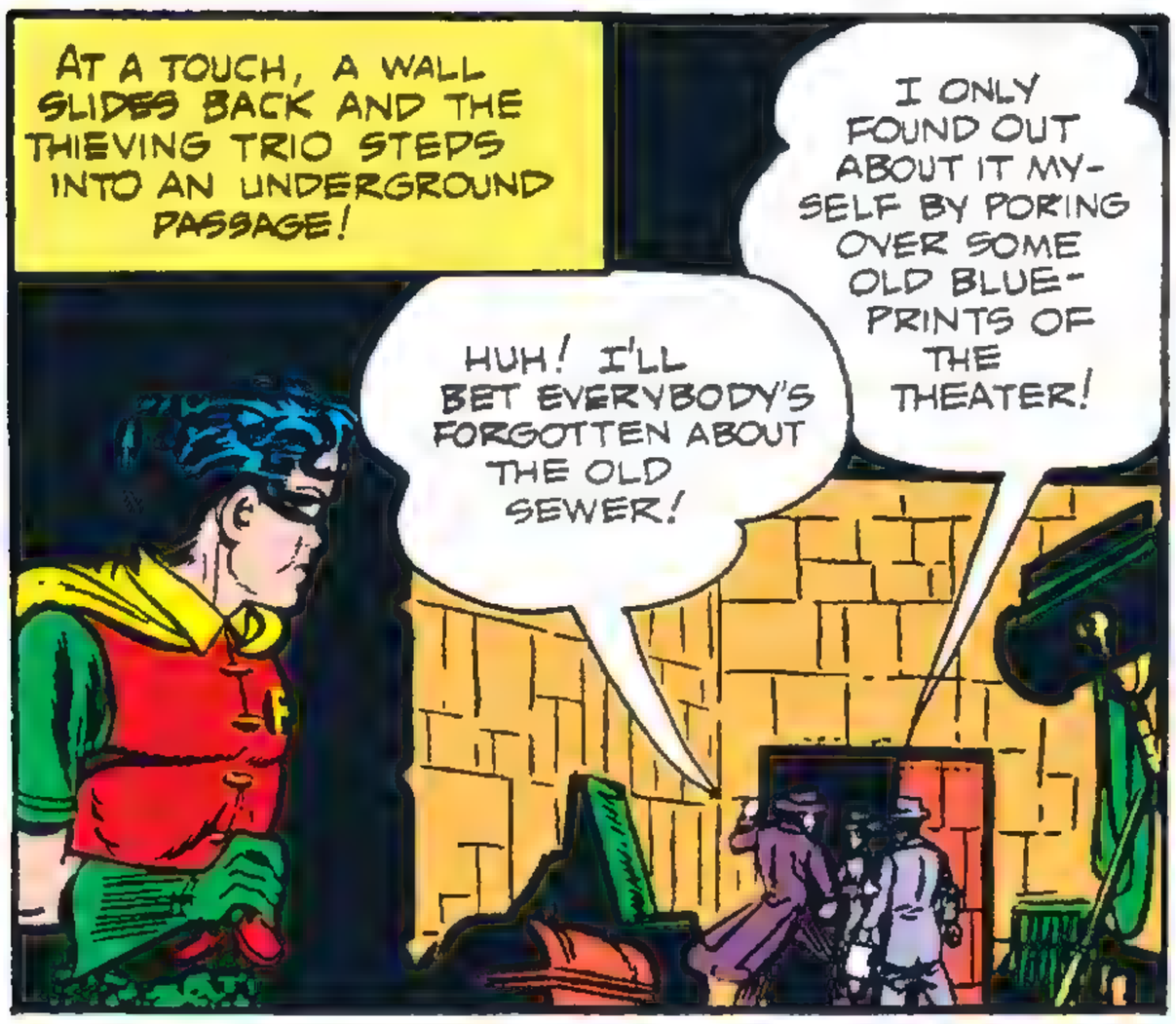
AND NOW I MAKE MYSELF DISAPPEAR... LIKE THIS! HA! HA! HA!
THAT LAUGH! IT'S THE JOKER!

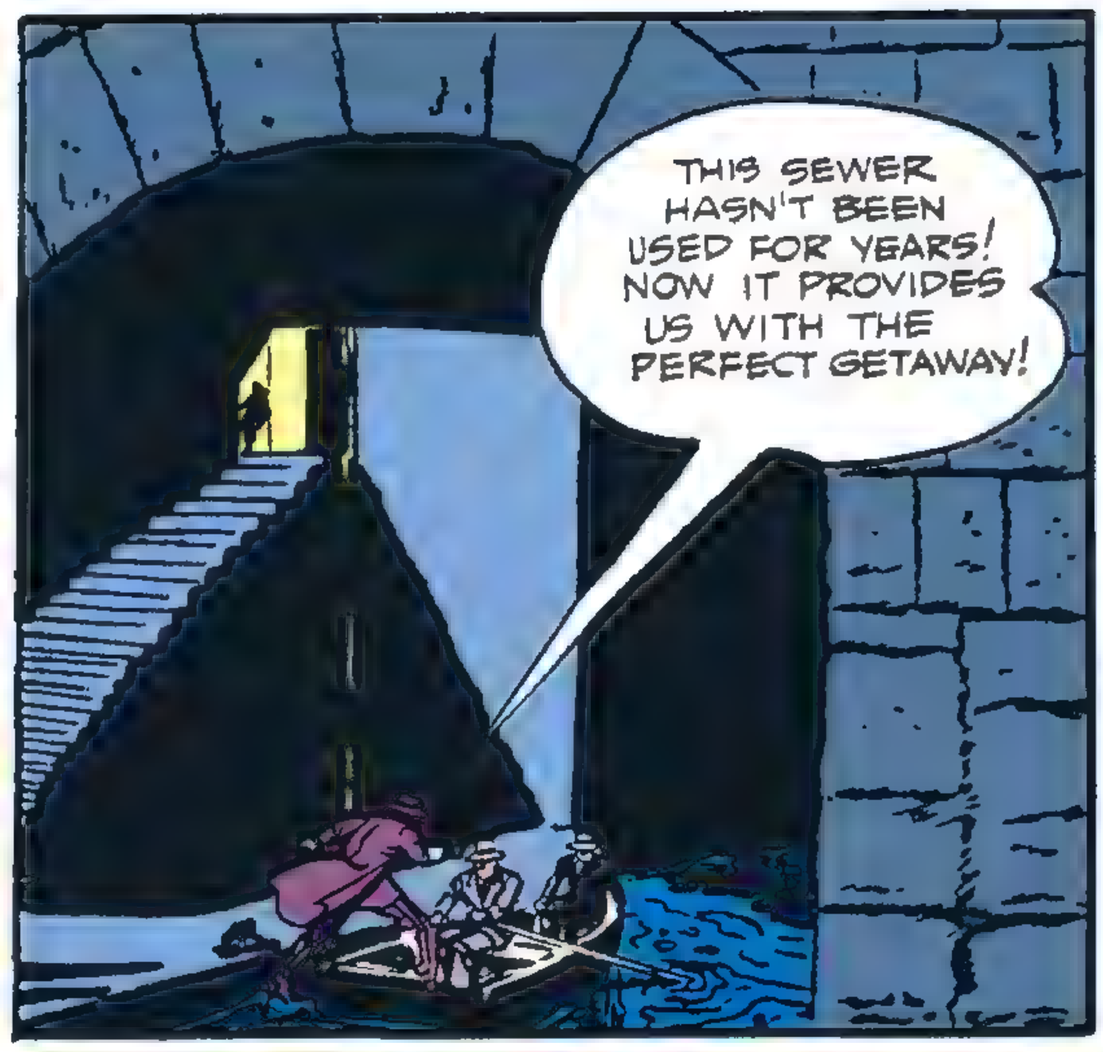

A SCANT INSTANT DISCARD OF OUTER GARB IN THE GLOOMY HALL... AND THE BATMAN LEAPS TO THE STAGE.
THE BATMAN!
IS HE PART OF THE SHOW?
WHAT?... THE BATMAN! I MUST HAVE MY GLASSES FIXED! M'EYES ARE GOIN' BAD!

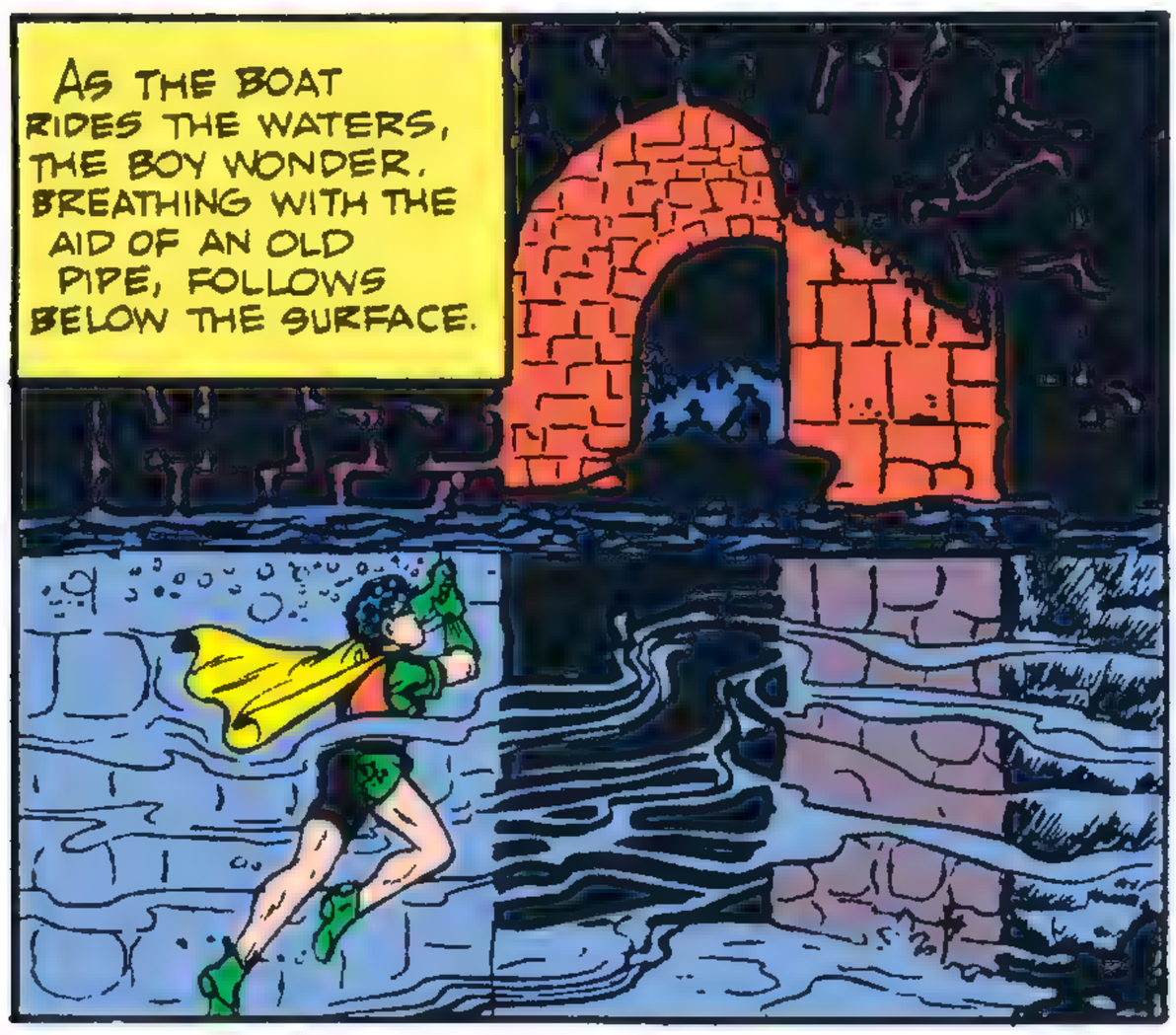

OF COURSE! THE OLD TRAPDOOR STUNT!
8

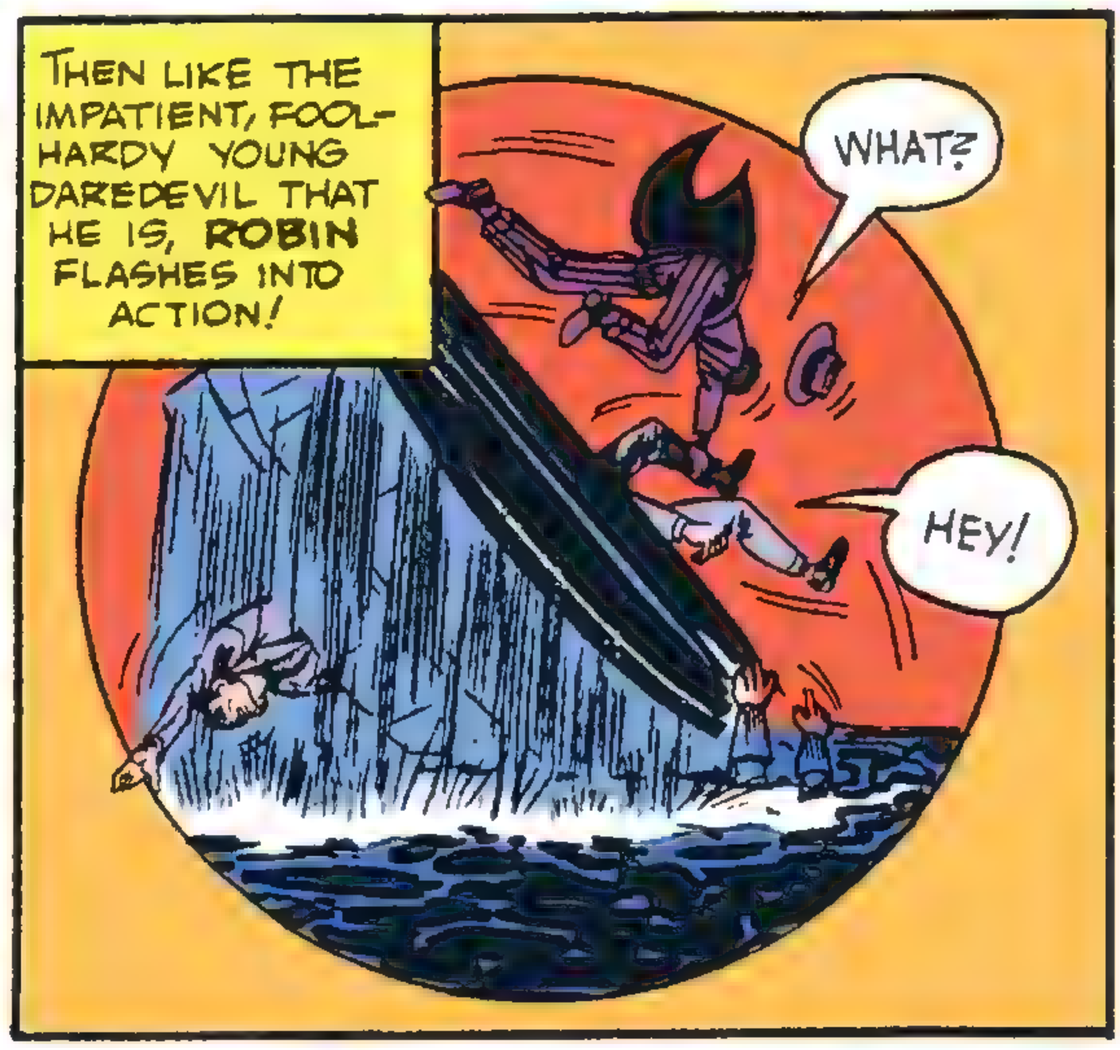
BUT AS HE DROPS BELOW, A BLUDGEON CRASHES DOWN IN A CRUEL BLOW!

DO WE PLUG THE BATMAN?
NO! LET HIM LIVE! HE IS SO AMUSING WHEN HE TRIES TO MATCH WITS WITH ME! HA! HA! AU REVOIR, BATMAN, AND MONSIEUR PRESTO! AND THANK YOU, LADIES, FOR THE JEWELRY... HA! HA!


AT A TOUCH, A WALL SLIDES BACK AND THE THIEVING TRIO STEPS INTO AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE!
HUH! I'LL BET EVERYBODY'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE OLD SEWER!
I ONLY FOUND OUT ABOUT IT MYSELF BY PORING OVER SOME OLD BLUEPRINTS OF THE THEATER!

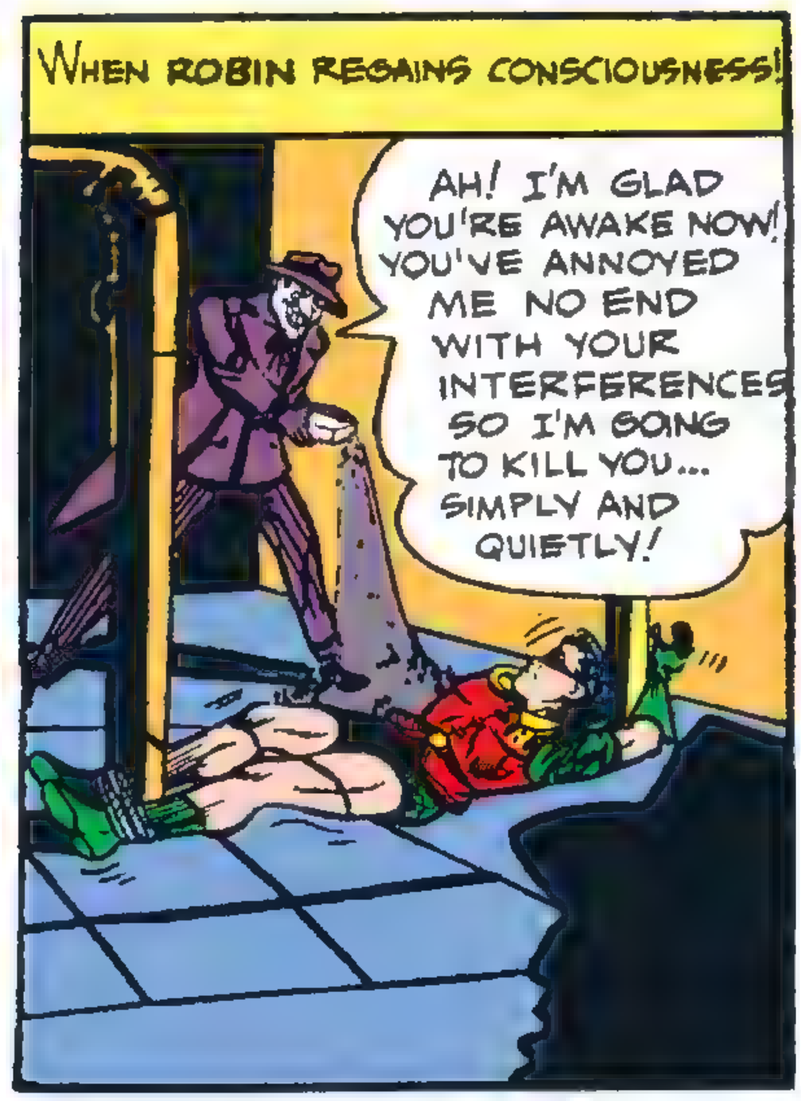

THIS SEWER HASN'T BEEN USED FOR YEARS! NOW IT PROVIDES US WITH THE PERFECT GETAWAY!


AS THE BOAT RIDES THE WATERS, THE BOY WONDER, BREATHING WITH THE AID OF AN OLD PIPE, FOLLOWS BELOW THE SURFACE.

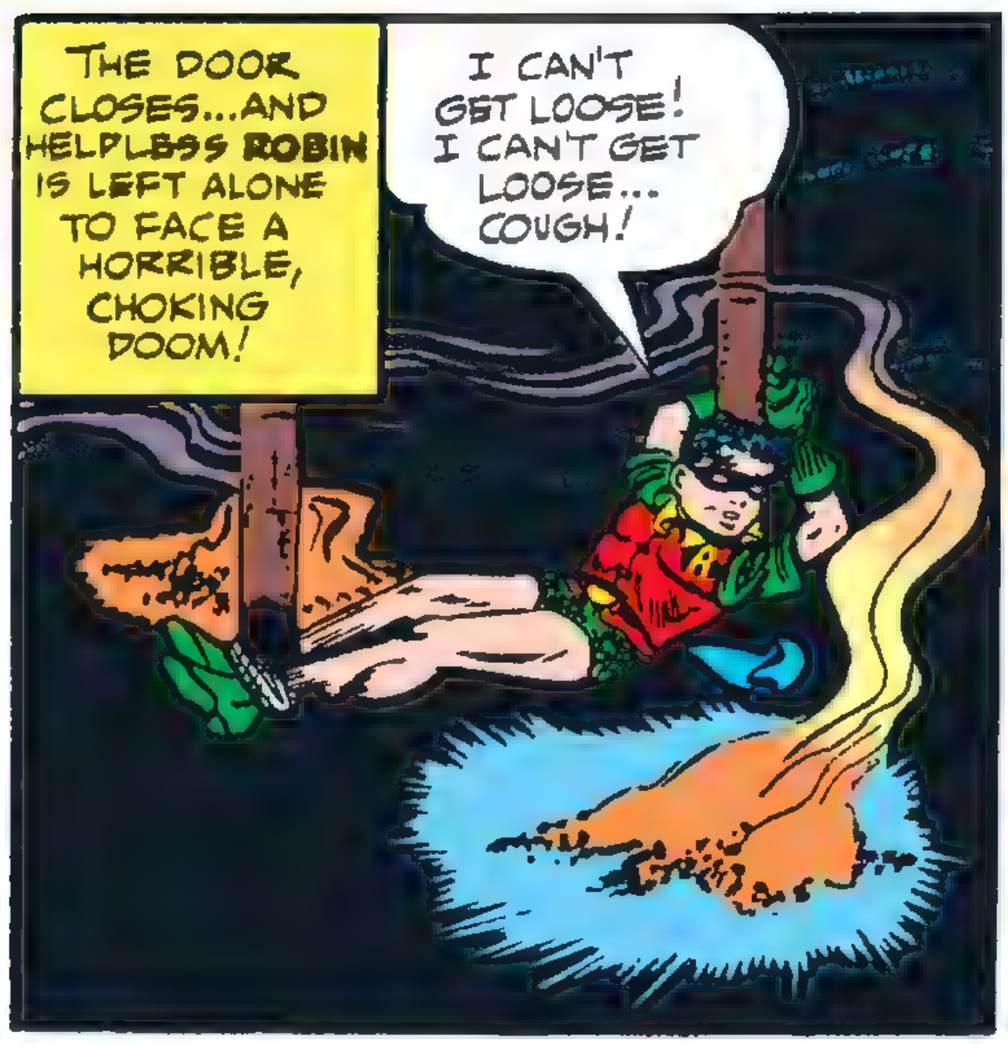

THEN LIKE THE IMPATIENT, FOOLHARDY YOUNG DAREDEVIL THAT HE IS, ROBIN FLASHES INTO ACTION!
WHAT?
HEY!

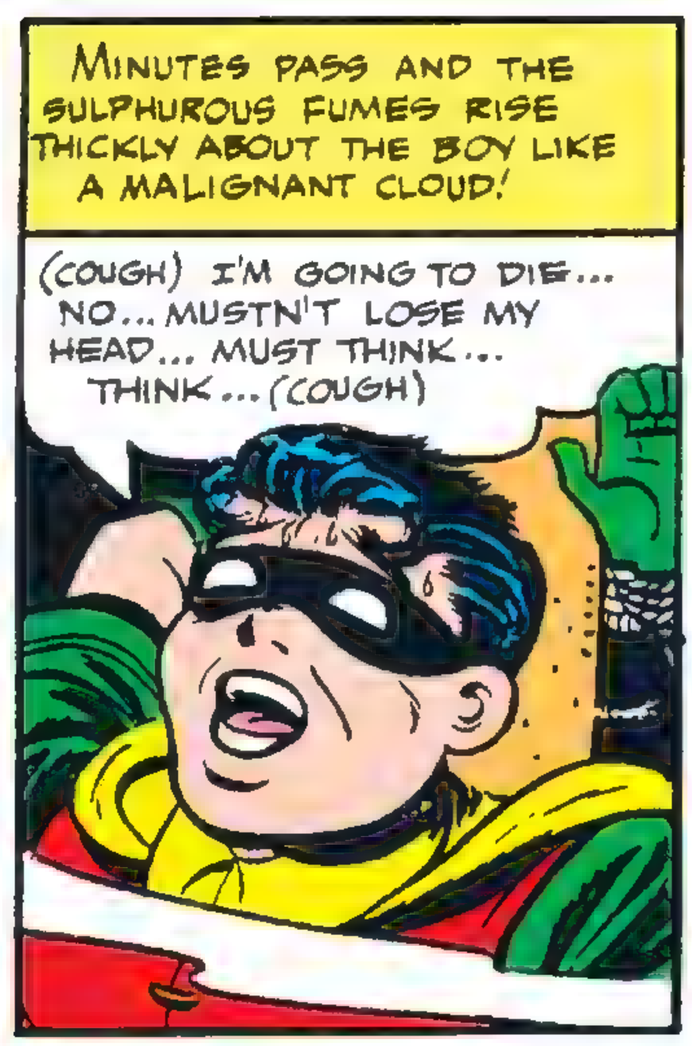
THAT'S FOR BATMAN, YOU RATS!!
9

BUT THE TRIO CONVERGES ON THE LONE BATTLER AND HOLDS HIM UNDER WATER UNTIL HE GOES LIMP!
THAT'S IT! NOW BRING HIM ALONG! I HAVE A SPECIAL TREAT IN STORE FOR HIM!


WHEN ROBIN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!
AH! I'M GLAD YOU'RE AWAKE NOW! YOU'VE ANNOYED ME NO END WITH YOUR INTERFERENCES SO I'M GOING TO KILL YOU... SIMPLY AND QUIETLY!

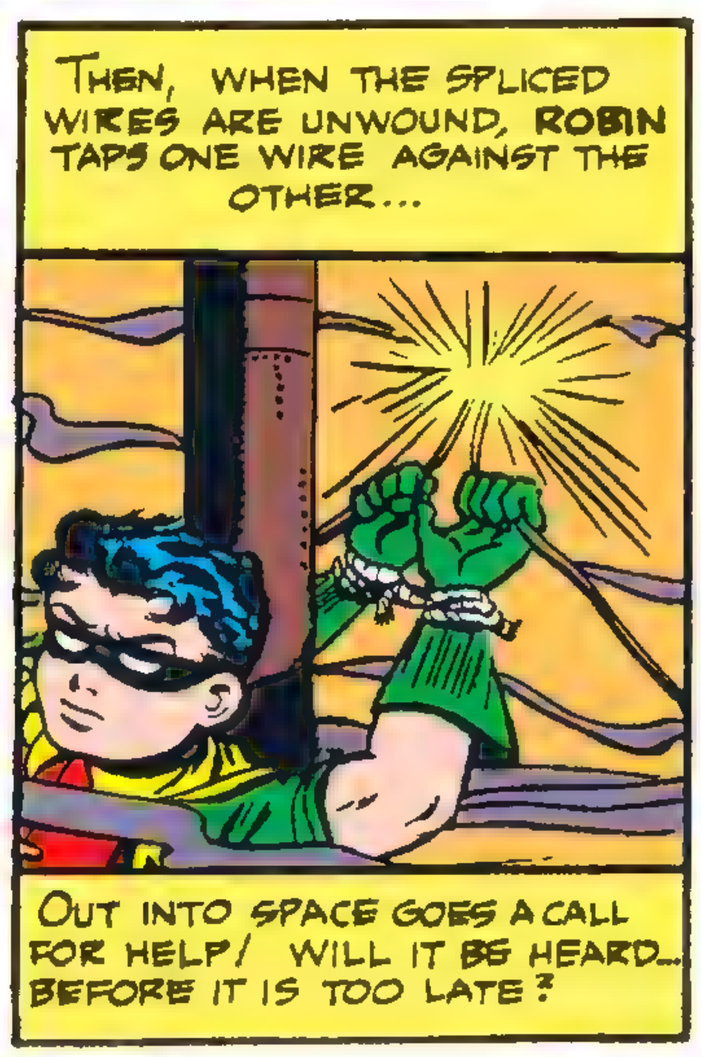
THIS IS PLAIN SULPHUR. ITS FUMES CAN OVERPOWER A HUMAN! HA! HA! SUFFOCATES! JUST LIKE A BLANKET! HA! HA! SLEEP WELL! HA-HA! GOOD JOKE, EH? HA! HA!

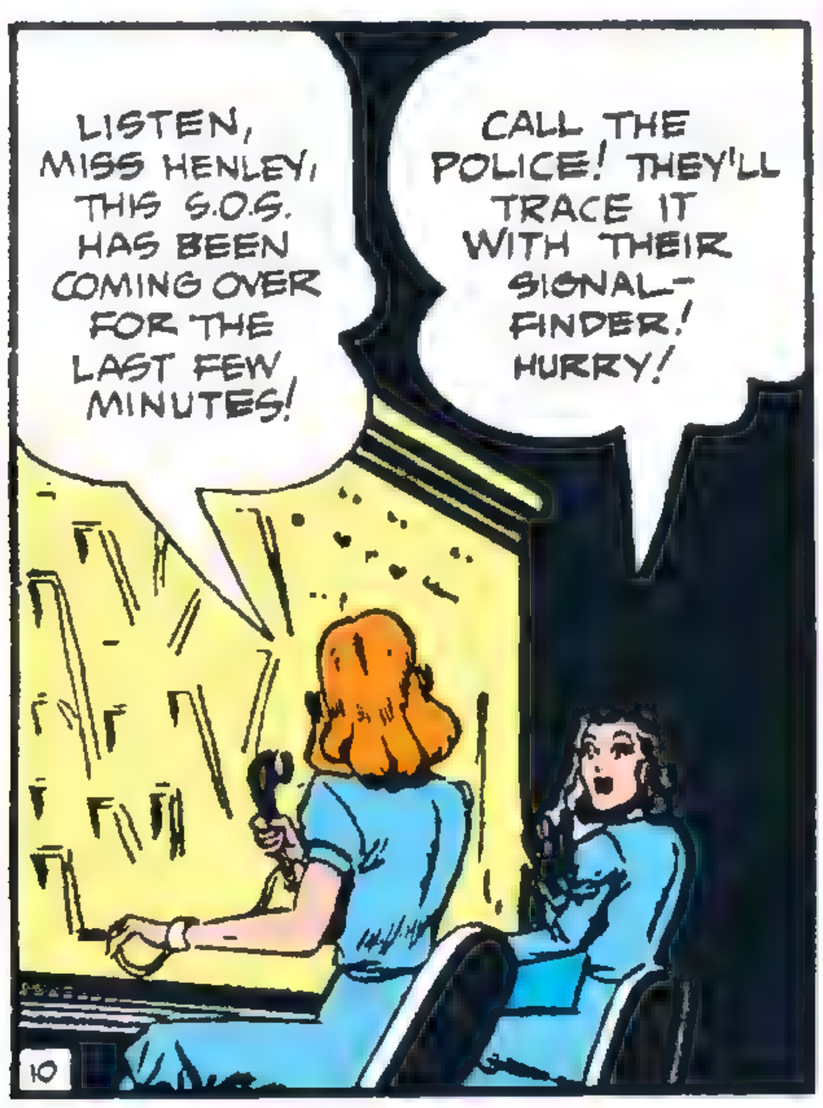

THE DOOR CLOSES...AND HELPLESS ROBIN IS LEFT ALONE TO FACE A HORRIBLE, CHOKING DOOM!
I CAN'T GET LOOSE! I CAN'T GET LOOSE... COUGH!


MINUTES PASS AND THE SULPHUROUS FUMES RISE THICKLY ABOUT THE BOY LIKE A MALIGNANT CLOUD!
(COUGH) I'M GOING TO DIE... NO... MUSTN'T LOSE MY HEAD... MUST THINK... THINK... (COUGH)

SUDDENLY ROBIN'S PROBING FINGERS ENCOUNTER A WIRE...
A TELEPHONE WIRE... PROBABLY DISCONNECTED A LONG TIME AGO! IT'S SPLICED AT THIS POINT! MAYBE... MAYBE...

FUMBLING IN THEIR HASTE, HIS FINGERS SLOWLY, LABORIOUSLY UNWIND THE TAPE FROM THE SPLICED WIRES.
IT MIGHT WORK...THERE'S A CHANCE...I'VE GOT A CHANCE!

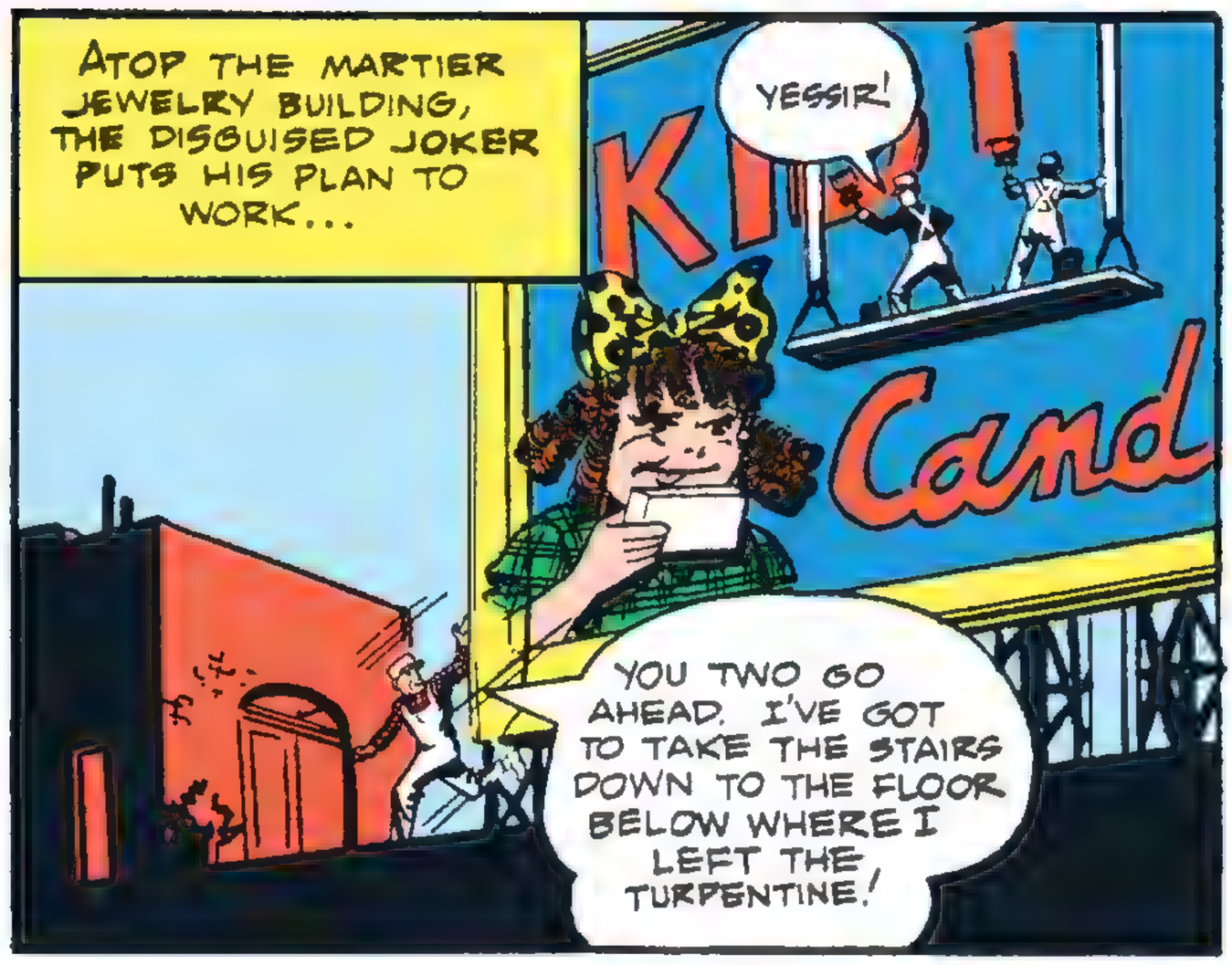

THEN, WHEN THE SPLICED WIRES ARE UNWOUND, ROBIN TAPS ONE WIRE AGAINST THE OTHER...
OUT INTO SPACE GOES A CALL FOR HELP! WILL IT BE HEARD... BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?


LISTEN, MISS HENLEY, THIS S.O.S. HAS BEEN COMING OVER FOR THE LAST FEW MINUTES!
CALL THE POLICE! THEY'LL TRACE IT WITH THEIR SIGNAL-FINDER! HURRY!

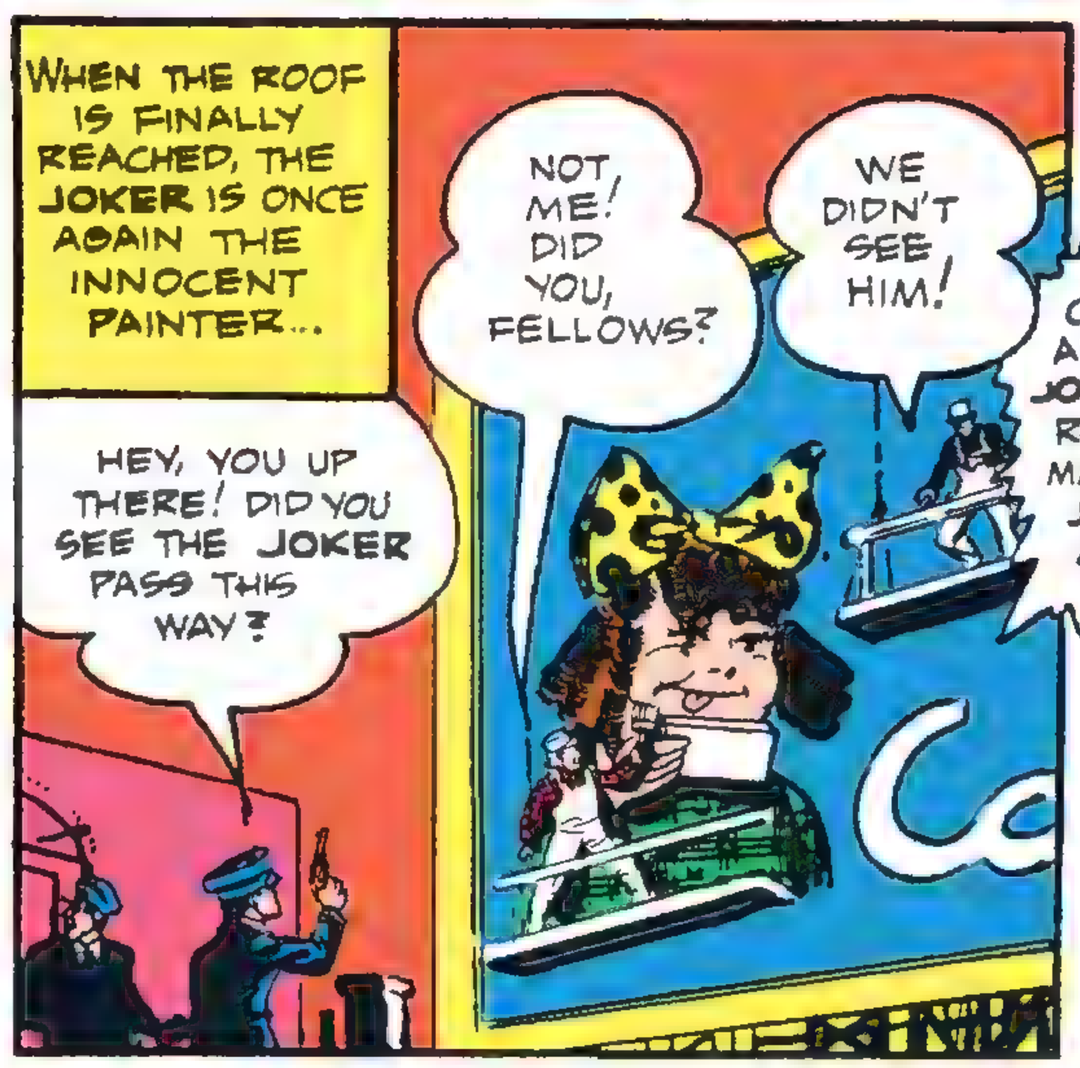
AND SO A DESPERATE MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED OVER THE WIRES...
S.O.S. ROBIN CALLING BATMAN...
WILL IT BE PICKED UP BY THE BATMAN... IN TIME?

MINUTES LATER... A POWERFUL FRAME RIPS A DOOR FROM ITS HINGES...
WHAM
(COUGH) ROBIN, ROBIN! HE'S LYING SO STILL! MAYBE...NO... IT CAN'T BE!..

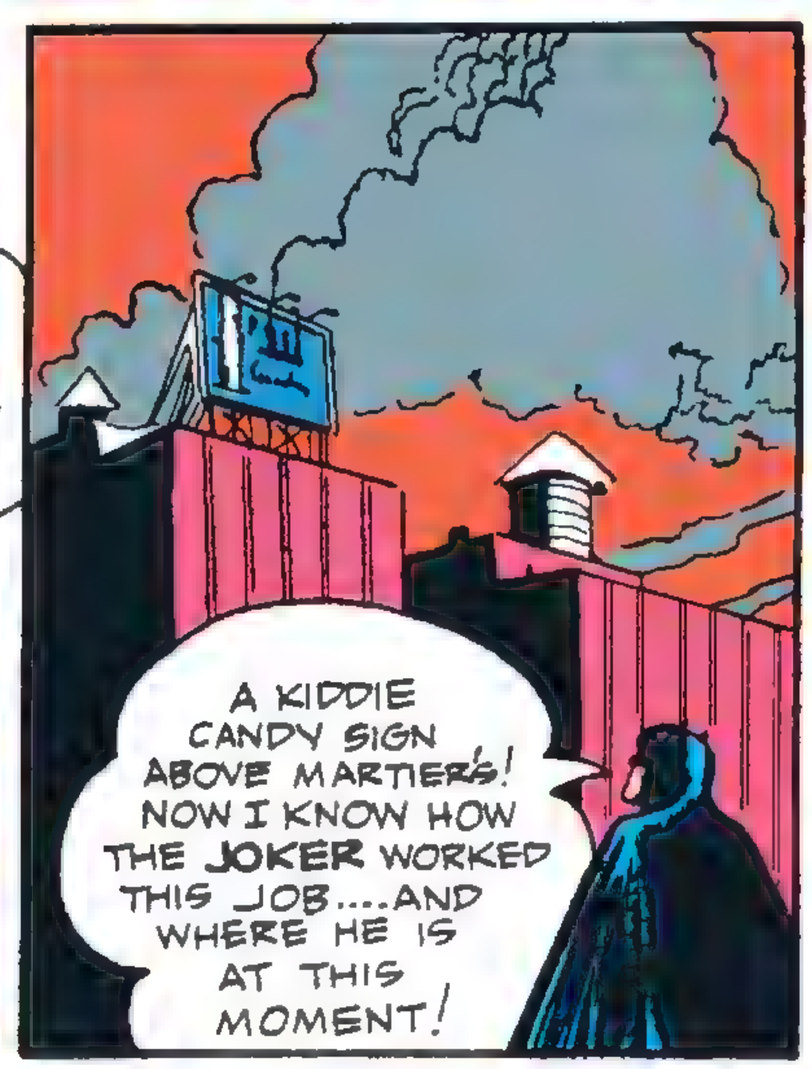
HE'S STOPPED BREATHING! BETTER BRACE YOURSELF, BATMAN! THIS BOY'S DEAD!
NO...NO... NOT ROBIN... I WON'T BELIEVE IT... YOU HEAR ME... I WON'T...
EASY, MAN! TALKING LIKE THAT WON'T BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE!
THEN MAYBE ACTION WILL! GET ME A PULMOTOR, SOMEBODY! HURRY!
THIS WILL PUMP THE POISONOUS GAS OUT AND FORCE FRESH AIR INTO HIS COLLAPSED LUNGS!
IS THERE YET A SPARK OF LIFE IN ROBIN'S BODY? AND CAN THE PULMOTOR FAN THAT SPARK TO FLAME?
EXPAND...CONTRACT! DESPERATELY SCIENCE TRIES TO STEM THE DARK TIDE OF DEATH! EXPAND... CONTRACT...
C'MON, ROBIN... YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE IT...FIGHT, BOY... FIGHT YOUR WAY BACK...
Then...
OH. OH!
ROBIN... ROBIN! THANK HEAVEN!
BACK HOME, BATMAN KEEPS AN ALL-NIGHT VIGIL AS THE EXHAUSTED BOY SLEEPS...UNTIL...
BATMAN! BRUCE!
HELLO, FELLA! WELCOME HOME AGAIN!
I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU... THE JOKER... I HEARD HIM SAY SOMETHING ABOUT PAINTERS FOR THE KIDDIE CANDY SIGN!
OH, YEAH! I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT THE WANT ADS FOR TODAY!
WITH GRIM EYES, THE BATMAN SCANS THE ADS UNTIL HE STOPS AT ONE...
SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS IS WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR! I'M GOING TO ANSWER THAT AD... IN PERSON!
GOTHAM
WANTED
TWO PAINTERS FOR WORK ON LARGE OUTDOOR SIGN.
INQUIRE 32 HATFIELD ST.

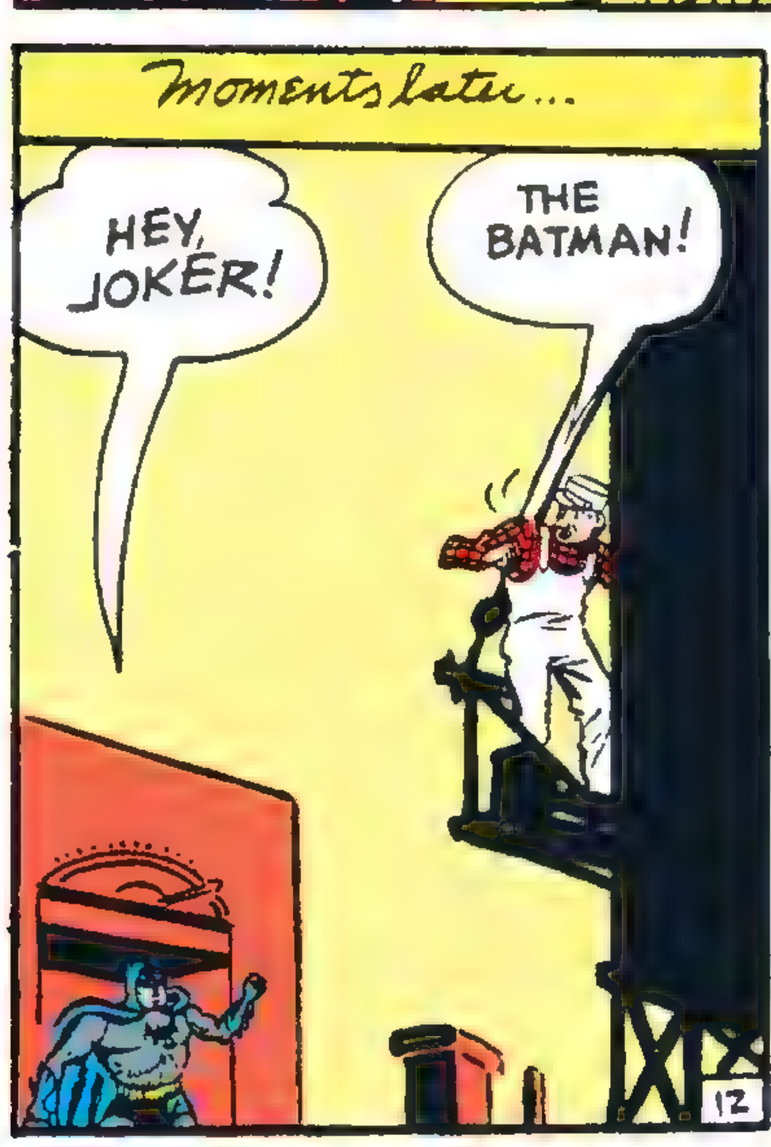

ATOP THE MARTIER JEWELRY BUILDING, THE DISGUISED JOKER PUTS HIS PLAN TO WORK...
YESSIR!
Candy
YOU TWO GO AHEAD. I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE STAIRS DOWN TO THE FLOOR BELOW WHERE I LEFT THE TURPENTINE!

AND IN THE JEWELRY STORE IN THE LOBBY OF THE BUILDING, THE GRIM JESTER ACTS WITH TERRIBLY FAMILIAR SWIFTNESS!
HE'S TAKING THE ONLY ELEVATOR! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE STAIRS, C'MON!
HA! HA! HA!


WHEN THE ROOF IS FINALLY REACHED, THE JOKER IS ONCE AGAIN THE INNOCENT PAINTER...
NOT, ME! DID YOU, FELLOWS?
WE DIDN'T SEE HIM!
HEY, YOU UP THERE! DID YOU SEE THE JOKER PASS THIS WAY?

AT THAT MOMENT, THE BATMAN HEARS THE NEWS VIA THE 'POLICE CALL!
CALLING ALL CARS... JOKER JUST ROBBED MARTIER'S JEWELRY STORE.
WELL... WELL... ACTION ALREADY!


A KIDDIE CANDY SIGN ABOVE MARTIER'S! NOW I KNOW HOW THE JOKER WORKED THIS JOB....AND WHERE HE IS AT THIS MOMENT!

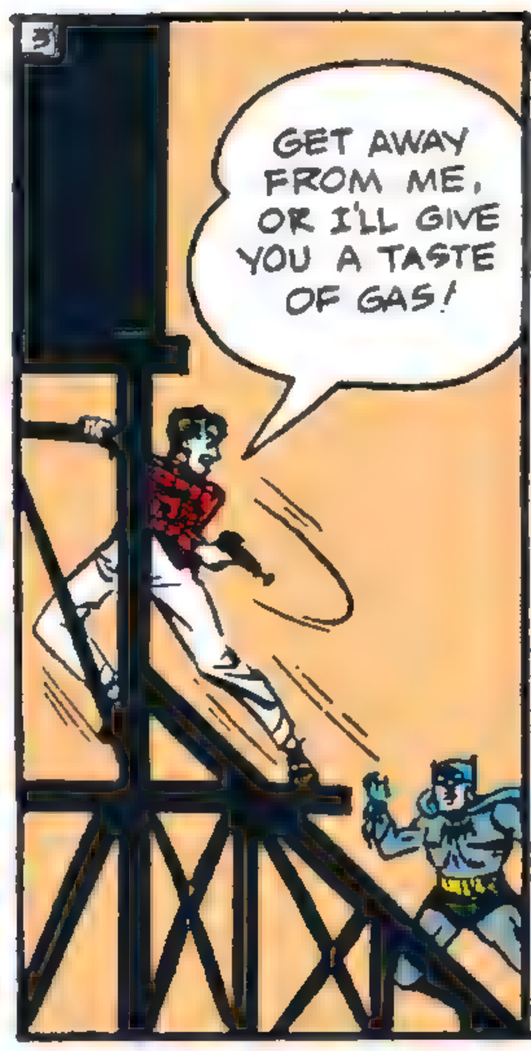

Moments later...
HEY, JOKER!
THE BATMAN!
12

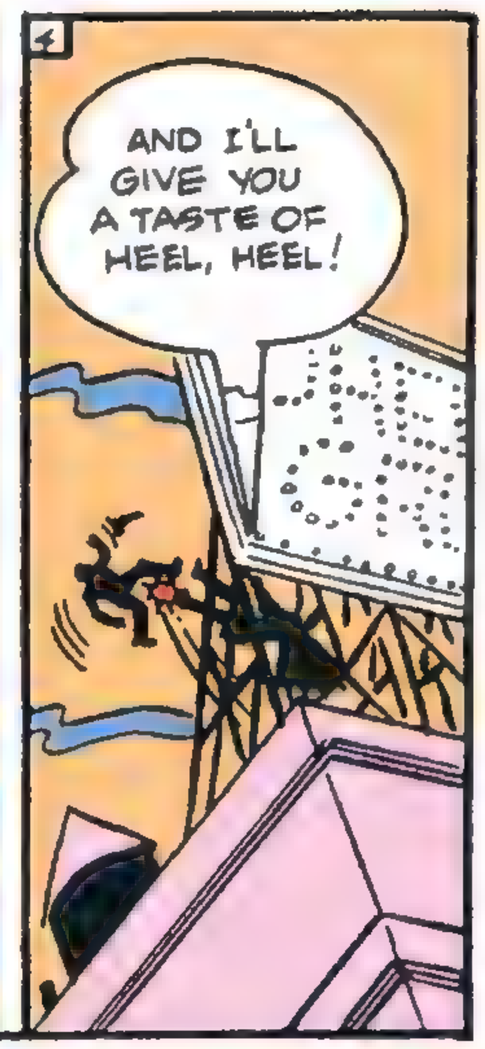
THE JOKER RIPS OFF HIS DISGUISE AND MAKES A DESPERATE LEAP FOR THE ADJOINING ROOF...
I FIGURED YOU'D SHOW YOURSELF WHEN YOU SAW ME! WHEN I GET YOU ...I'M...
BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME! HA! HA! HA!

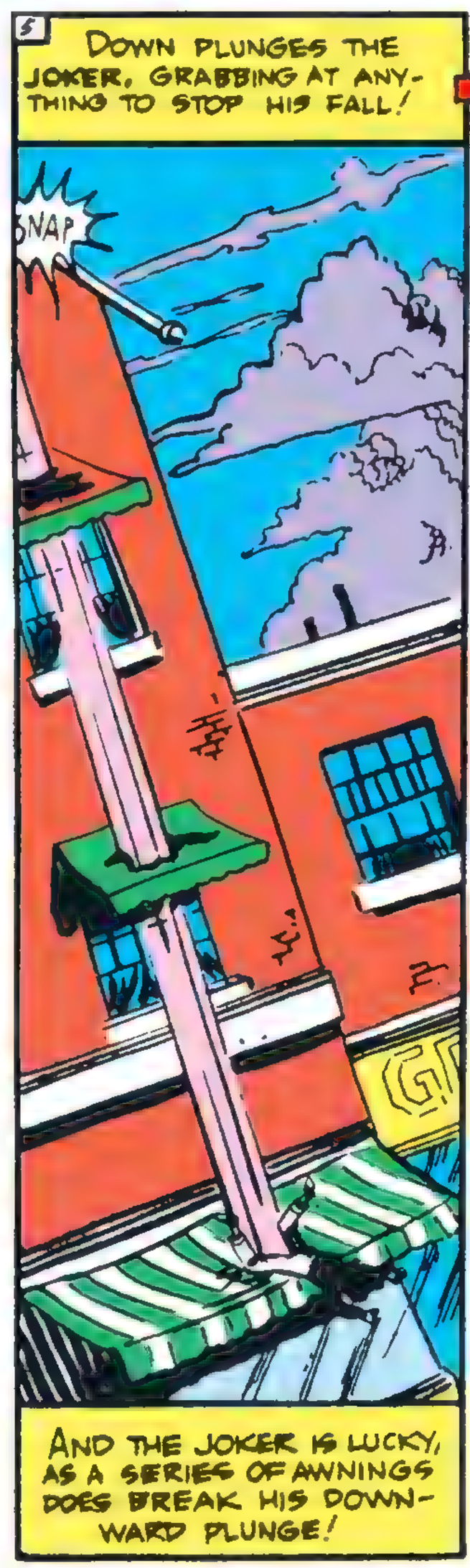
THAT'S YOUR FIRST MISTAKE, BROTHER!
UH!

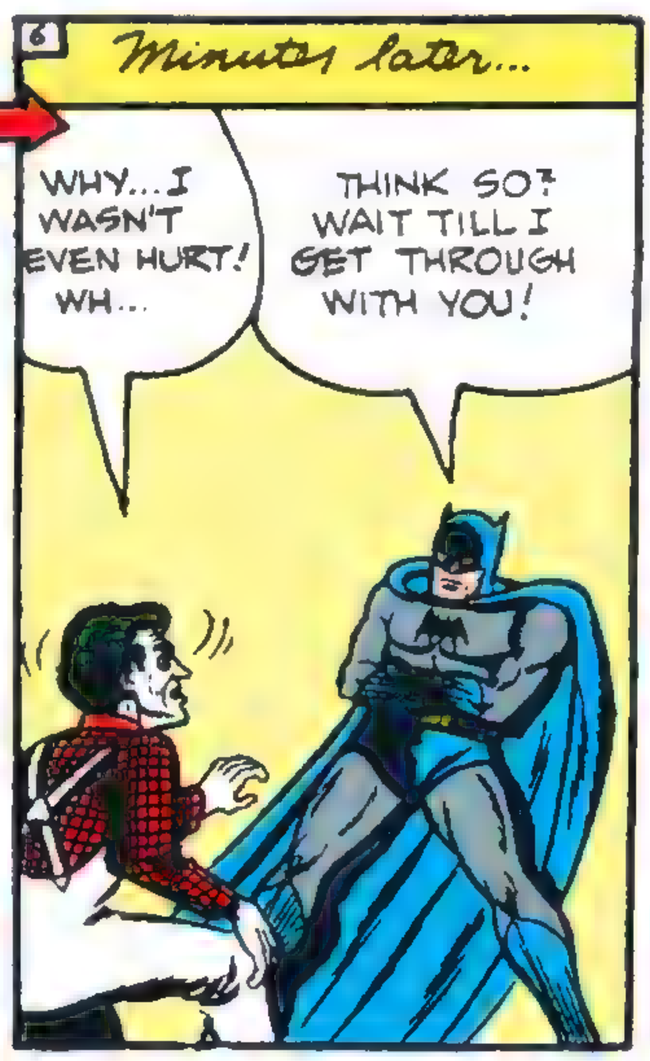
IF THE SHOE FITS, WEAR IT! HA! HA!

I'LL BET THAT ONE HURT!


GET AWAY FROM ME, OR I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF GAS!


AND I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF HEEL, HEEL!


DOWN PLUNGES THE JOKER, GRABBING AT ANYTHING TO STOP HIS FALL!
SNAP
AND THE JOKER IS LUCKY, AS A SERIES OF AWNINGS DOES BREAK HIS DOWNWARD PLUNGE!


Minutes later...
WHY... I WASN'T EVEN HURT! WH...
THINK SO? WAIT TILL I GET THROUGH WITH YOU!

TRY TO KILL ROBIN, WILL YOU? I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE BEATING OF YOUR LIFE!
CRASH!

Sometime Later
PUZZLED POLICE FOUND A BRUISED, BATTERED JOKER LYING ON THE COURT STEPS. HE WAS TAKEN TO A PRISON HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT...
SAY... WHAT DID YOU DO TO THAT GUY, ANYWAY?
13

OH, I JUST LET HIM HAVE A POKE OR TWO OR THREE...
The End-

BATMAN WITH ROBIN BOY WONDER

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL --- BUT MANY ARE THE TRAILS THEY FOLLOW THROUGH LIFE, AND VERY DIFFERENT THEIR ENDINGS. HERE IS THE STRANGE STORY OF TWO WHO STARTED TOGETHER BUT FINISHED A WORLD APART --- THE ONE HONORED AND SUCCESSFUL, THE OTHER FOREVER DOOMED BY HIS MISDEEDS! IT IS A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND TREACHERY, OF VIOLENCE AND HEROISM --- AND OF A HUMAN PROBLEM SO KNOTTY THAT IT TOOK THE NIMBLE BRAINS AND FLASHING FISTS OF THE MIGHTY **BATMAN AND ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER TO SOLVE IT! IN THE CASEBOOK OF THE **BATMAN**, IT IS CALLED — "Payment in Full."

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

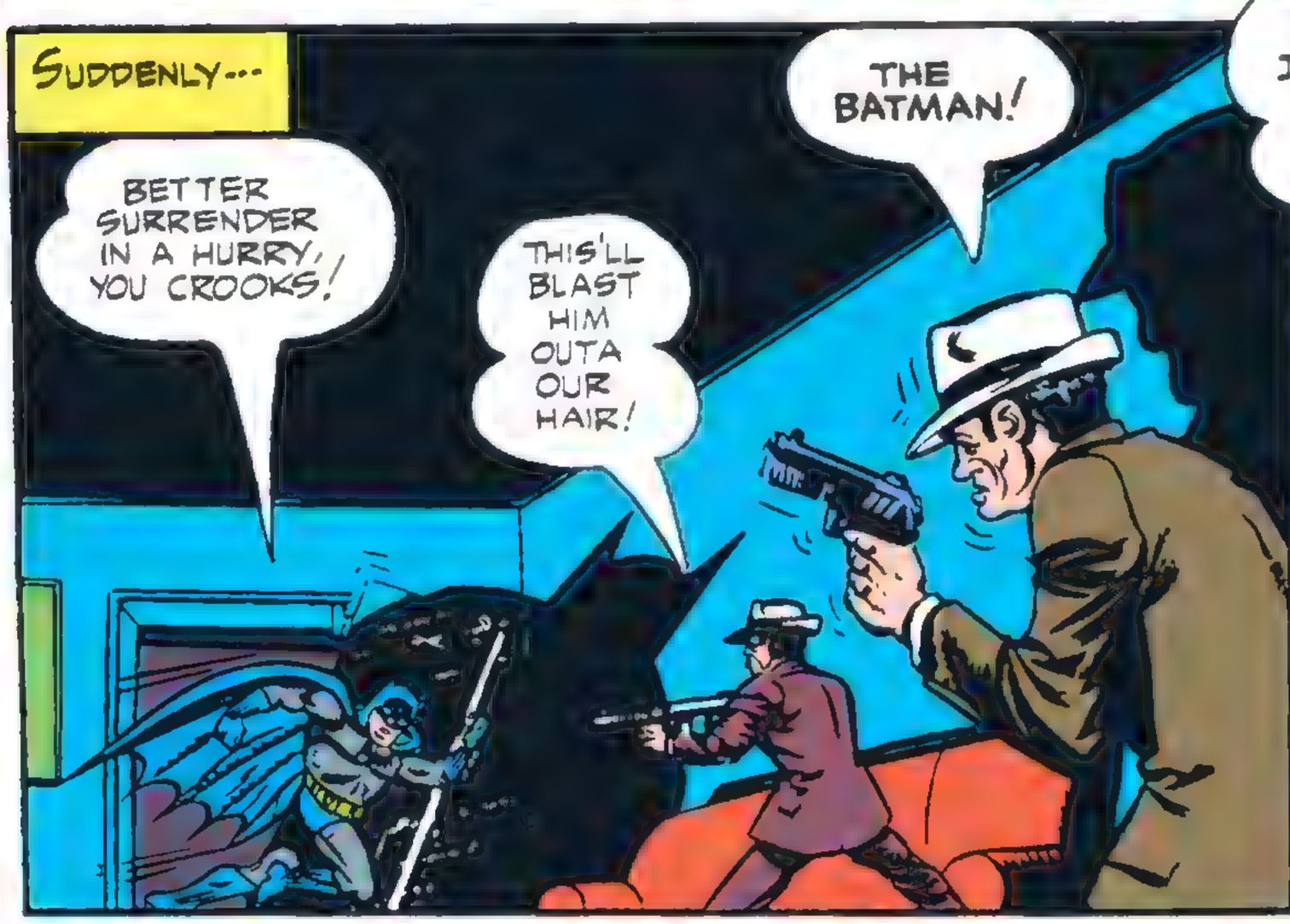
NIGHT --- AND TWO CAPED FIGURES REACH THE END OF A THRILLING MANHUNT ---

HERE IT IS, **ROBIN** --- THE HIDEOUT OF JOE DOLAN, WANTED ROBBER AND MURDERER!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR!

WITHIN THE HOUSE...
WE'RE SITTIN' PRETTY, BOYS! WE LIFTED FORTY GRAND AN' ONLY HAD TO KILL ONE GUY -- AN' THE COPS CAN'T FIND US!
WE'D GET THE CHAIR IF THEY DID!

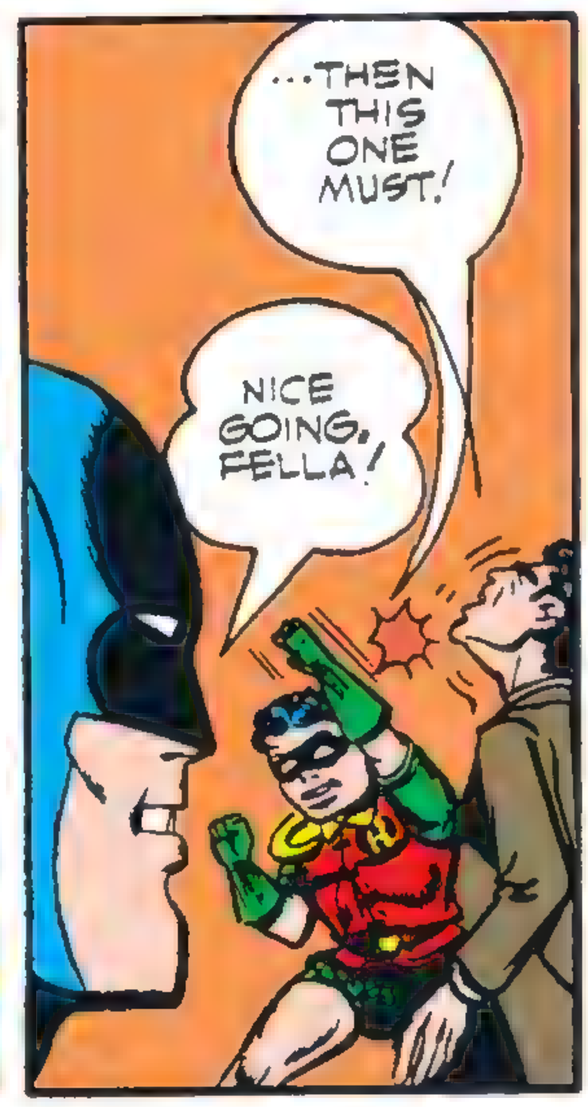
NO HOT SEAT FOR ME! I GOT A DRAG WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY! ONCE I--HEY! SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR!
IF IT'S THE LAW, I'LL CHOP 'EM DOWN!

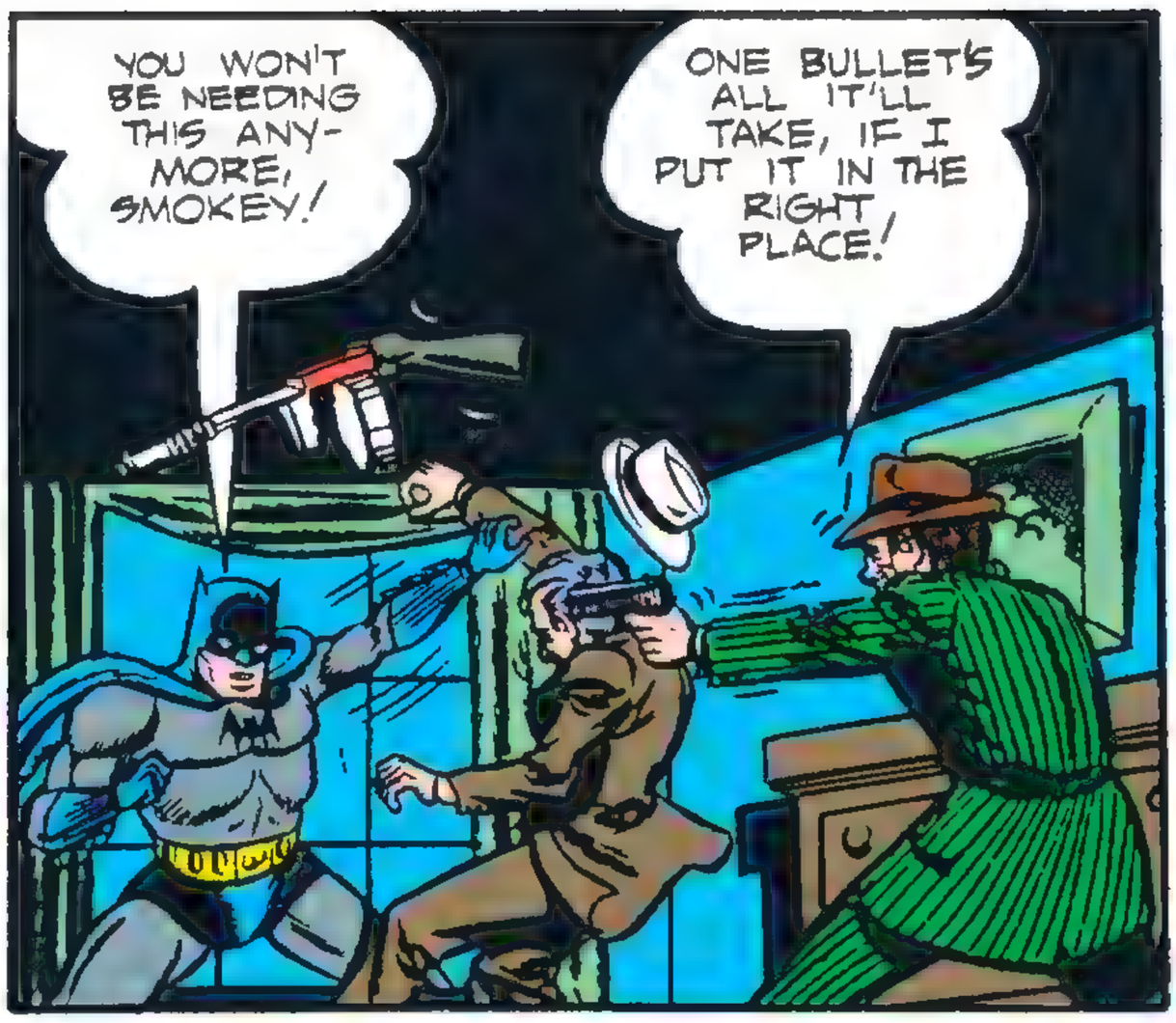

SUDDENLY...
BETTER SURRENDER IN A HURRY, YOU CROOKS!
THIS'LL BLAST HIM OUTA OUR HAIR!
THE BATMAN!

IF YOU DON'T, I'LL HAVE TO SLAP YOU SILLY!
I'LL SLUG HIM!

THE SMALL BUT POWERFUL ALLY OF THE BATMAN FLASHES INTO THE FRAY!
ASHES TO ASHES AND DUST TO DUST...

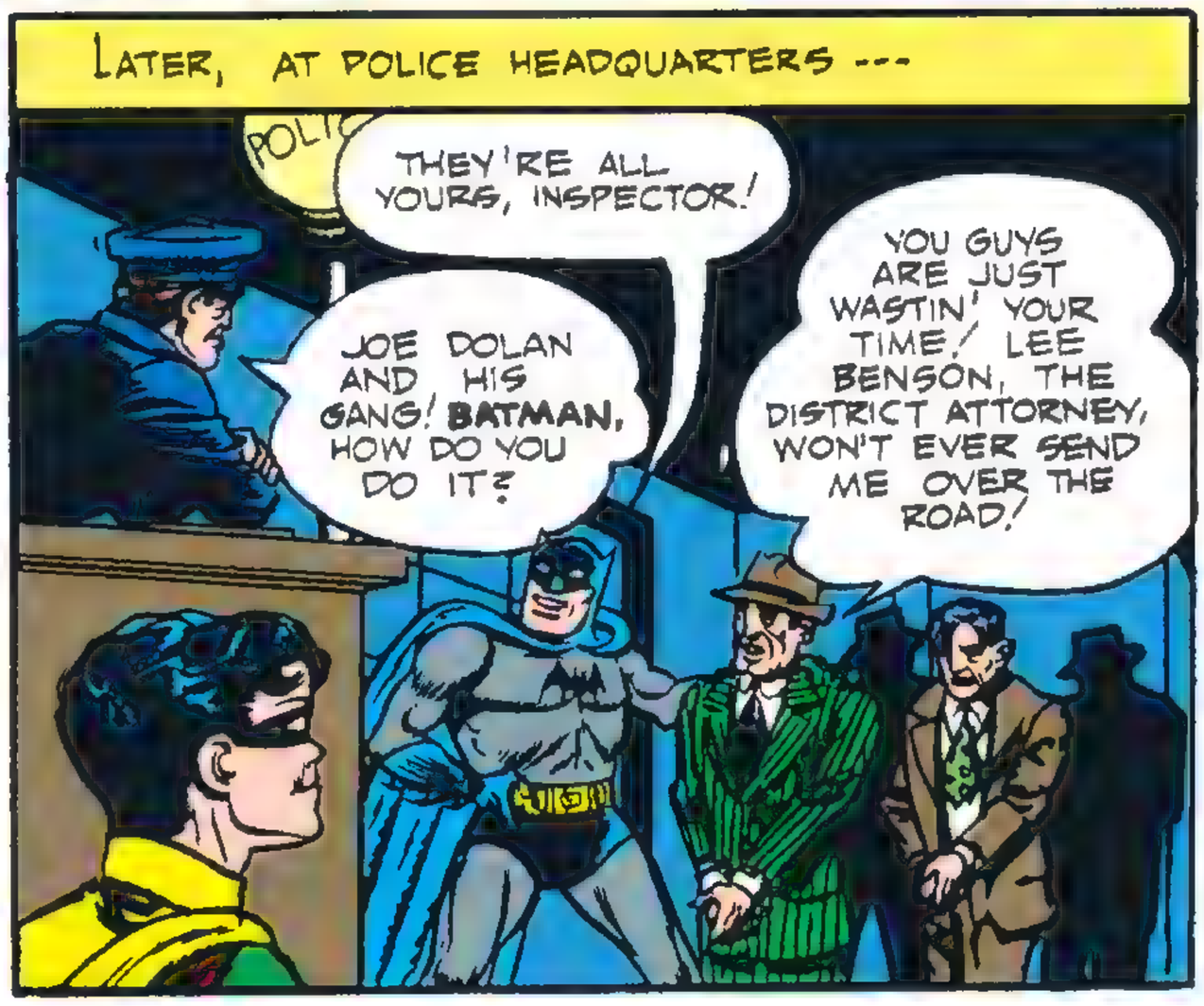
IF THIS DOESN'T FINISH YOU--
OW!
HUH? WHAT'S THIS?


...THEN THIS ONE MUST!
NICE GOING, FELLA!

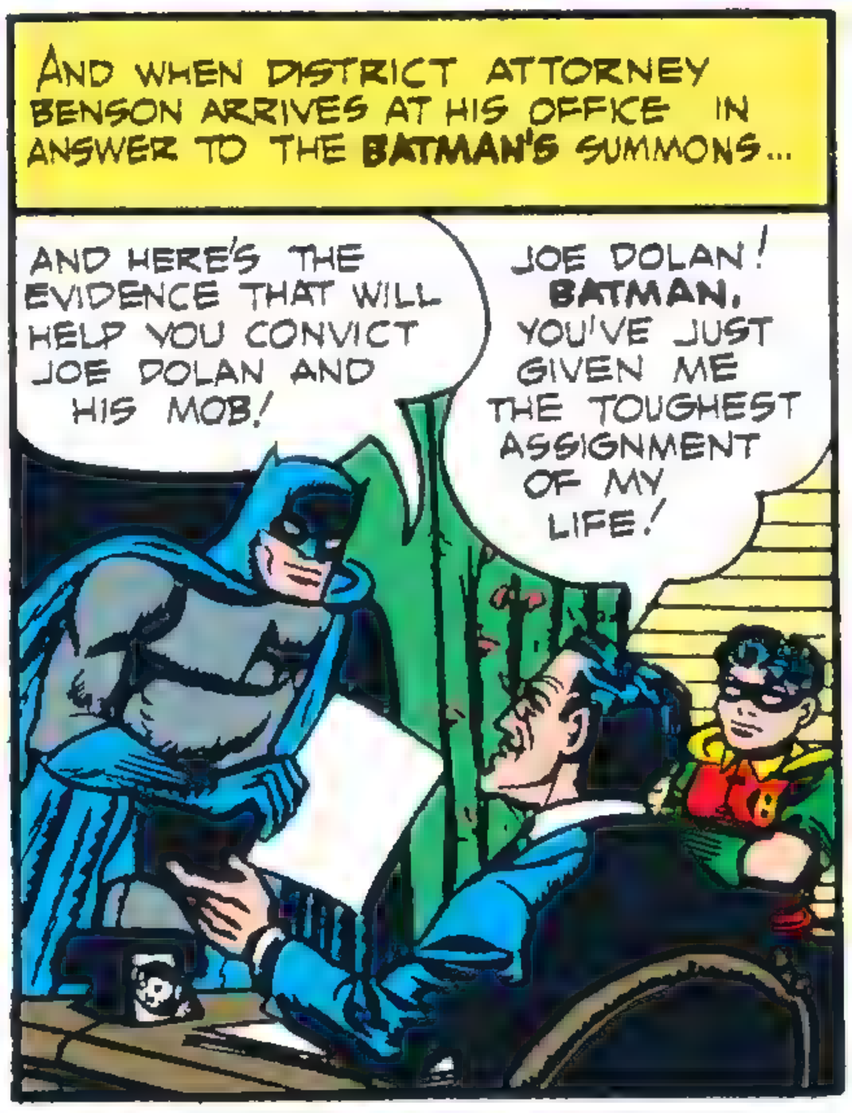

YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANY-MORE, SMOKEY!
ONE BULLET'S ALL IT'LL TAKE, IF I PUT IT IN THE RIGHT PLACE!

YOU PUT IT IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!
YOU CLUMSY FOOL, SMOKEY-- YOU MADE ME MISS!

YOU'VE GIVEN HEADACHES TO A LOT OF PEOPLE--- HAVE A COUPLE YOURSELVES!
DO I HEAR A HOLLOW SOUND?
CLUNK


LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS ---
THEY'RE ALL YOURS, INSPECTOR!
JOE DOLAN AND HIS GANG! BATMAN, HOW DO YOU DO IT?
YOU GUYS ARE JUST WASTIN' YOUR TIME! LEE BENSON, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WON'T EVER SEND ME OVER THE ROAD!

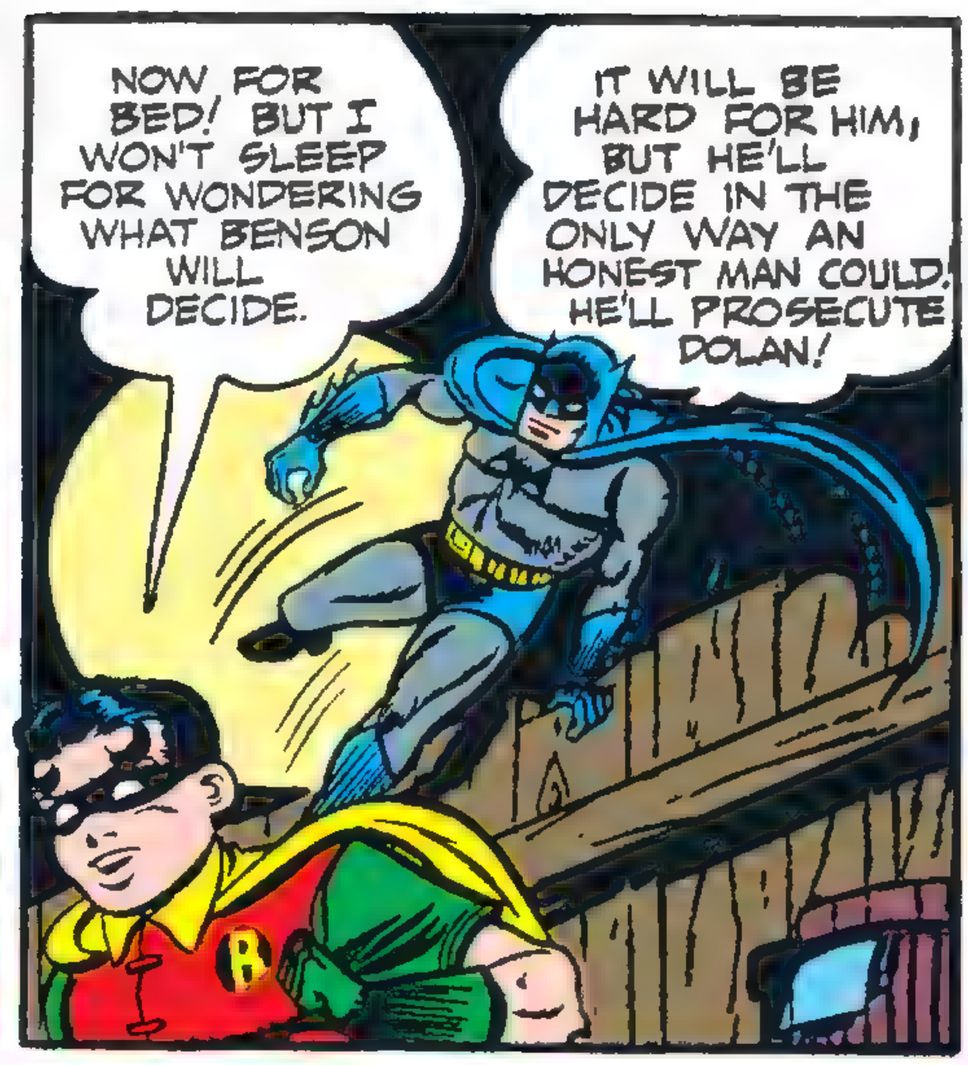
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT LEE BENSON?
WE WAS KIDS TOGETHER-- I SAVED HIS LIFE ONCE--- HE WON'T FORGET THAT! HE'S MY PAL!

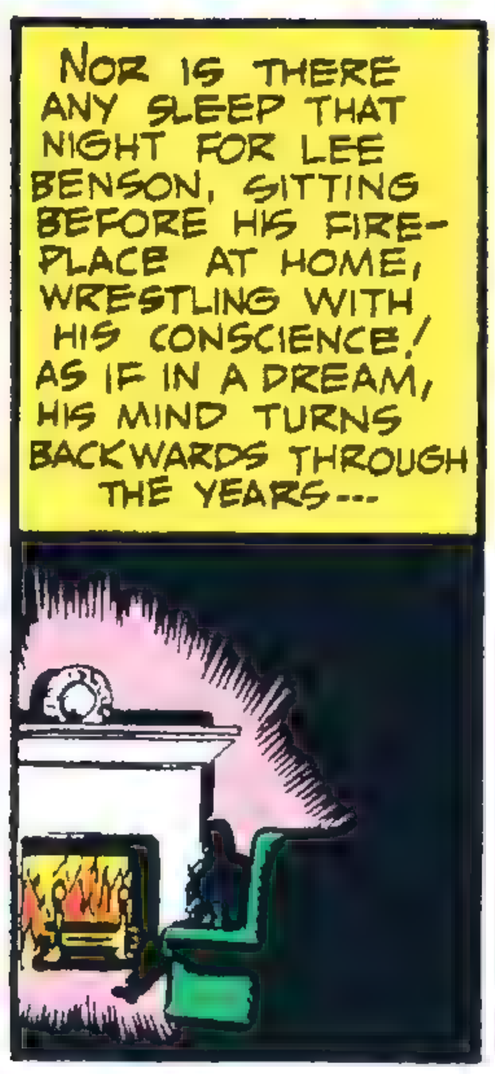

AND WHEN DISTRICT ATTORNEY BENSON ARRIVES AT HIS OFFICE IN ANSWER TO THE BATMAN'S SUMMONS...
AND HERE'S THE EVIDENCE THAT WILL HELP YOU CONVICT JOE DOLAN AND HIS MOB!
JOE DOLAN! BATMAN, YOU'VE JUST GIVEN ME THE TOUGHEST ASSIGNMENT OF MY LIFE!

IF IT WASN'T FOR DOLAN, I WOULDN'T BE ALIVE TODAY! HOW CAN I ASK THE STATE TO TAKE HIS LIFE?
IT'S YOUR DUTY, BENSON---DOLAN MAY HAVE BEEN DECENT WHEN YOU WERE KIDS TOGETHER, BUT HE'S A MENACE TO SOCIETY NOW!

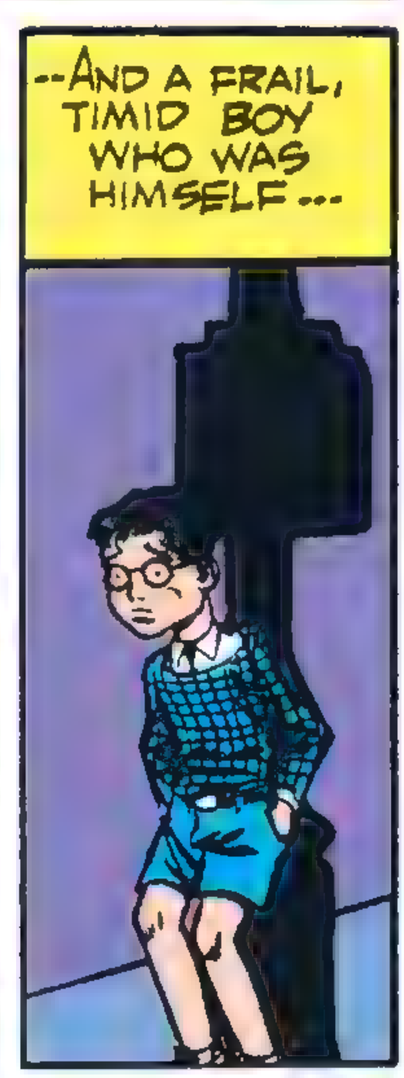
MY DUTY, YES--BUT I'M HUMAN! I SWORE I'D BE GRATEFUL TO DOLAN ALL MY LIFE, AND DO ALL I COULD TO HELP HIM... I-I'D BETTER RESIGN AND LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE THE CASE!

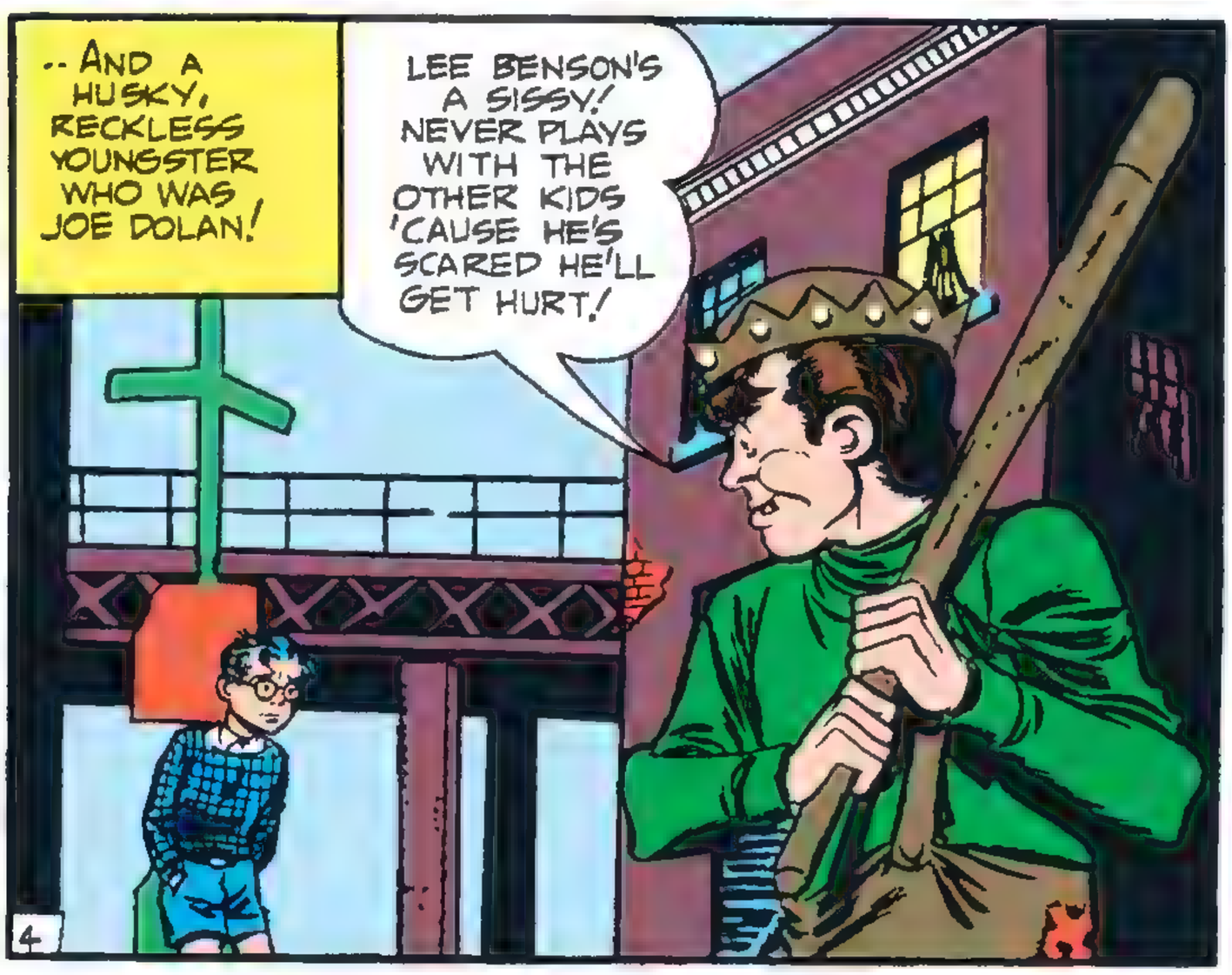
THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU, AND YOU CAN'T LET THEM DOWN! PROMISE ME YOU'LL TAKE THE NIGHT TO THINK IT OVER!
I--OH, BATMAN... I PROMISE!


NOW, FOR BED! BUT I WON'T SLEEP FOR WONDERING WHAT BENSON WILL DECIDE.
IT WILL BE HARD FOR HIM, BUT HE'LL DECIDE IN THE ONLY WAY AN HONEST MAN COULD! HE'LL PROSECUTE DOLAN!

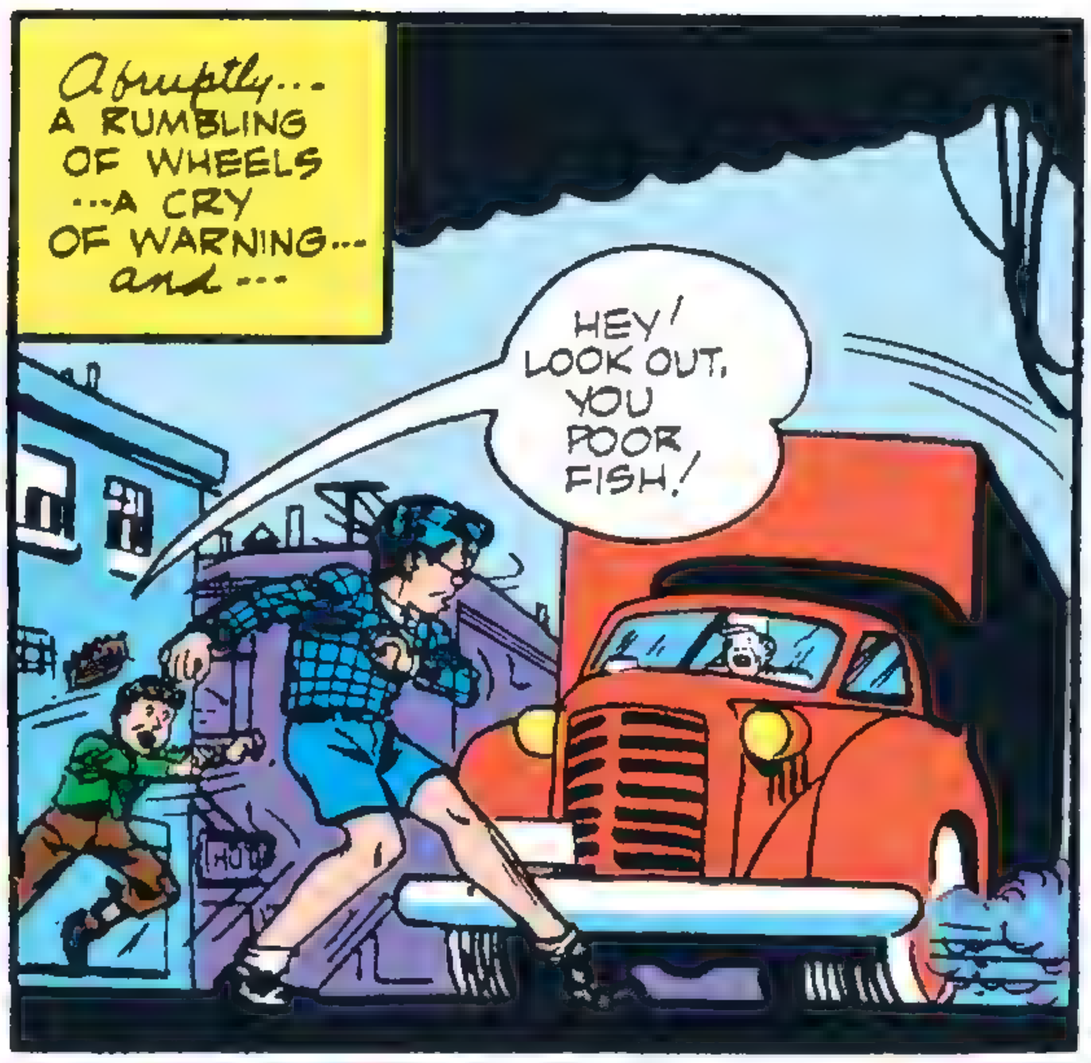

NOR IS THERE ANY SLEEP THAT NIGHT FOR LEE BENSON, SITTING BEFORE HIS FIRE-PLACE AT HOME, WRESTLING WITH HIS CONSCIENCE! AS IF IN A DREAM, HIS MIND TURNS BACKWARDS THROUGH THE YEARS...

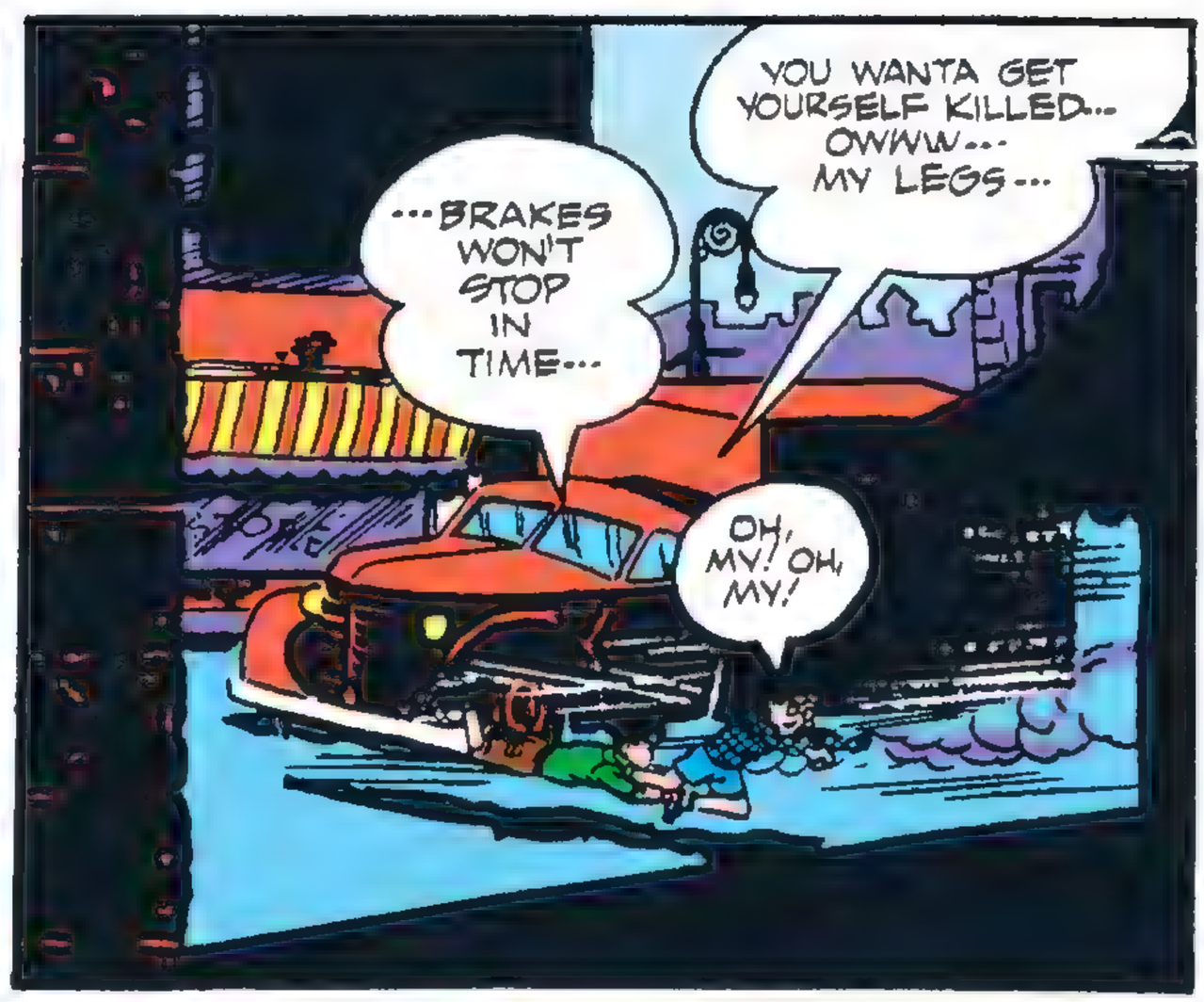
--BACK TO A SHABBY BLOCK IN THE POORER SECTION OF THE CITY...
ROOMS

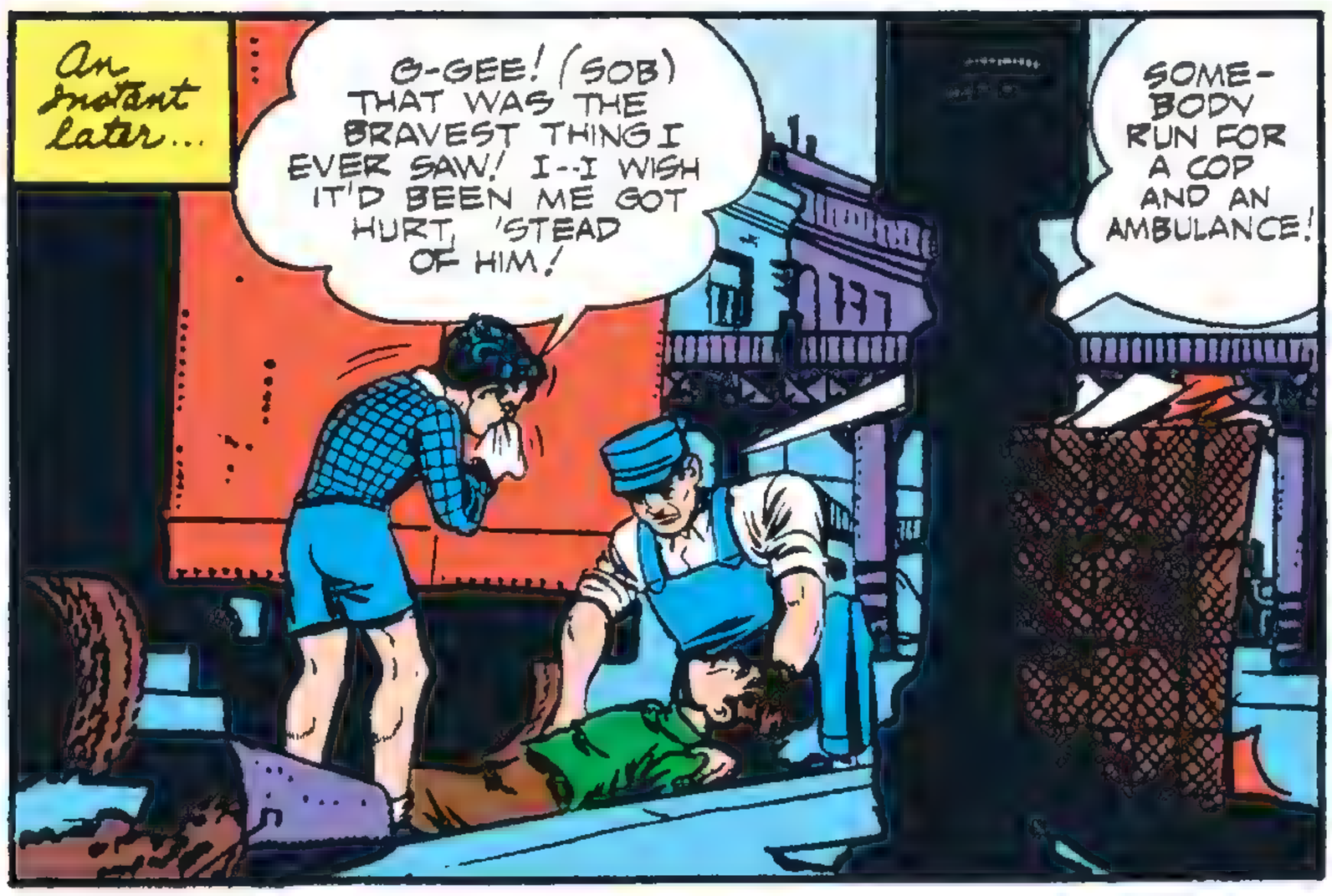

--AND A FRAIL, TIMID BOY WHO WAS HIMSELF...


--AND A HUSKY, RECKLESS YOUNGSTER WHO WAS JOE DOLAN!
LEE BENSON'S A SISSY! NEVER PLAYS WITH THE OTHER KIDS 'CAUSE HE'S SCARED HE'LL GET HURT!

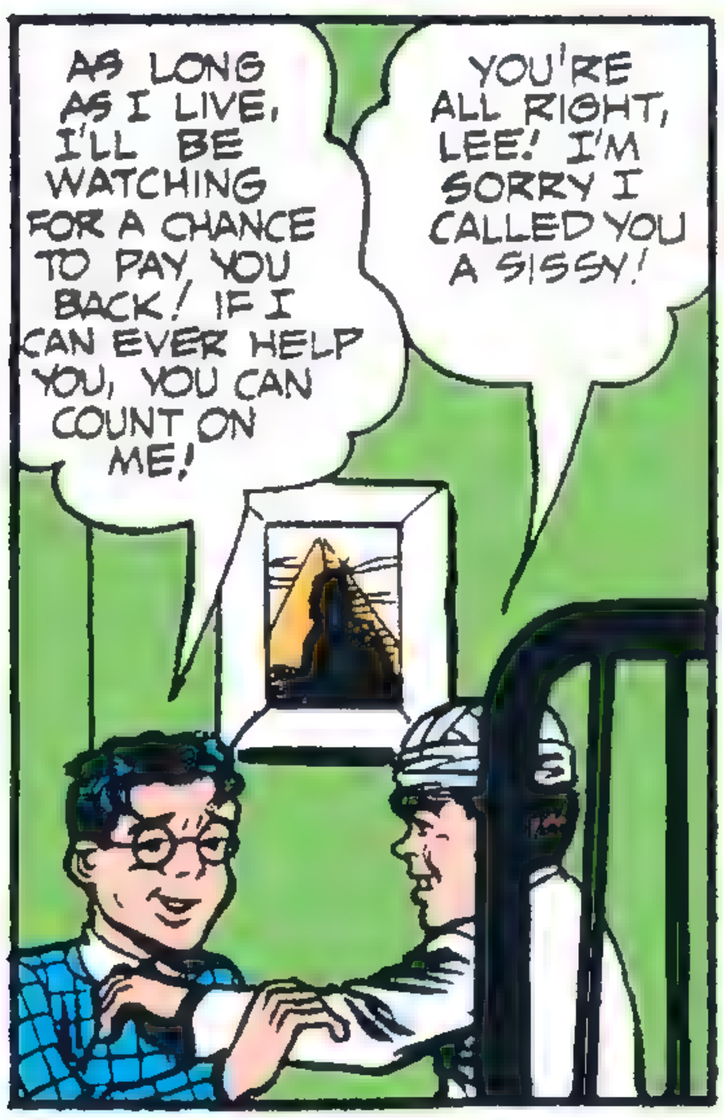
BLINDED BY TEARS OF LONELINESS, THE SHY BOY TURNS TO RUN FROM HIS TORMENTOR...
GOLLY-- WHY CAN'T I BE POPULAR LIKE JOE DOLAN AND THE REST OF THE KIDS?


Abruptly... A RUMBLING OF WHEELS ...A CRY OF WARNING... and...
HEY! LOOK OUT, YOU POOR FISH!


...BRAKES WON'T STOP IN TIME...
YOU WANTA GET YOURSELF KILLED... OWWW... MY LEGS...
OH, MY! OH, MY!


An instant later...
G-GEE! (SOB) THAT WAS THE BRAVEST THING I EVER SAW! I--I WISH IT'D BEEN ME GOT HURT, 'STEAD OF HIM!
SOME-BODY RUN FOR A COP AND AN AMBULANCE!

A FAST FRIENDSHIP GROWS DURING LONG WEEKS IN A HOSPITAL---
YOU SAVED MY LIFE AND NEARLY LOST YOUR OWN! I'LL NEVER FORGET IT, JOE!
SHUCKS! I COULDN'T LET YOU GET RUN DOWN, COULD I?


AS LONG AS I LIVE, I'LL BE WATCHING FOR A CHANCE TO PAY YOU BACK! IF I CAN EVER HELP YOU, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, LEE! I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU A SISSY!

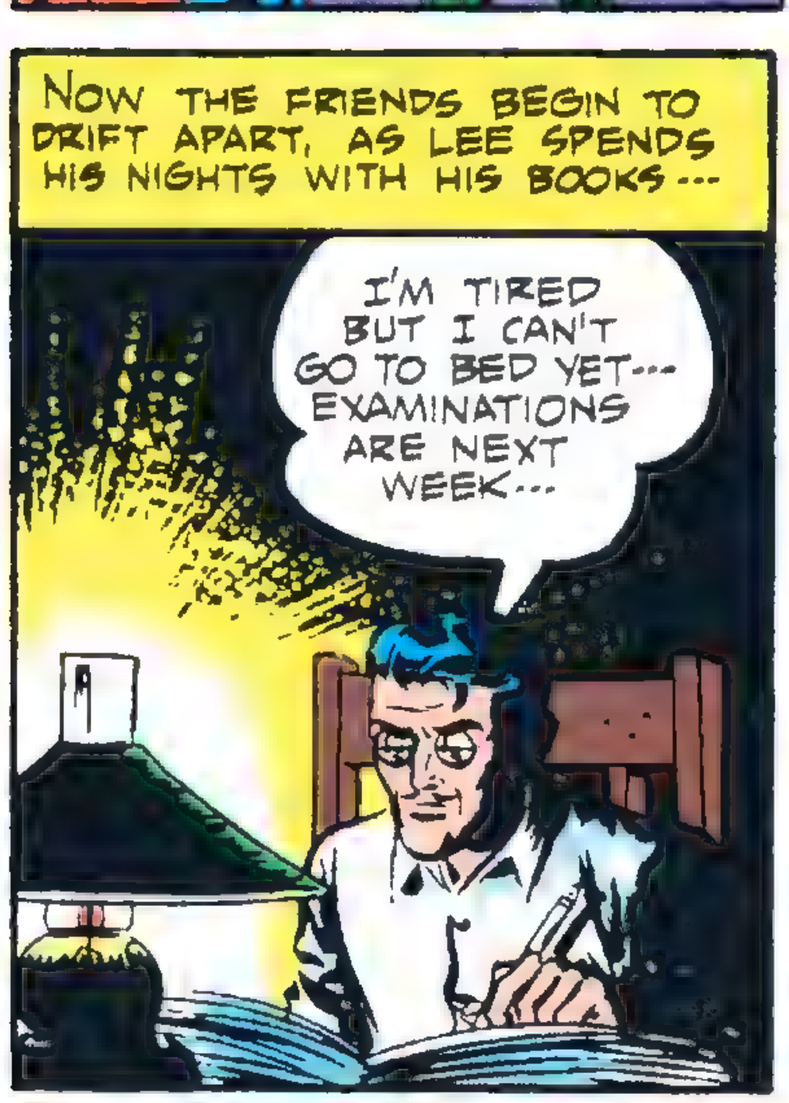
AND AFTERWARD, THE TWO CONTINUE TO BE PALS-
HOW'D YOU LIKE A PUNCH IN THE SNOOT, BABY?
I NEVER DID ANYTHING TO YOU!
BUTCH, YOU LEAVE LEE ALONE!

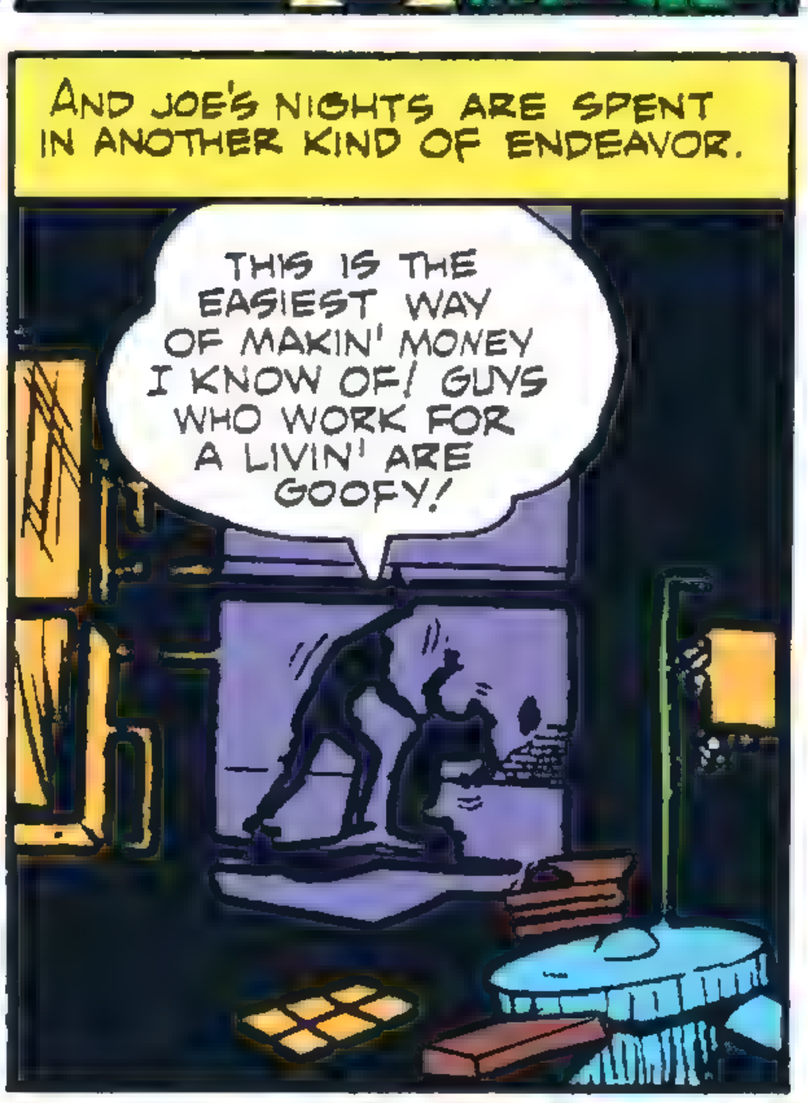
HE'S MY PAL, SEE? ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO PICK ON HIM HAS GOT TO PICK ON ME, TOO!
I GIVE UP! I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN'!

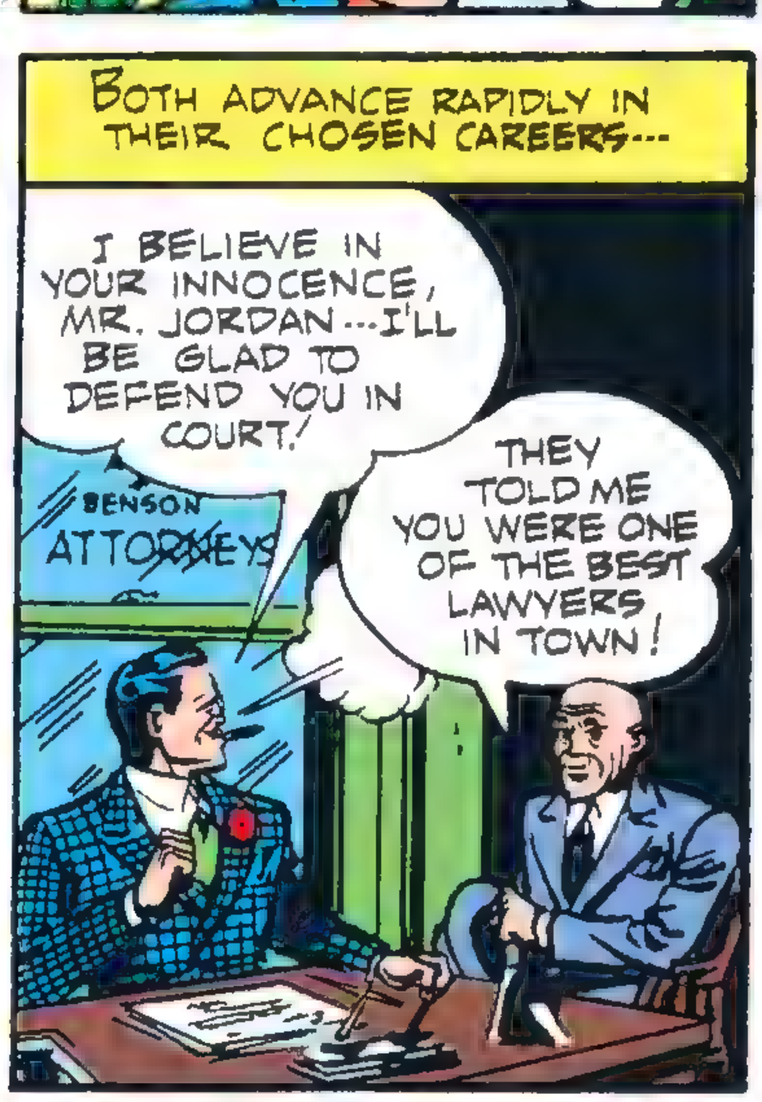
BUT AS THE YEARS PASS, A CHANGE COMES OVER JOE DOLAN---
GOSH--- WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THAT MONEY, JOE?
SOME GUYS AN' ME SWIPED SOME STUFF AN' SOLD IT! WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT WITH US TONIGHT?

NOT ME--- AND IF YOU'VE GOT ANY SENSE, YOU'LL NEVER STEAL AGAIN! IT'S WRONG! YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU KEEP ON!
NOTHIN' HAPPENS TO NOBODY IF THEY'RE SMART--- AN' I'M PLENTY SMART!

THE YEARS ROLL BY---
ARE YA GONNA BE A DOPE ALL YOUR LIFE, PAL? WHY DON'T YA JOIN OUR GANG? ROBBIN' STORES IS EASY, AN' THE LAW'S THE BUNK!
THE LAW'S NO JOKE TO ME! I'M STUDYING IT. I'M GOING TO BE A LAWYER SOME DAY!
LAW

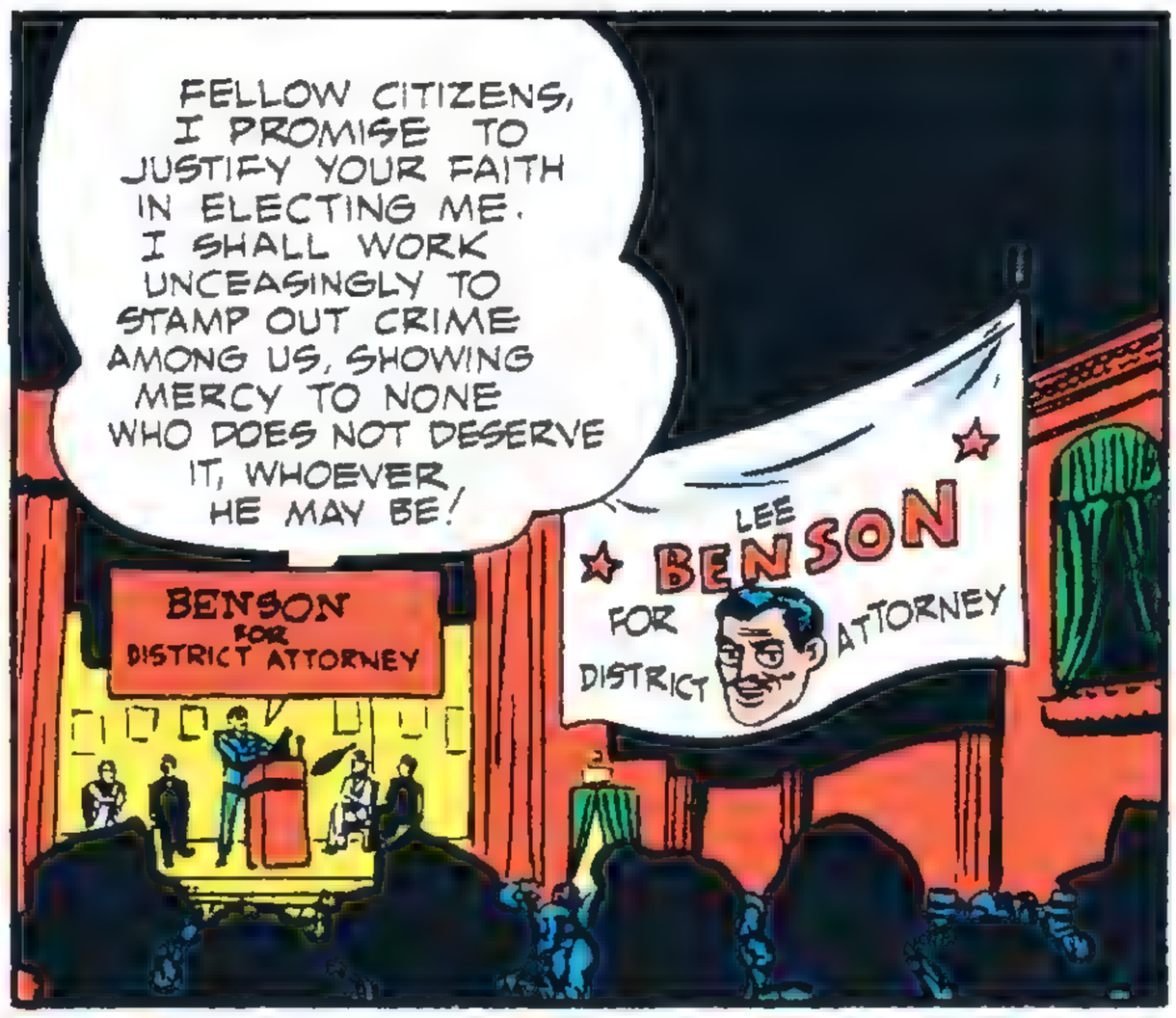

NOW THE FRIENDS BEGIN TO DRIFT APART, AS LEE SPENDS HIS NIGHTS WITH HIS BOOKS---
I'M TIRED BUT I CAN'T GO TO BED YET--- EXAMINATIONS ARE NEXT WEEK---

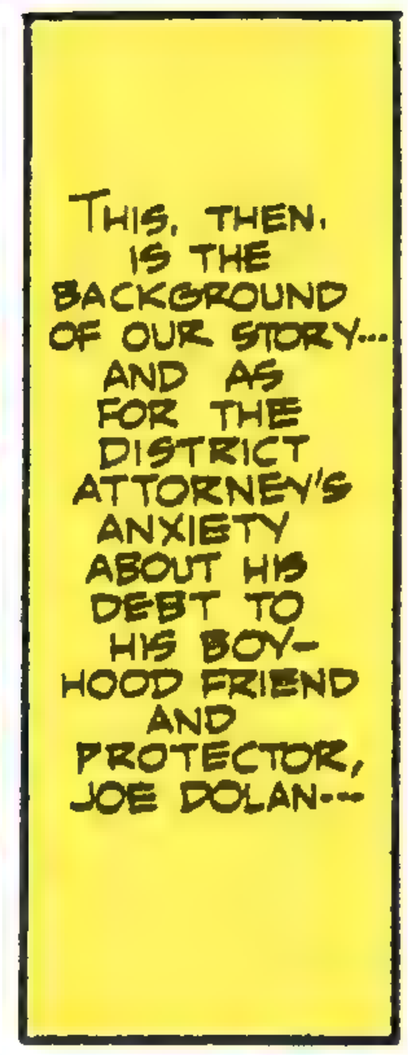

AND JOE'S NIGHTS ARE SPENT IN ANOTHER KIND OF ENDEAVOR.
THIS IS THE EASIEST WAY OF MAKIN' MONEY I KNOW OF! GUYS WHO WORK FOR A LIVIN' ARE GOOFY!


BOTH ADVANCE RAPIDLY IN THEIR CHOSEN CAREERS---
I BELIEVE IN YOUR INNOCENCE, MR. JORDAN---I'LL BE GLAD TO DEFEND YOU IN COURT!
THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE ONE OF THE BEST LAWYERS IN TOWN!
BENSON ATTORNEYS

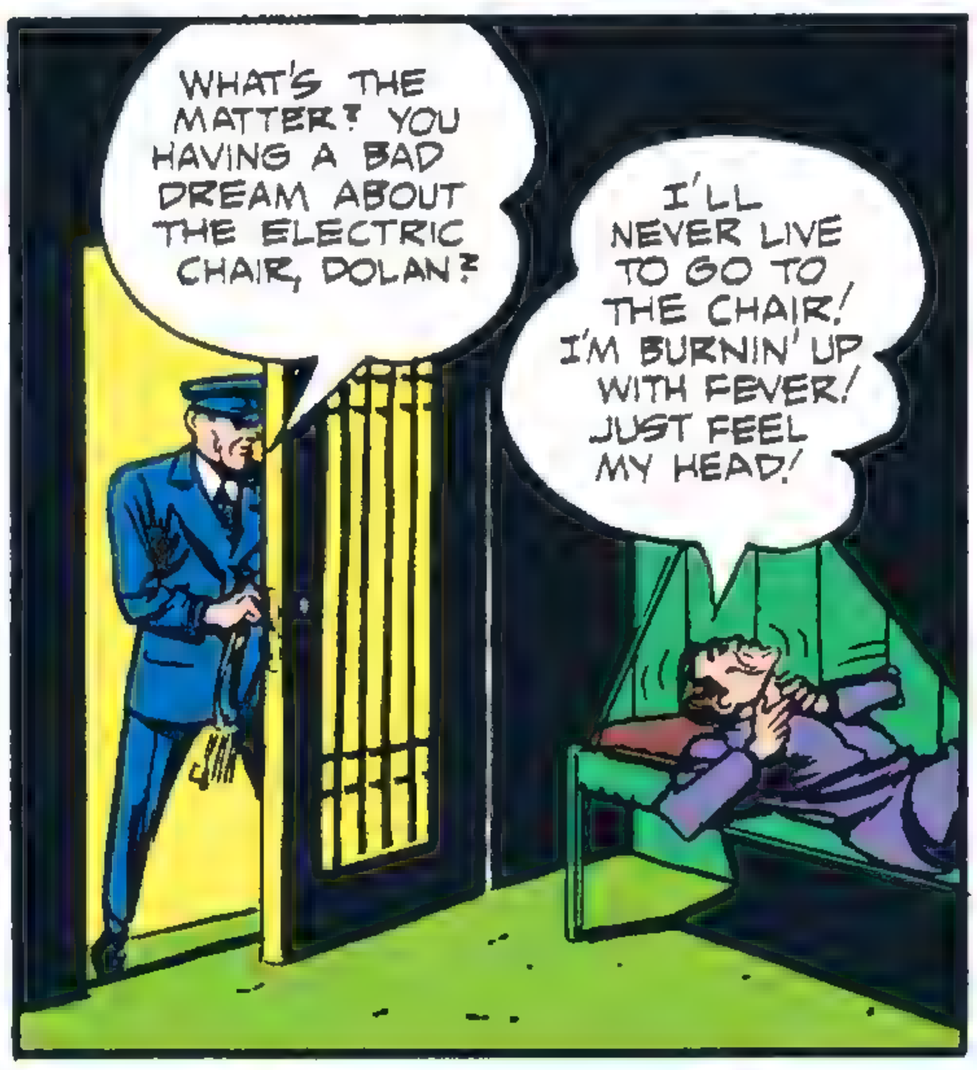
TRY TO STOP ME, WILL YA?
AAAAAAAAH!

AND EACH RECEIVES HIS SHARE OF NEWSPAPER HEADLINES...
BENSON TO RUN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BENSON
DAILY G
DOLAN HUNTED IN PAY-ROLL HOLDU


FELLOW CITIZENS, I PROMISE TO JUSTIFY YOUR FAITH IN ELECTING ME. I SHALL WORK UNCEASINGLY TO STAMP OUT CRIME AMONG US, SHOWING MERCY TO NONE WHO DOES NOT DESERVE IT, WHOEVER, HE MAY BE!
BENSON FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY
LEE BENSON FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY


THIS, THEN, IS THE BACKGROUND OF OUR STORY... AND AS FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S ANXIETY ABOUT HIS DEBT TO HIS BOY-HOOD FRIEND AND PROTECTOR, JOE DOLAN---

...DOLAN HIMSELF IS HASTENING THE SOLUTION OF THAT PROBLEM!
GUARD! OH, GUARD! I'M SICK! I'M DYIN'! CALL A DOCTOR, QUICK!

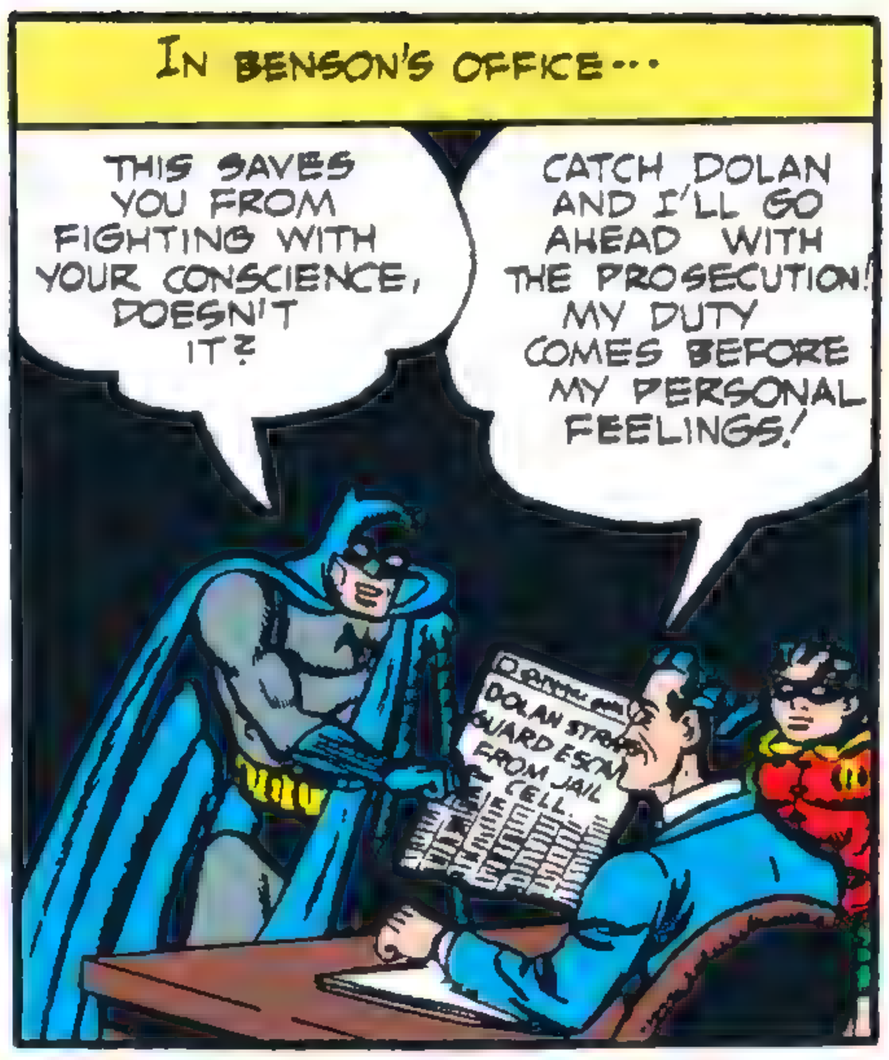

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU HAVING A BAD DREAM ABOUT THE ELECTRIC CHAIR, DOLAN?
I'LL NEVER LIVE TO GO TO THE CHAIR! I'M BURNIN' UP WITH FEVER! JUST FEEL MY HEAD!

LUCKY FOR ME SOME PEOPLE ARE DUMB!
AAAGH!

WHAT A JAIL! ONLY ONE GUARD IN THE WHOLE CELL BLOCK! THESE KEYS'LL GET ME OUT THE SIDE DOOR WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE!
7

I'LL LAY LOW IN A PLACE I KNOW ABOUT IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD TILL I CAN GET A NEW GANG--- THEN I'LL PAINT THIS TOWN RED!

NEXT MORNING'S HEADLINES PROVE STARTLING TO BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON--
LOOKS AS IF WE'LL HAVE TO BECOME THE BATMAN AND ROBIN AGAIN, DICK!
ALL OUR TROUBLE FOR NOTHING!
GOTHAM GAZETTE
DOLAN STRANGLES GUARD, ESCAPES FROM JAIL CELL

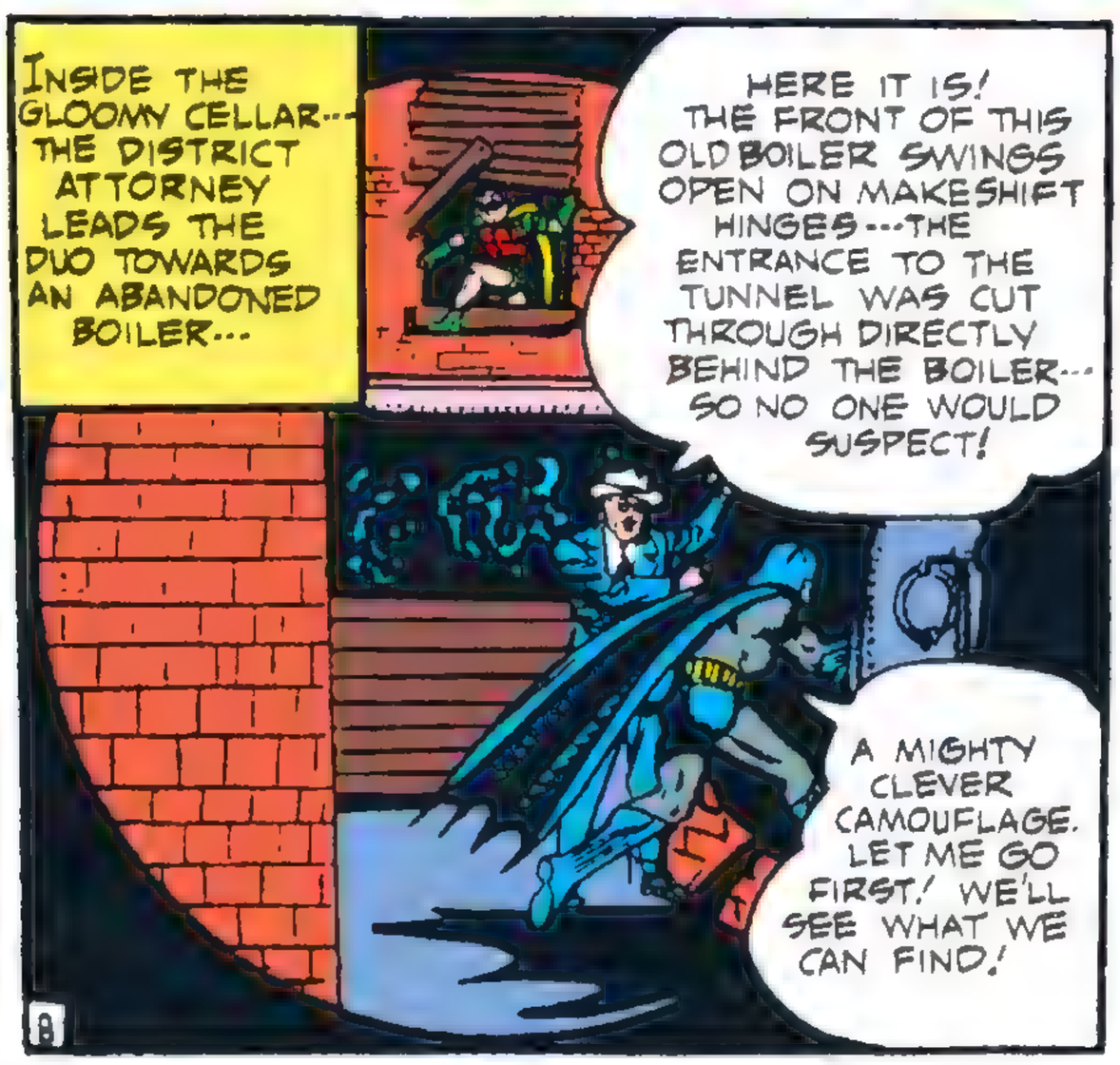

IN BENSON'S OFFICE...
THIS SAVES YOU FROM FIGHTING WITH YOUR CONSCIENCE, DOESN'T IT?
CATCH DOLAN AND I'LL GO AHEAD WITH THE PROSECUTION! MY DUTY COMES BEFORE MY PERSONAL FEELINGS!

THEN I'LL TRY AND ROUND HIM UP FOR YOU AGAIN! HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT BE HEADED?
IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THAT I HAVE!

YEARS AGO, WHEN JOE FIRST STARTED TO GO WRONG, HE AND SOME OTHER HOODLUMS HID THEIR LOOT IN AN OLD SEWER TUNNEL. JOE MIGHT HAVE PICKED THAT TUNNEL AS A SAFE HIDING PLACE!

AN UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT? SOUNDS EXCITING!
IF YOU'LL TELL US HOW TO FIND IT, BENSON--
I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT--I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

THERE USED TO BE AN ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL FROM THE BASEMENT OF THIS HOUSE!
WE'LL GO IN THROUGH A WINDOW!

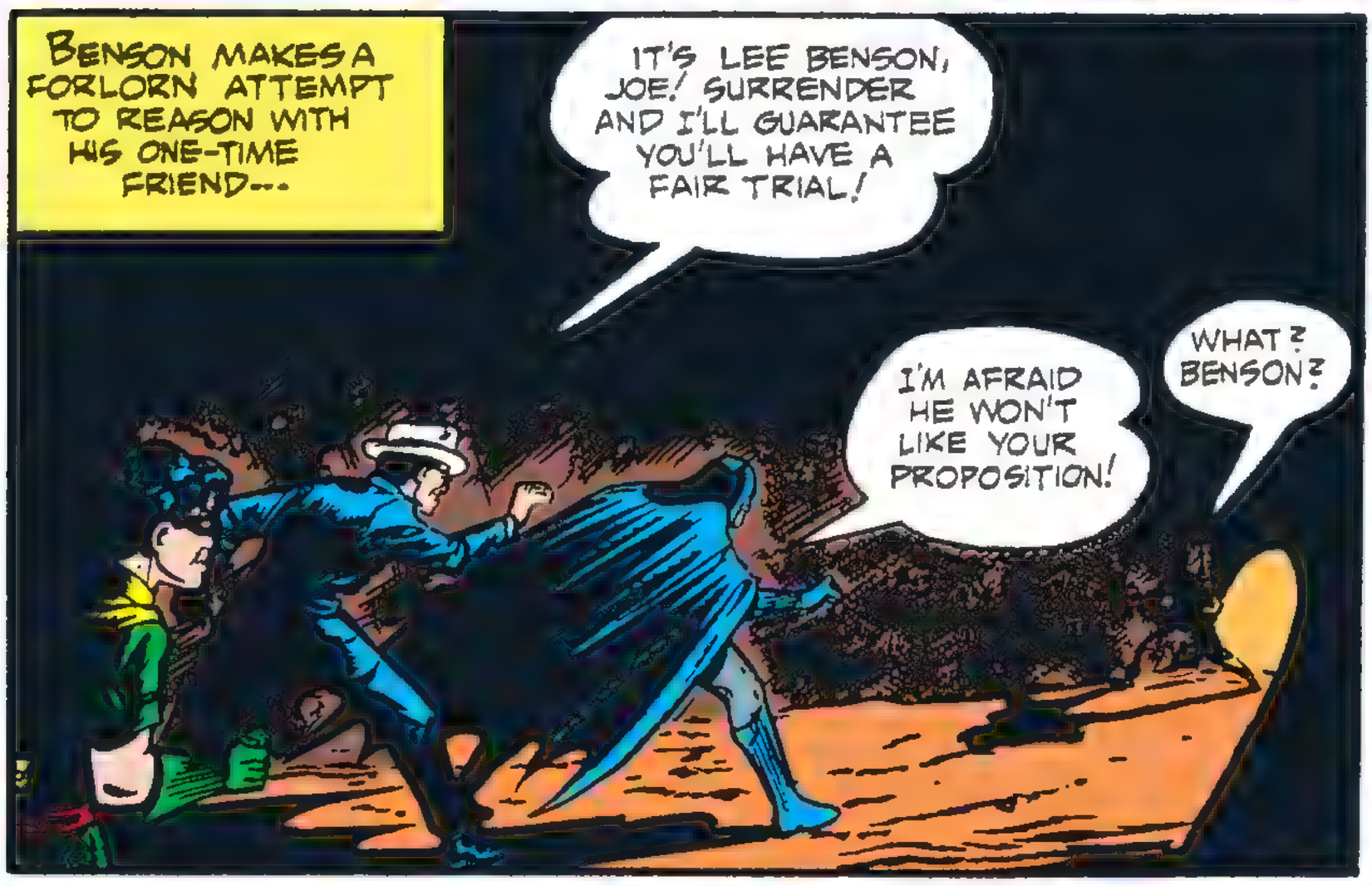

INSIDE THE GLOOMY CELLAR--THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEADS THE DUO TOWARDS AN ABANDONED BOILER...
HERE IT IS! THE FRONT OF THIS OLD BOILER SWINGS OPEN ON MAKESHIFT HINGES--THE ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL WAS CUT THROUGH DIRECTLY BEHIND THE BOILER--SO NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT!
A MIGHTY CLEVER CAMOUFLAGE. LET ME GO FIRST! WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND!

BOY, WHAT A SCARY PLACE!
NO LIGHTS! WE DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE US FIRST!

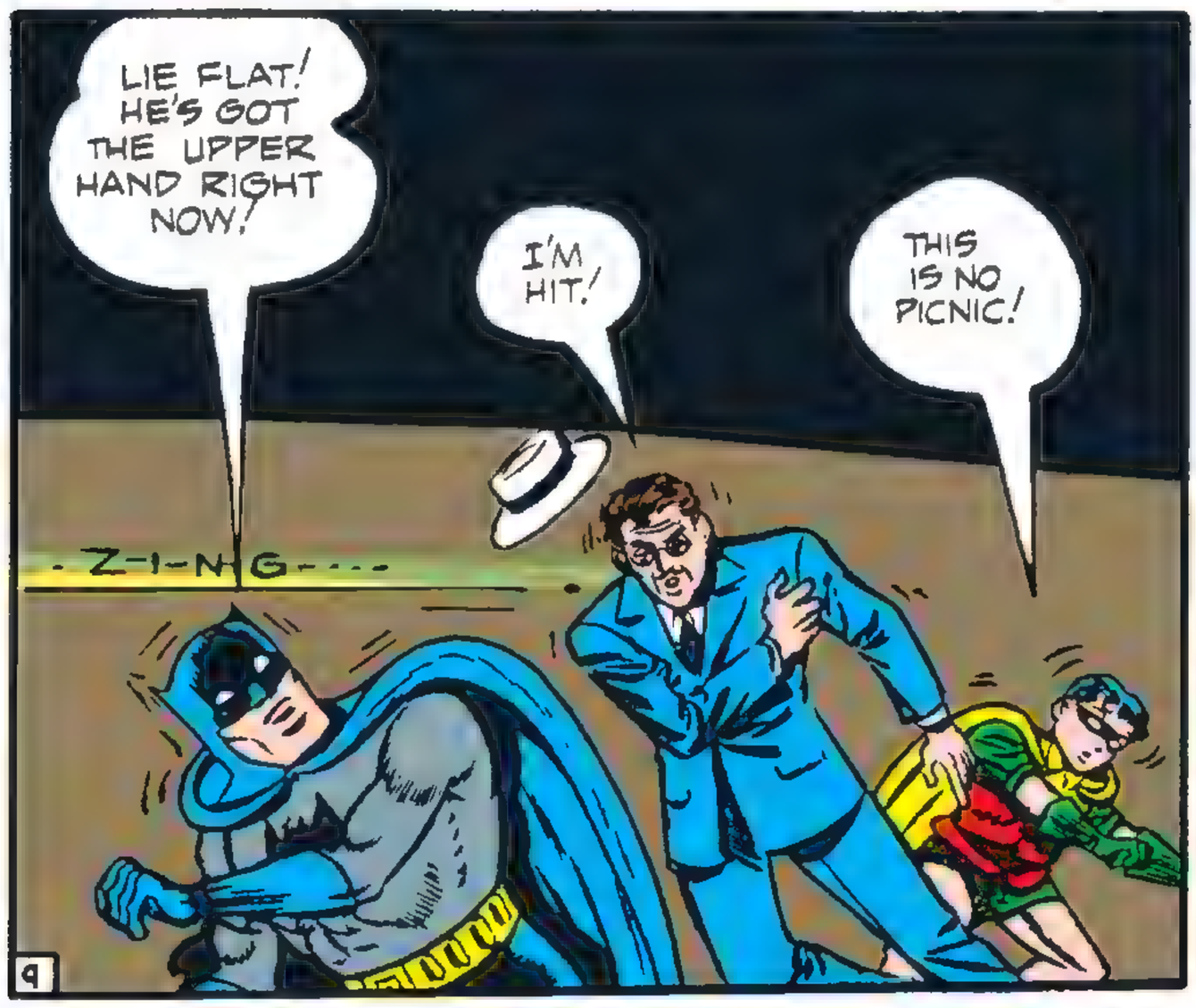
MEANWHILE, IN A CAVERN-LIKE RECESS OF THE TUNNEL---
THIS IS WORSE'N JAIL! THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT IT IS I CAN LEAVE WHENEVER I WANT! BAH! THIS SOLITAIRE IS GETTIN' ON ME NERVES!

DISTANT SOUNDS MAKE THE FUGITIVE INSTANTLY ALERT---
WHAT'S THAT?... PROBABLY RATS---BUT, I BETTER MAKE SURE!

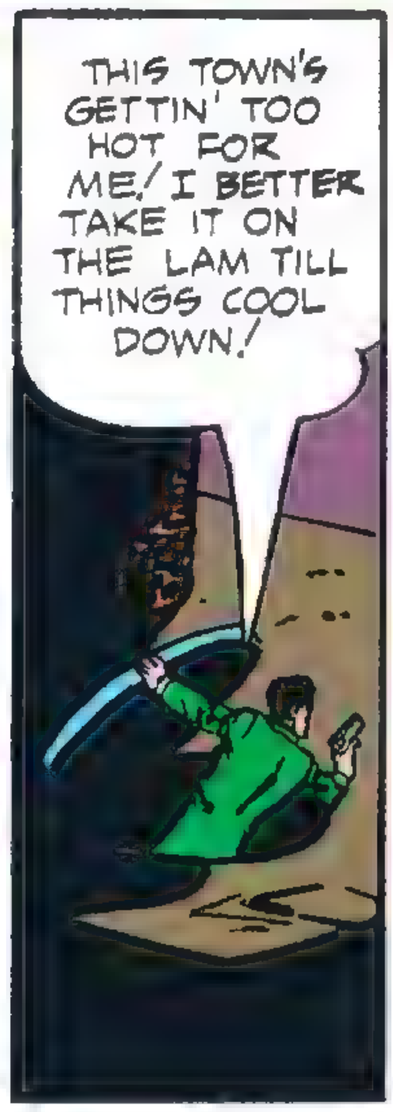
CREEPING INTO THE TUNNEL, THE JITTERY DOLAN SPIES A SHADOWY SILHOUETTE...
CAN'T SEE INTO THAT DARKNESS. WHO'S THERE? SPEAK UP, OR I'LL BLAST YA!

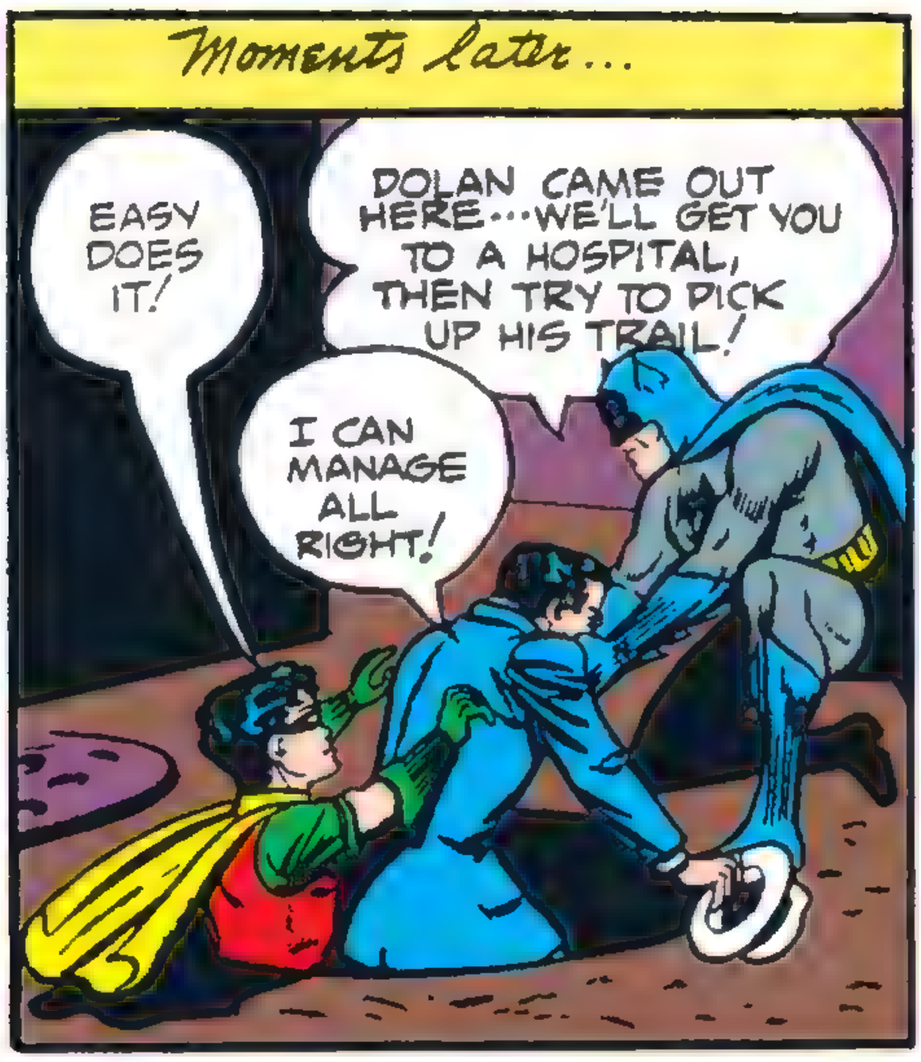

BENSON MAKES A FORLORN ATTEMPT TO REASON WITH HIS ONE-TIME FRIEND---
IT'S LEE BENSON, JOE! SURRENDER AND I'LL GUARANTEE YOU'LL HAVE A FAIR TRIAL!
I'M AFRAID HE WON'T LIKE YOUR PROPOSITION!
WHAT? BENSON?

BENSON! YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING HEEL! I SHOULDA LET THAT TRUCK RUN OVER YOU!


LIE FLAT! HE'S GOT THE UPPER HAND RIGHT NOW!
I'M HIT!
THIS IS NO PICNIC!
-Z-I-N-G---
9

BLASTING LEAD COVERS THE RETREAT OF THE DESPERATE FUGITIVE CRIMINAL---
GOT TO GET OUTA HERE! EVEN IF I'VE KILLED HIM, BENSON MIGHT'VE TOLD THE COPS ABOUT THIS PLACE!

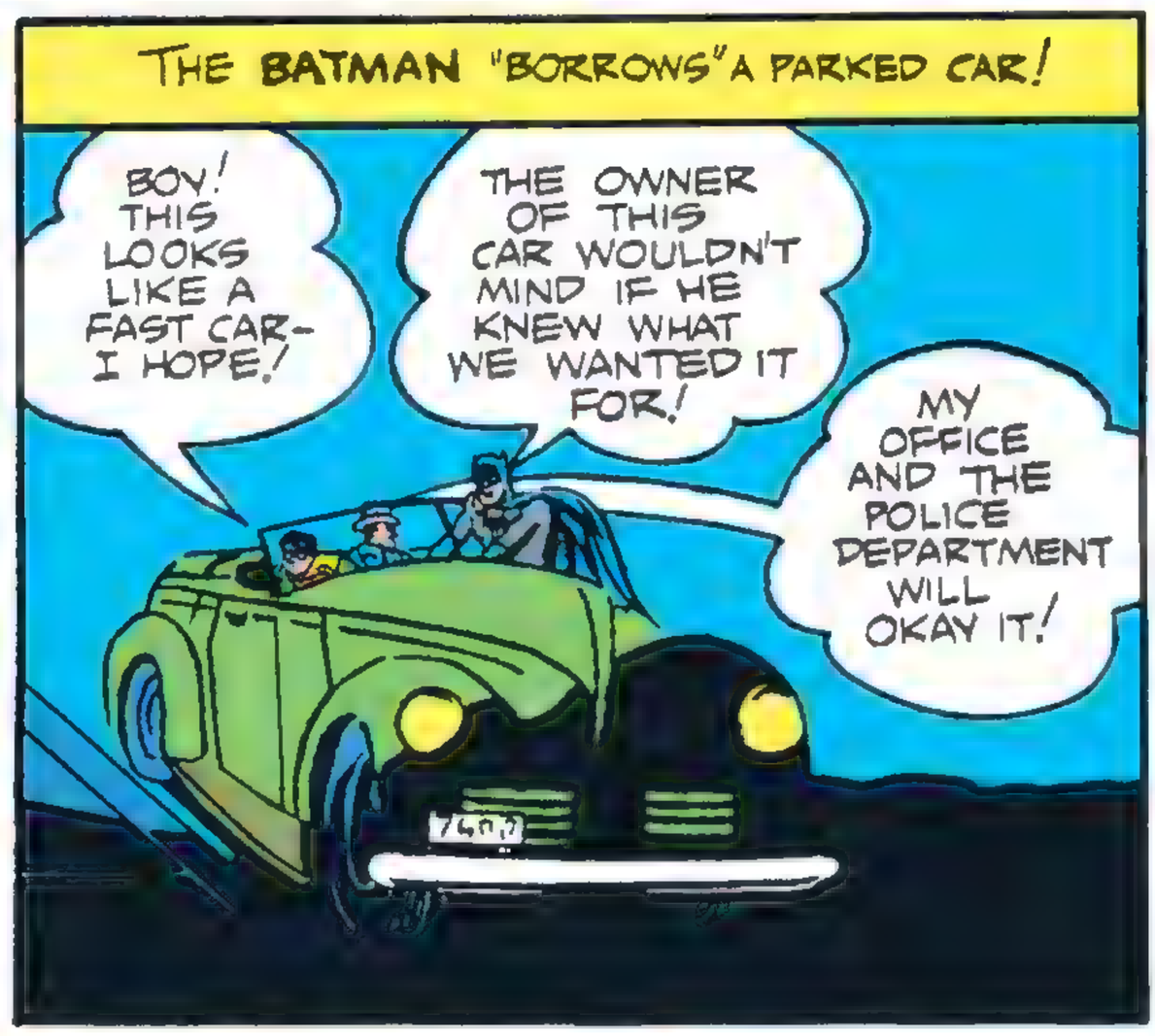

THIS TOWN'S GETTIN' TOO HOT FOR ME! I BETTER TAKE IT ON THE LAM TILL THINGS COOL DOWN!


Moments later...
EASY DOES IT!
DOLAN CAME OUT HERE...WE'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL, THEN TRY TO PICK UP HIS TRAIL!
I CAN MANAGE ALL RIGHT!

HOSPITAL, NOTHING! THAT BULLET ONLY SCRATCHED ME! I'M MAD NOW, AND I'M STICKING WITH YOU!
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER, BENSON, BUT WE HAVEN'T TIME TO ARGUE IF WE WANT TO CATCH HIM!

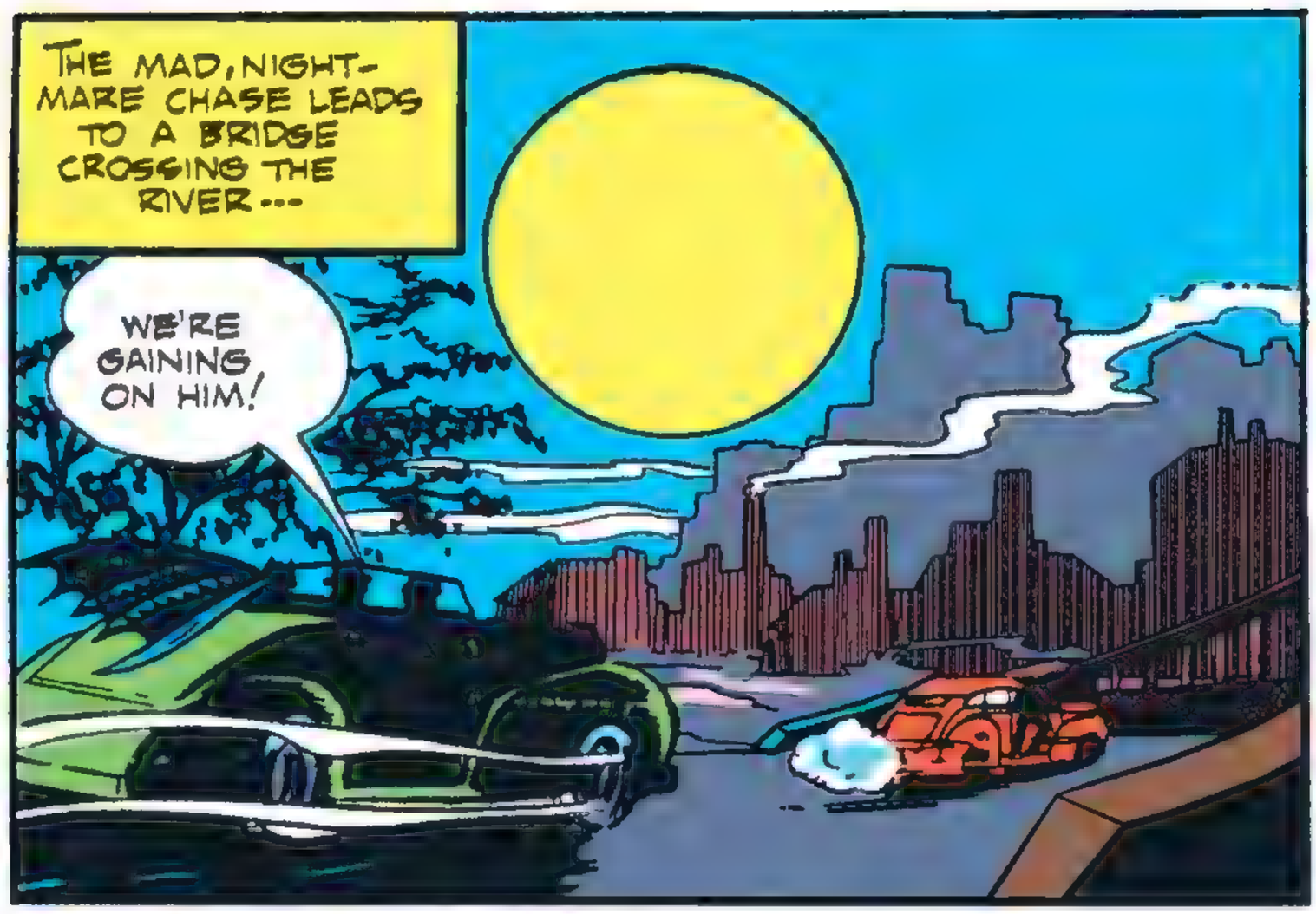
THERE HE GOES!
WE'LL HAVE TO COMMANDEER A CAR IN A HURRY!

GET GOIN', SISTER! TAKE THE SHORTEST WAY OUTA TOWN! ONE FALSE MOVE AN' I'LL BLOW YOUR PRETTY HEAD OFF!
I-I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY! P-PLEASE, DON'T SHOOT!


THE BATMAN "BORROWS" A PARKED CAR!
BOY! THIS LOOKS LIKE A FAST CAR- I HOPE!
THE OWNER OF THIS CAR WOULDN'T MIND IF HE KNEW WHAT WE WANTED IT FOR!
MY OFFICE AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL OKAY IT!

PERILOUSLY WHIPPING IN AND OUT OF TRAFFIC, THE CARS STREAK TOWARD THE RIVER LIKE RUNAWAY METEORS...
HE'LL NEVER GET AWAY!
THEY'LL NEVER GET ME!
BANG! BANG!
SCREECH!
10

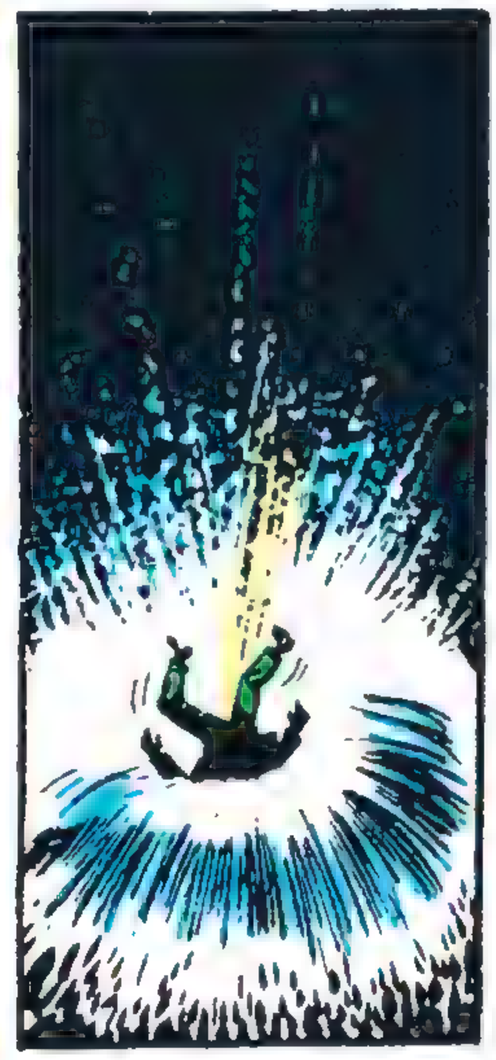
WHEW! HE ALMOST WON A CIGAR WITH THAT ONE!
CRACK!


THE MAD, NIGHT-MARE CHASE LEADS TO A BRIDGE CROSSING THE RIVER...
WE'RE GAINING ON HIM!

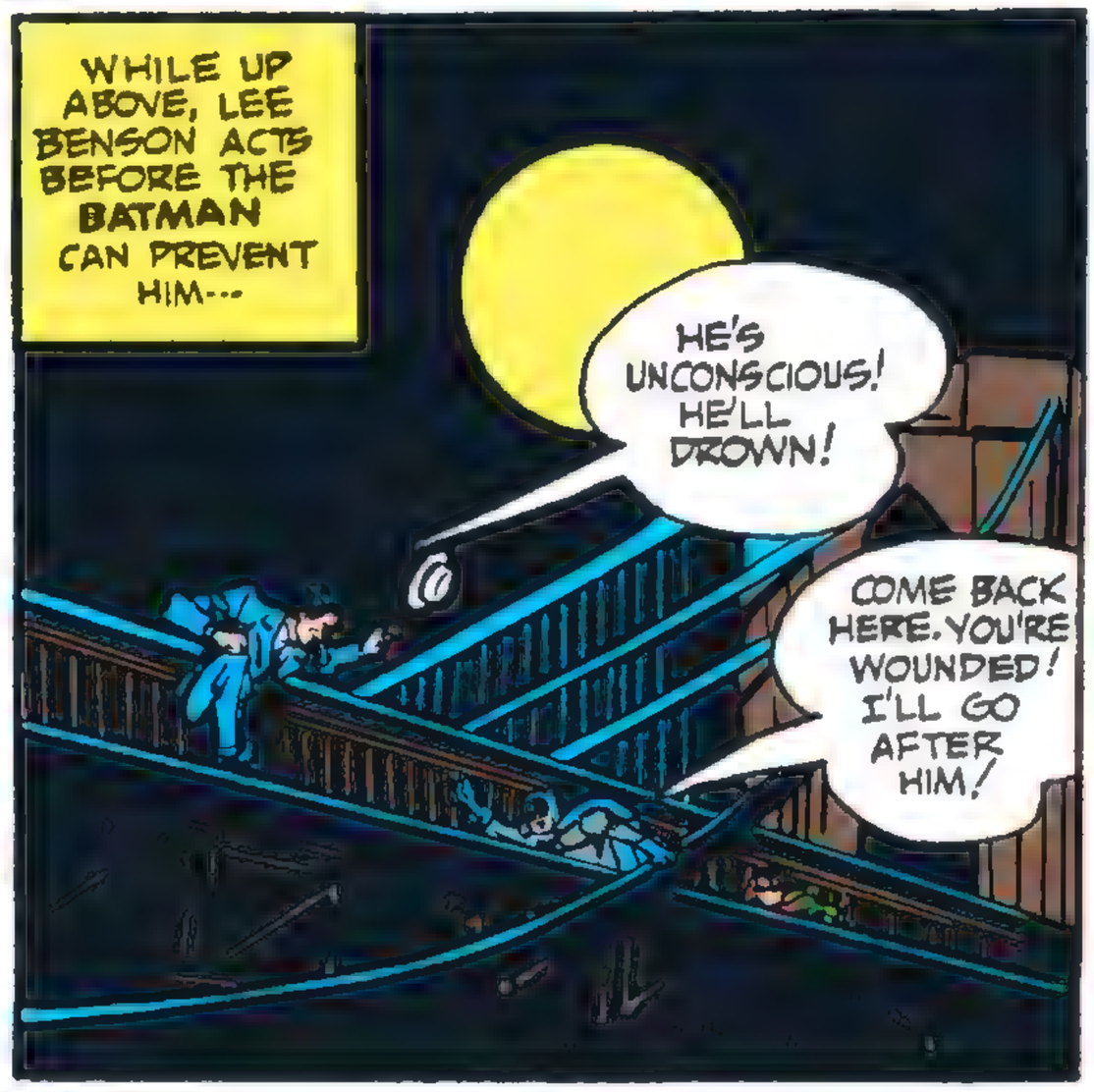
THE TERRIFIED GIRL'S TAUT NERVES SNAP, AND THE SPEEDING CAR CAREENS MADLY THROUGH THE RAILING INTO THE SIDE ROAD...
I CAN'T GO ON! OHHHHHH!
CRASH
YOU DONE THAT ON PURPOSE!

I'LL FOOL 'EM YET! THEY WON'T TAKE ME BACK!

DESPERATION HURLS THE CRAZED CRIMINAL OUTWARD AND DOWNWARD IN A DEATH-DEFYING DIVE...
THEY WON'T DARE FOLLOW ME!

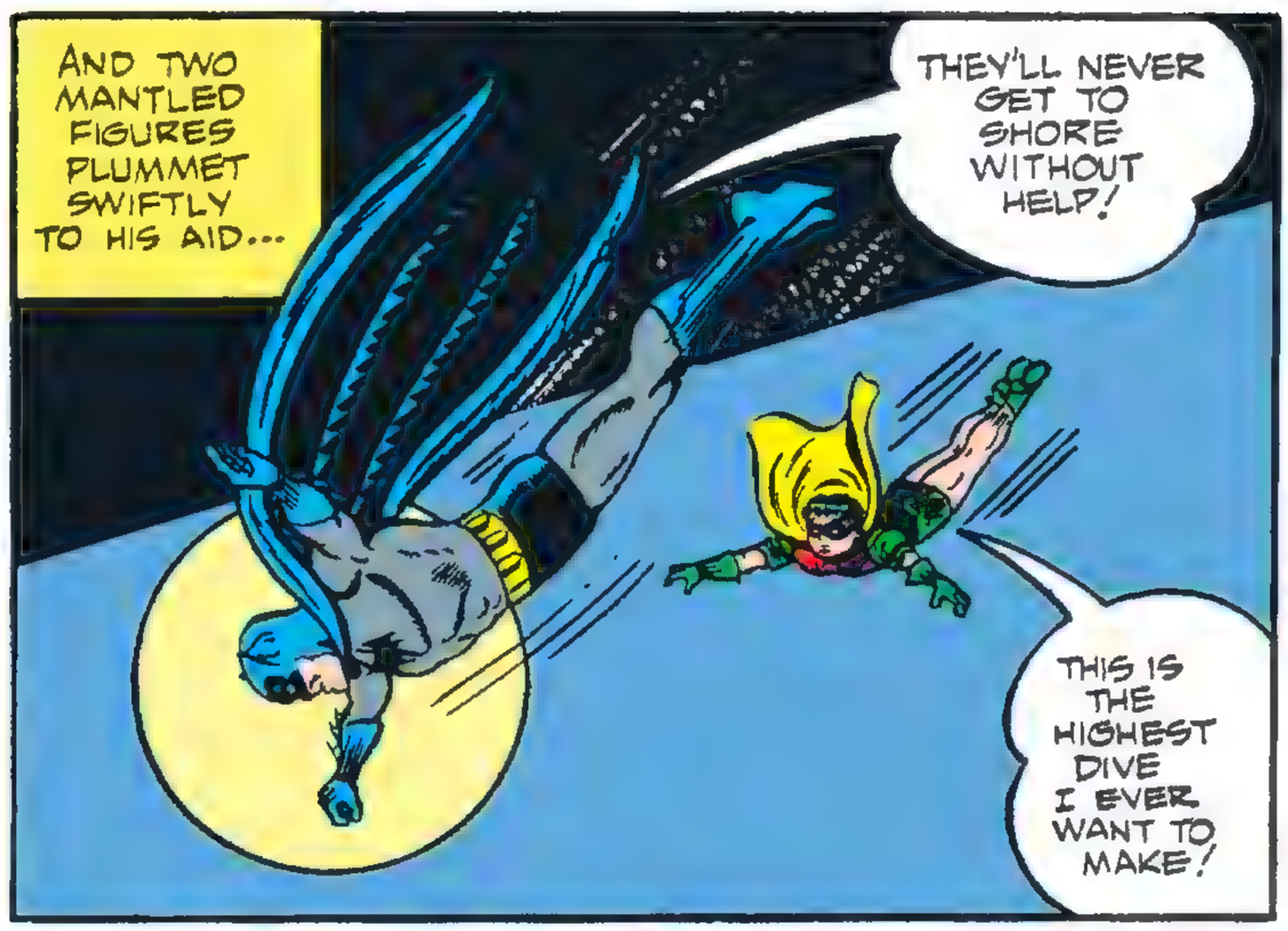


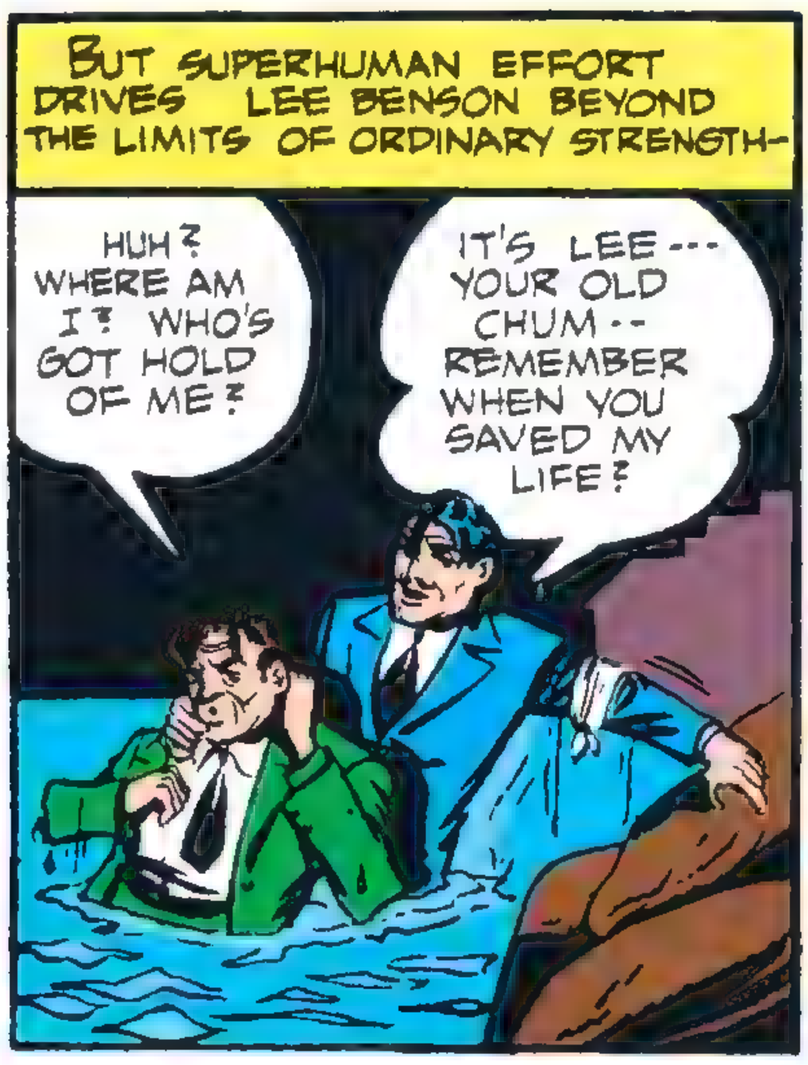
STUNNED BY HIS IMPACT WITH THE ICY WATERS, HE FLOATS HELPLESSLY...


WHILE UP ABOVE, LEE BENSON ACTS BEFORE THE BATMAN CAN PREVENT HIM...
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! HE'LL DROWN!
COME BACK HERE. YOU'RE WOUNDED! I'LL GO AFTER HIM!

KILLER OR NOT, HE SAVED MY LIFE ONCE AND I CAN'T SEE HIM DROWN LIKE THIS!

WEAKENED BY HIS WOUND, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY STROKES FEEBLY TO THE SIDE OF THE SENSELESS DOLAN...
I'LL SAVE HIM...OR DIE TRYING!

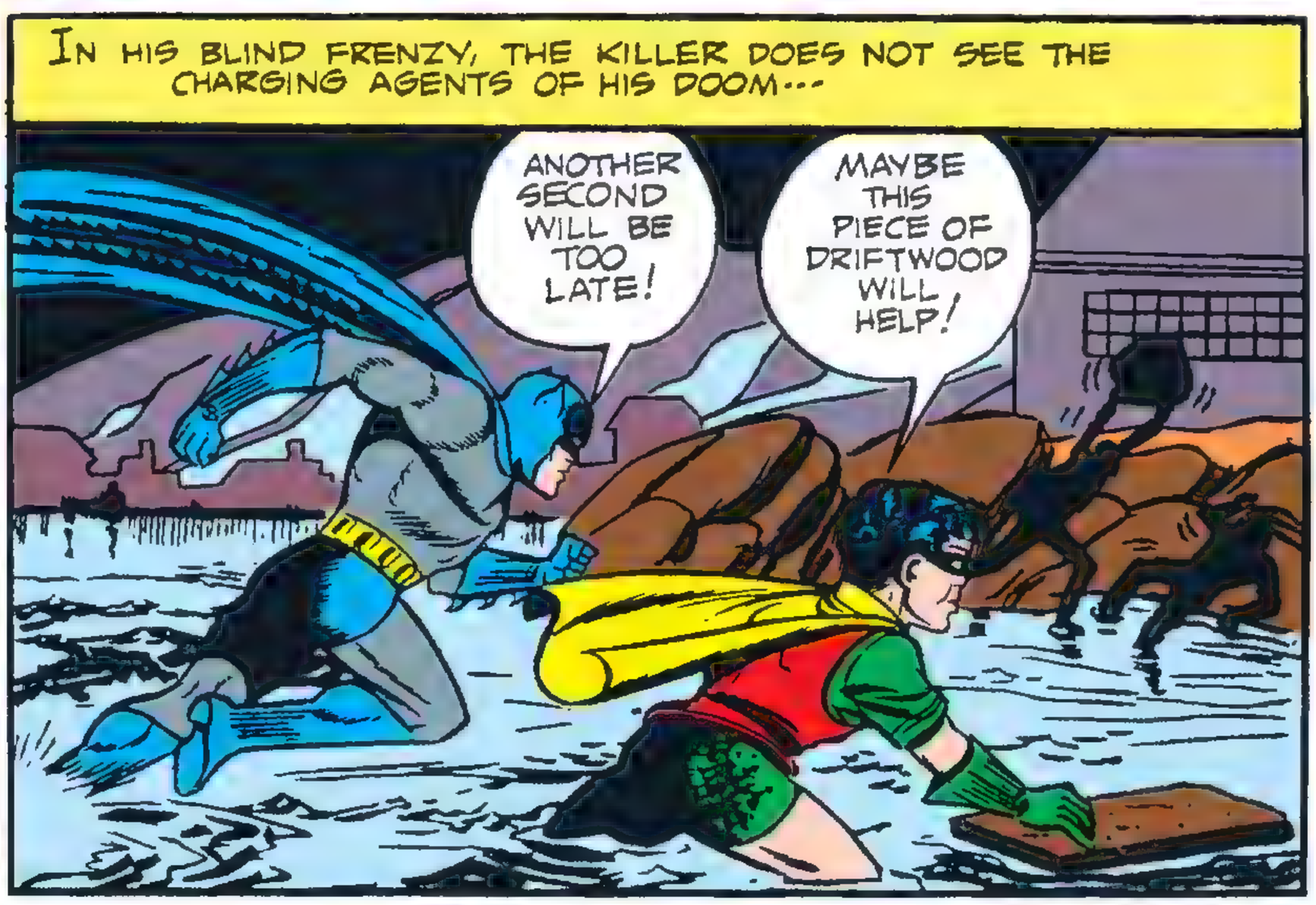

AND TWO MANTLED FIGURES PLUMMET SWIFTLY TO HIS AID...
THEY'LL NEVER GET TO SHORE WITHOUT HELP!
THIS IS THE HIGHEST DIVE I EVER WANT TO MAKE!

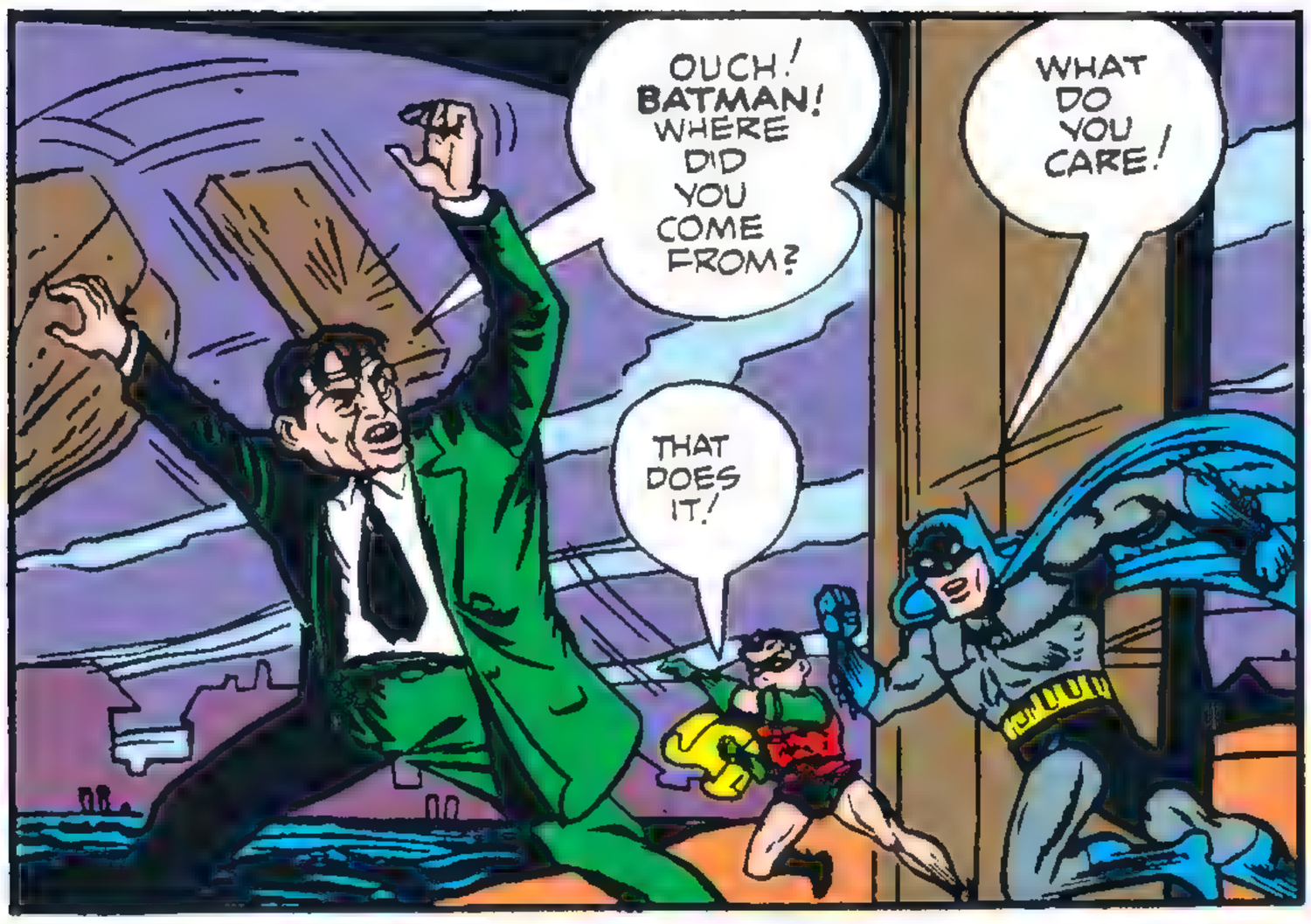

BUT SUPERHUMAN EFFORT DRIVES LEE BENSON BEYOND THE LIMITS OF ORDINARY STRENGTH-
HUH? WHERE AM I? WHO'S GOT HOLD OF ME?
IT'S LEE... YOUR OLD CHUM -- REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAVED MY LIFE?

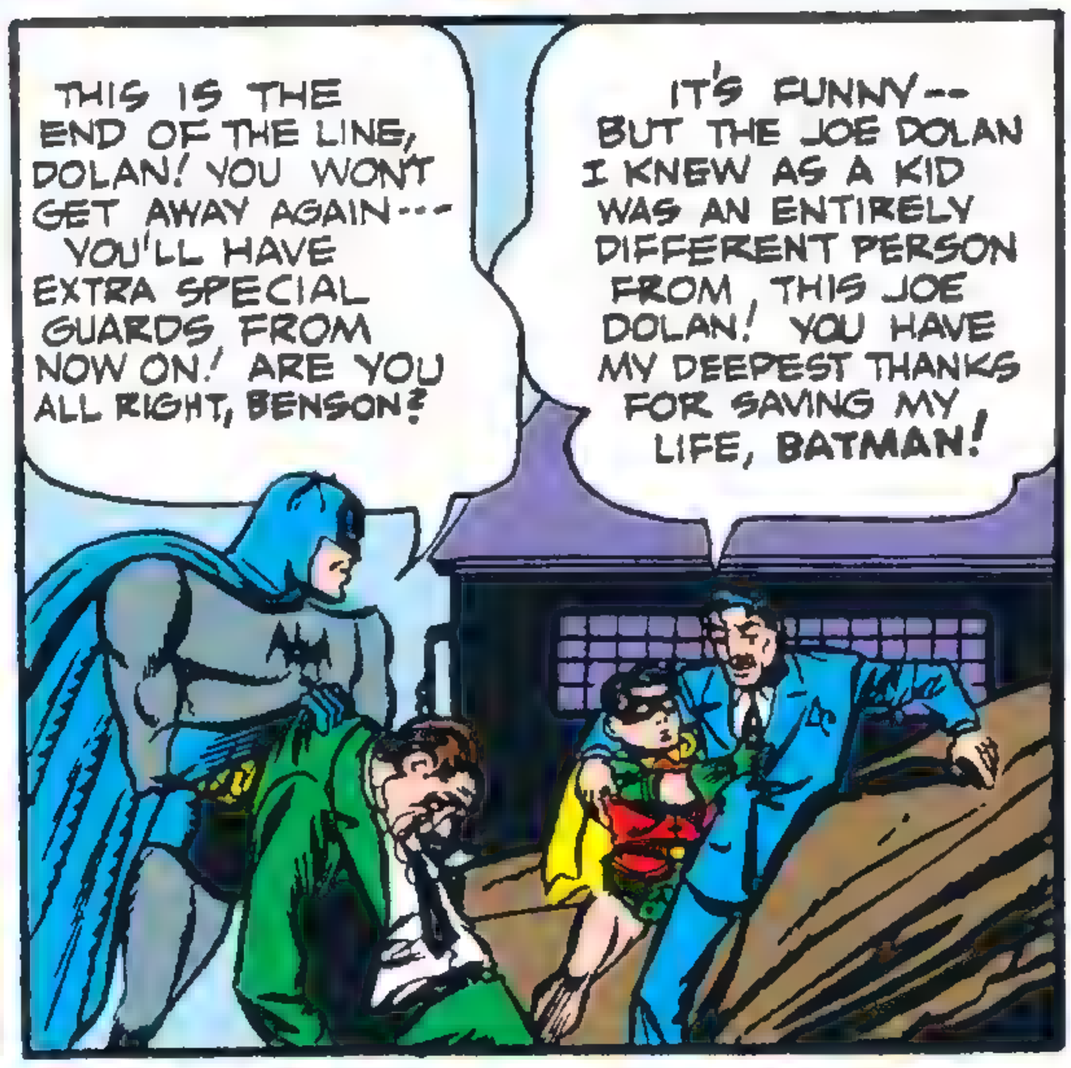
NOW... WE'RE EVEN! I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING!
BUT I OWE YOU SOMETHIN', COPPER!
JOE! YOU...YOU WOULDN'T!

OH, WOULDN'T I?

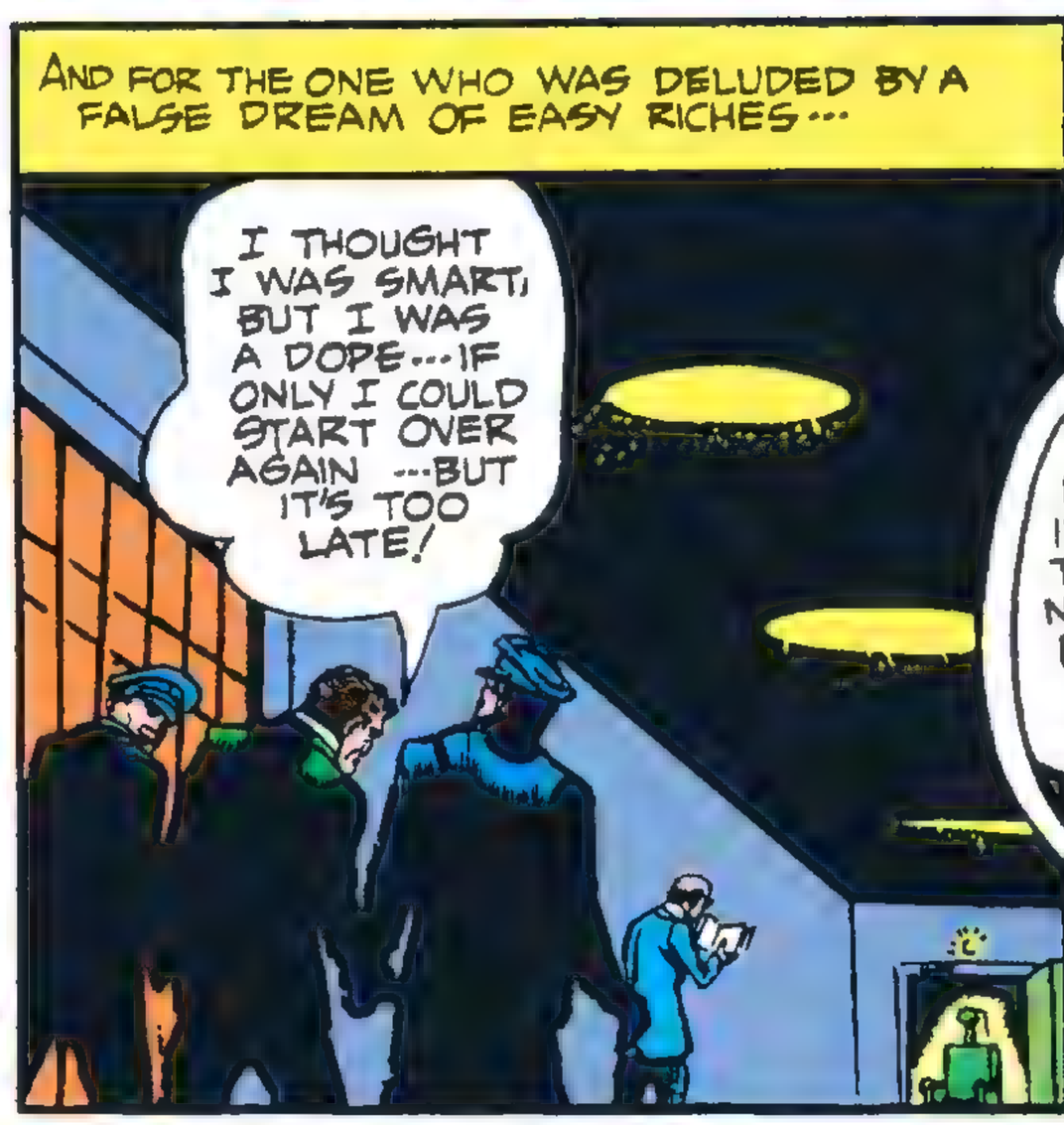
YOU'RE JUST THE KIND OF SISSY THAT WOULD REMEMBER OLD TIMES! BUT ME, I'M TOUGH! I ONLY WORRY ABOUT MYSELF! AFTER THIS HITS YOU, YOU WON'T GO PUTTIN' THE BATMAN ON MY TRAIL NO MORE!

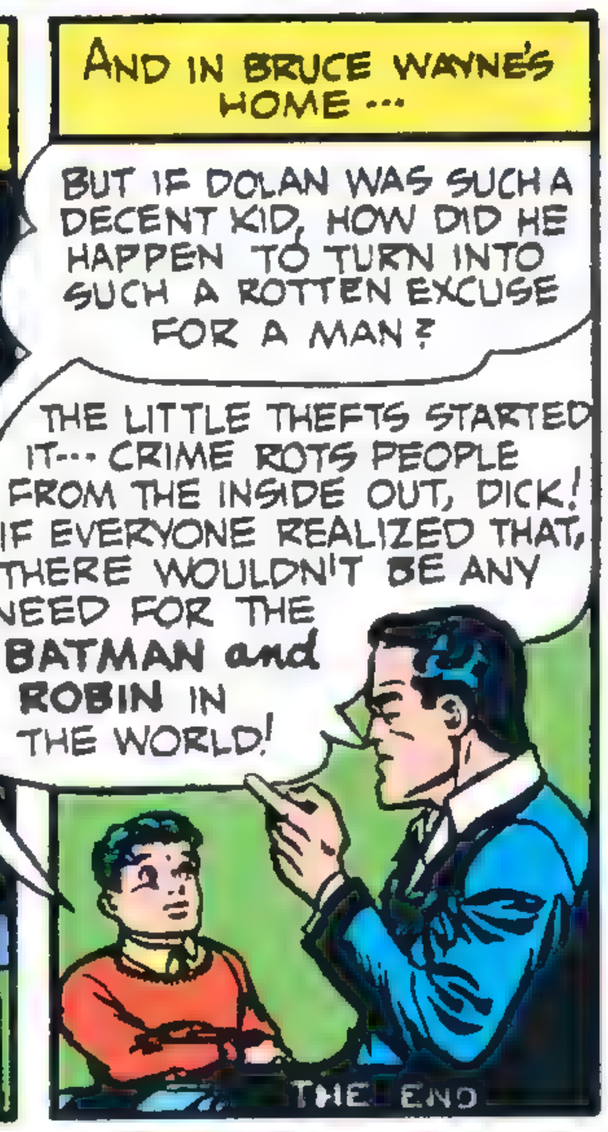

IN HIS BLIND FRENZY, THE KILLER DOES NOT SEE THE CHARGING AGENTS OF HIS DOOM...
ANOTHER SECOND WILL BE TOO LATE!
MAYBE THIS PIECE OF DRIFTWOOD WILL HELP!





TWO SEPARATE PATHS--AND AT THEIR ENDS THE REWARDS THAT FATE HAS SET ASIDE FOR THE MEN WHO CHOSE TO TRAVEL THEM, OUT OF ALL THE MANY PATHS IN LIFE---





BATMAN WITH ROBIN

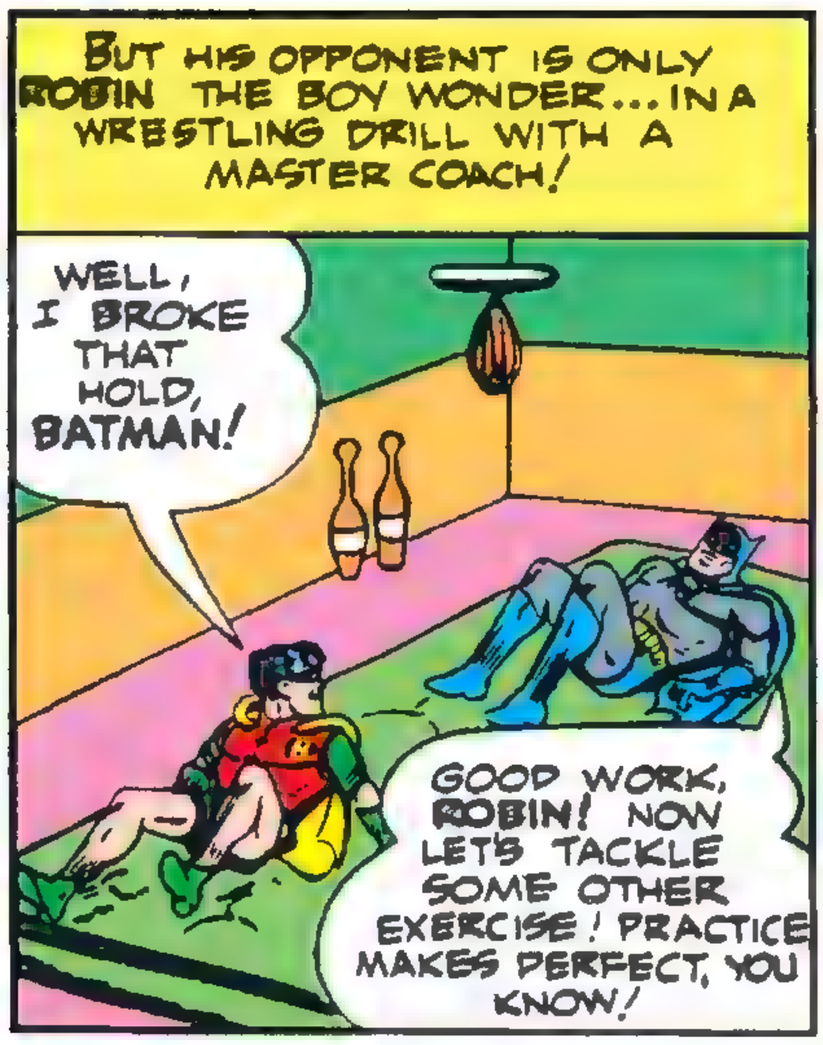
-THE BOY WONDER-

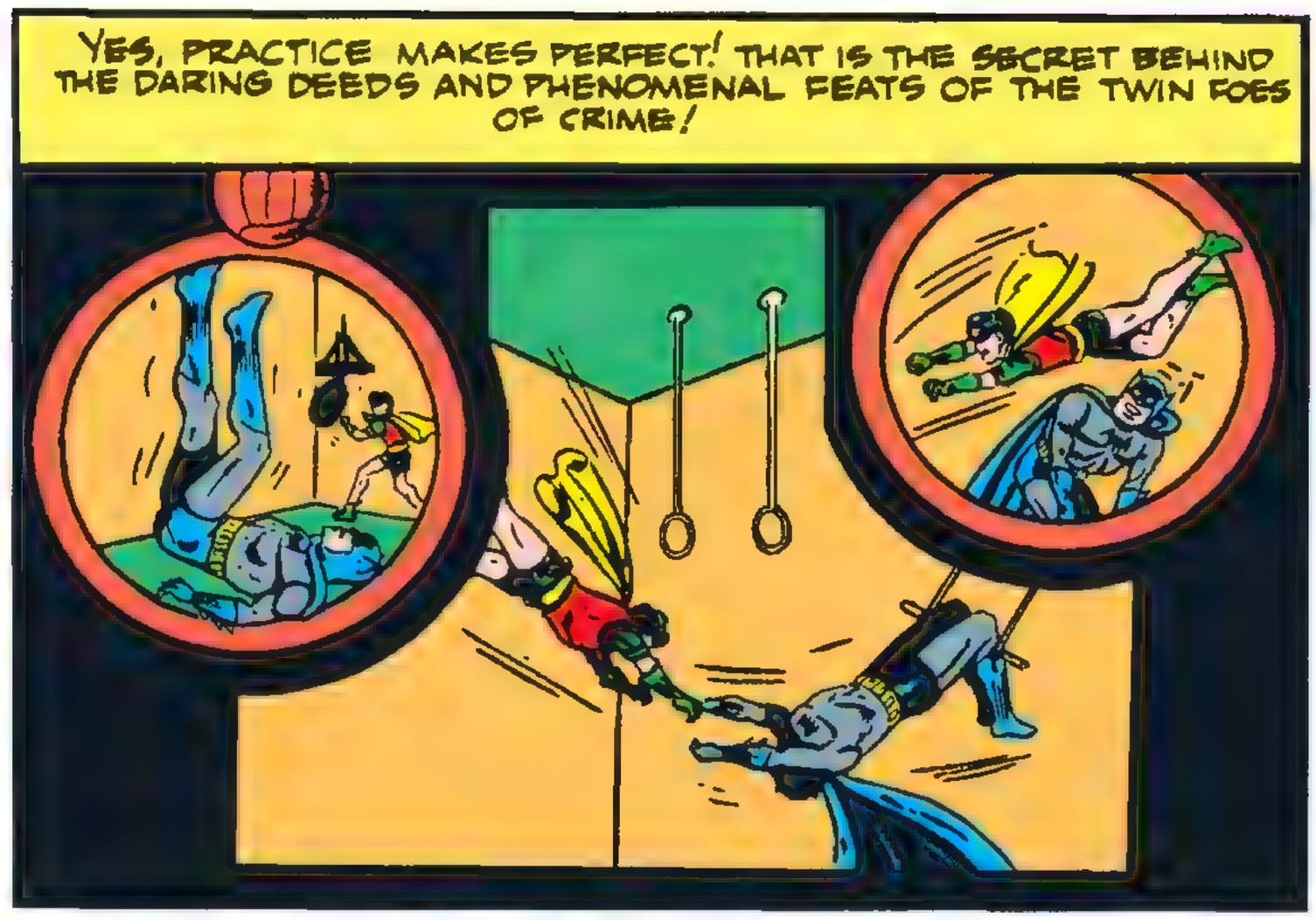
BOB KANE

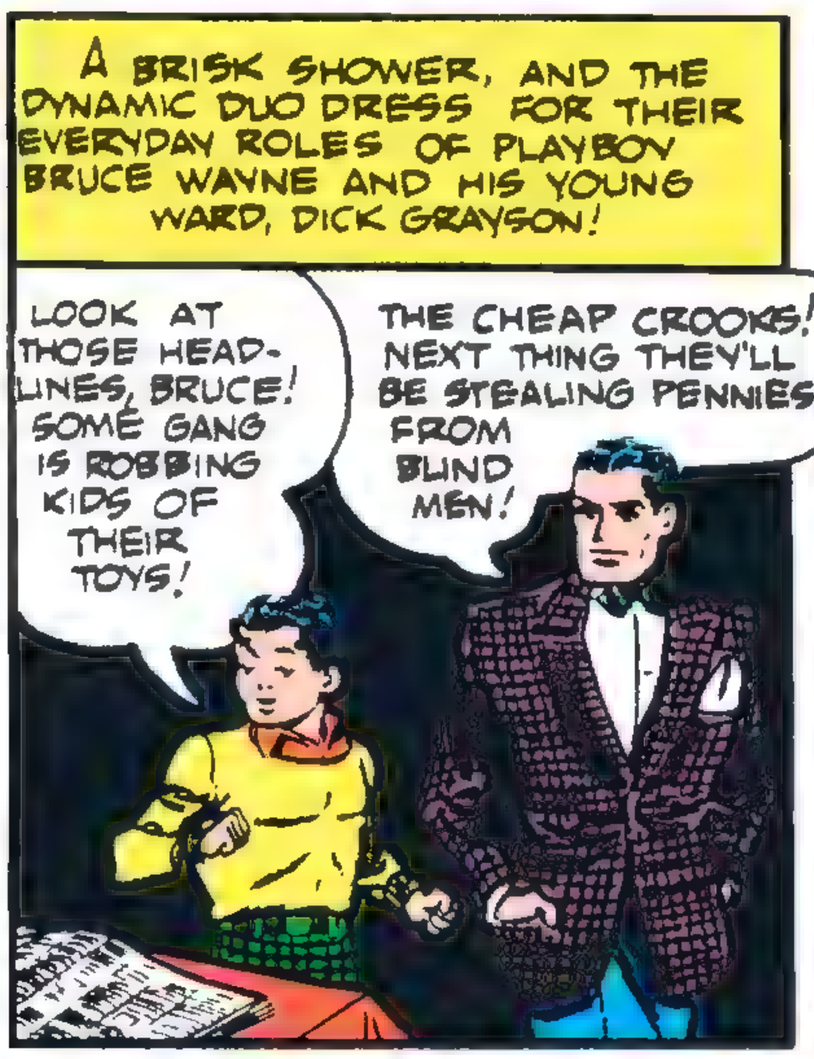
R. H. STACY'S

DEPARTMENT STORE

IN THE LAW COURTS OF THE LAND, MEN ARE OFTEN WEIGHED ON THE SCALES OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTFULLY FOUND WANTING. BUT SOMETIMES THOSE DELICATE SCALES ARE TILTED BY A HUMAN HAND WITH A SINISTER PURPOSE ...AND AN INNOCENT MAN'S LIFE IS FOREVER RUINED! AS A MIGHTY BARRIER AGAINST THESE ERRORS OF JUSTICE LOOMS THE STALWART CAPED FORM OF THE BATMAN! FOLLOW HIM NOW ON A MISSION OF MERCY AS HE AND ROBIN SET OUT ON THE HIGH-TENSION ADVENTURE OF... "Bandits in Toyland!"


BUT HIS OPPONENT IS ONLY ROBIN THE BOY WONDER... IN A WRESTLING DRILL WITH A MASTER COACH!
WELL, I BROKE THAT HOLD, BATMAN!
GOOD WORK, ROBIN! NOW LET'S TACKLE SOME OTHER EXERCISE! PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT, YOU KNOW!


YES, PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT! THAT IS THE SECRET BEHIND THE DARING DEEDS AND PHENOMENAL FEATS OF THE TWIN FOES OF CRIME!

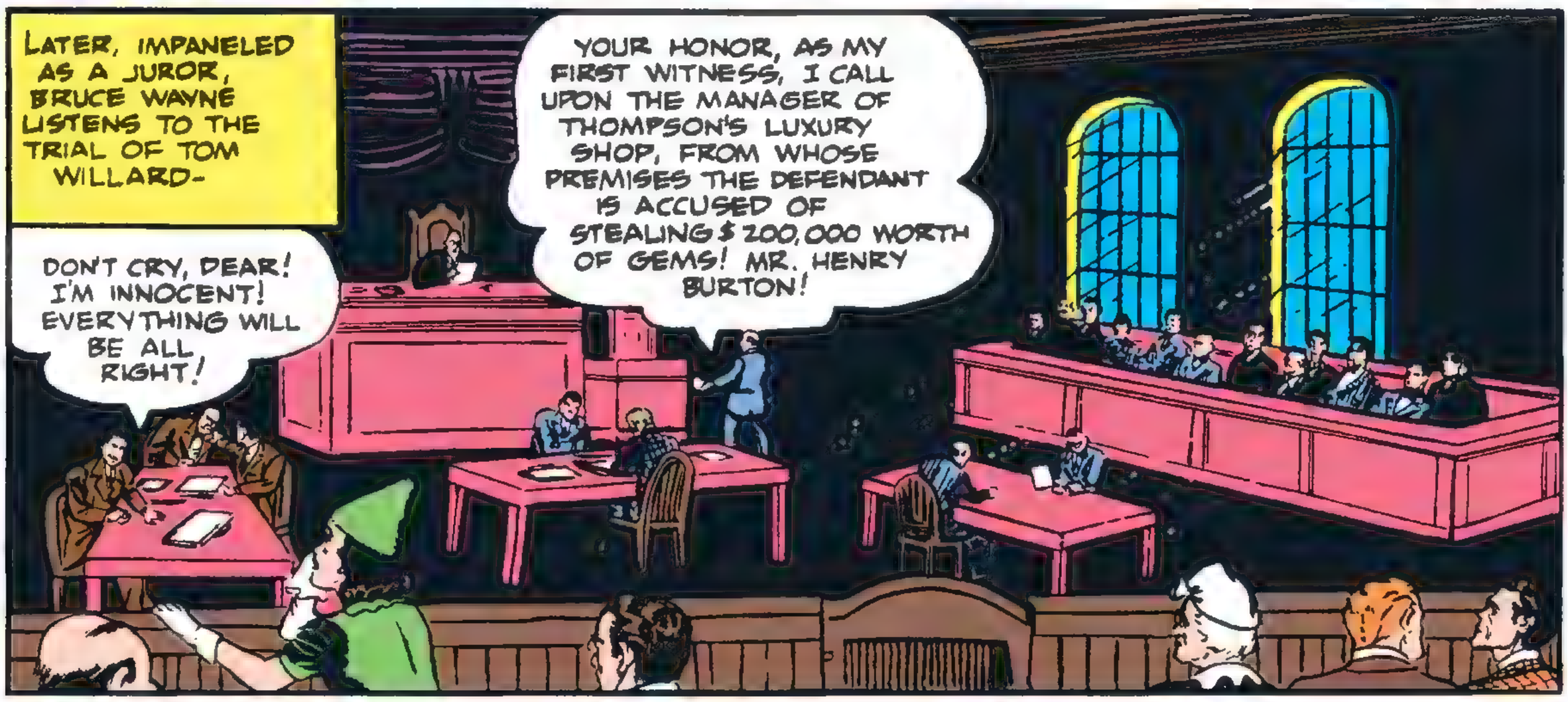

A BRISK SHOWER, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO DRESS FOR THEIR EVERYDAY ROLES OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!
LOOK AT THOSE HEADLINES, BRUCE! SOME GANG IS ROBBING KIDS OF THEIR TOYS!
THE CHEAP CROOKS! NEXT THING THEY'LL BE STEALING PENNIES FROM BLIND MEN!

BOLD HEADLINES CONJURE UP A PUZZLING CRIME PICTURE!
OTHAM GAZETTE
NIGHT EDITION
TOY BEAR STOLEN FROM NURSERY—A MYSTERY...
LATE EDITION
YOUNGSTER ROBBED OF MECHANICAL MULE
3¢
SKATING DOLL STOLEN FROM MARRIAGE
HMM...THE POLICE SAY ONE OF THOSE THUGS MIGHT BE A MEMBER OF "MUSCLES" MALONE'S GANG!
BUT WHY SHOULD A BIG SHOT LIKE "MUSCLES" BE STEALING TOYS? THAT'S NOT LIKE... WAIT A MINUTE... THERE'S THE DOOR BELL!

MR. BRUCE WAYNE? A SUMMONS FOR YOU!
SUMMONS?

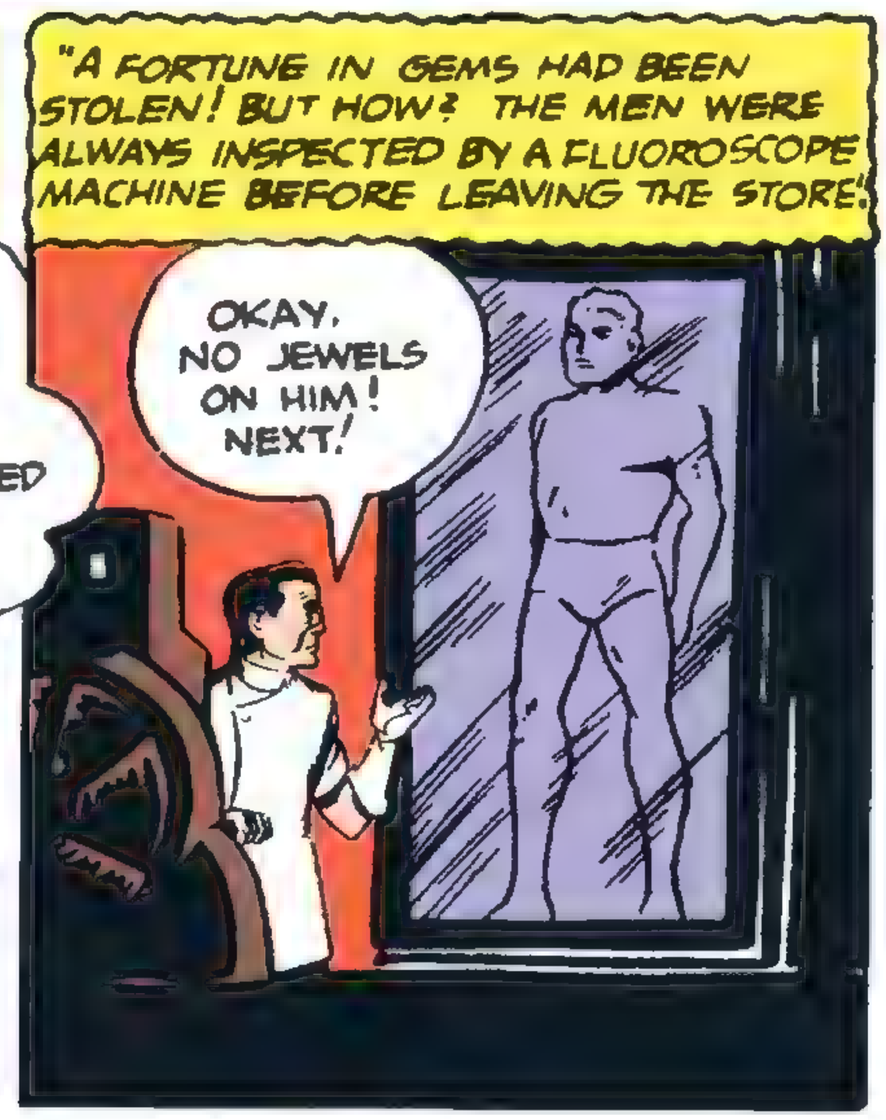
SO YOU'VE BEEN UP TO SOME MISCHIEF, EH, BRUCE?
NO, DICK ...IT'S A SUMMONS FOR IMMEDIATE JURY DUTY! I'M GOING TO BE ON THE CONVICTING END OF THE LAW INSTEAD OF THE CATCHING, FOR A CHANGE!

WELL, SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO BE TIED UP AT COURT, I THINK I'LL LOOK INTO THOSE TOY ROBBERIES MYSELF!
OH, NO YOU DON'T! YOU'VE GOT TO STUDY FOR AN EXAMINATION, YOUNGSTER!


LATER, IMPANELED AS A JUROR, BRUCE WAYNE LISTENS TO THE TRIAL OF TOM WILLARD-
YOUR HONOR, AS MY FIRST WITNESS, I CALL UPON THE MANAGER OF THOMPSON'S LUXURY SHOP, FROM WHOSE PREMISES THE DEFENDANT IS ACCUSED OF STEALING $200,000 WORTH OF GEMS! MR. HENRY BURTON!
DON'T CRY, DEAR! I'M INNOCENT! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

PROCEED, MR. BURTON.
WELL, WE WERE TAKING INVENTORY IN THE JEWELRY DEPARTMENT OF THE STORE ONE DAY.
3

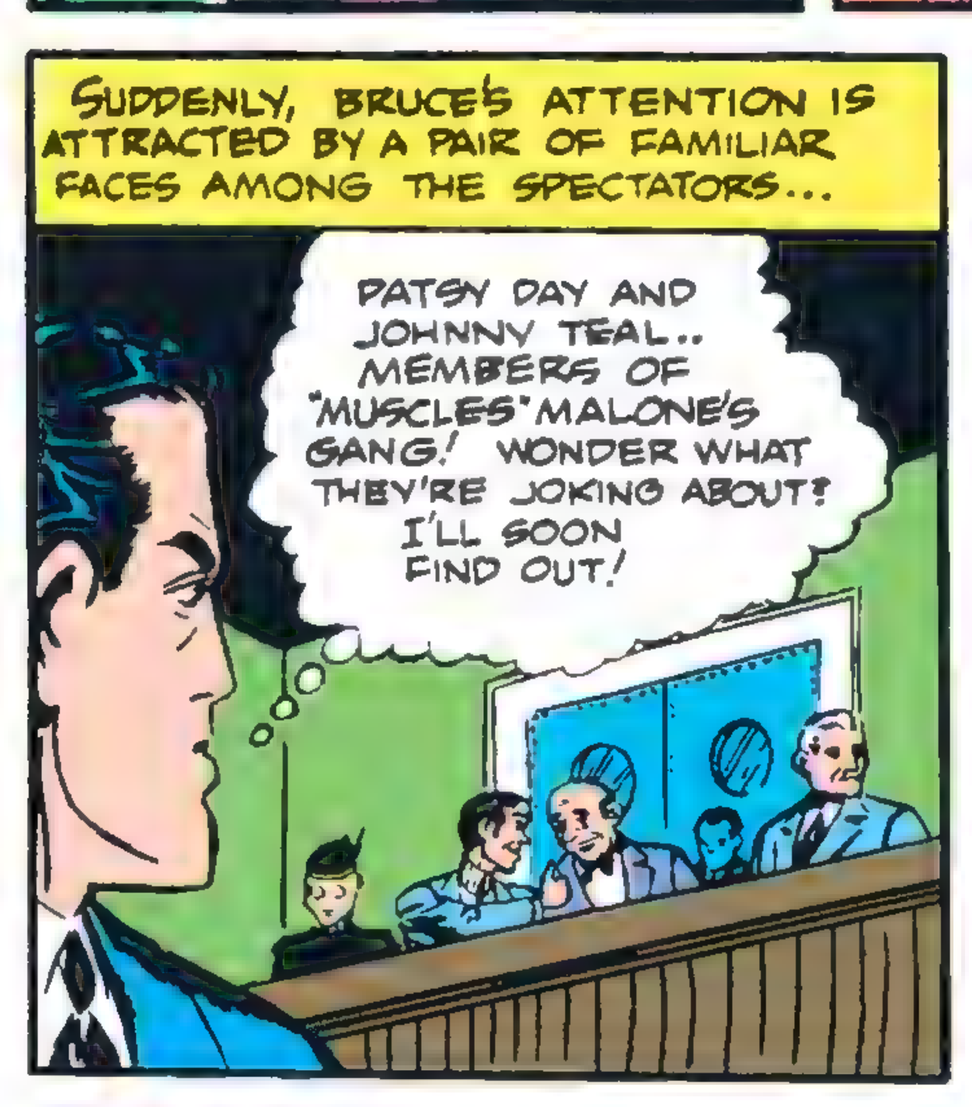
"OUR GEM EXPERT SUDDENLY NOTICED THAT A NUMBER OF THE STONES IN THE VAULT WERE COUNTERFEIT!
THESE ARE CLEVER PASTE REPRODUCTIONS!
THEN WE'VE BEEN ROBBED! ONE OF OUR EMPLOYEES HAS SUBSTITUTED THESE FAKES FOR THE REAL GEMS!

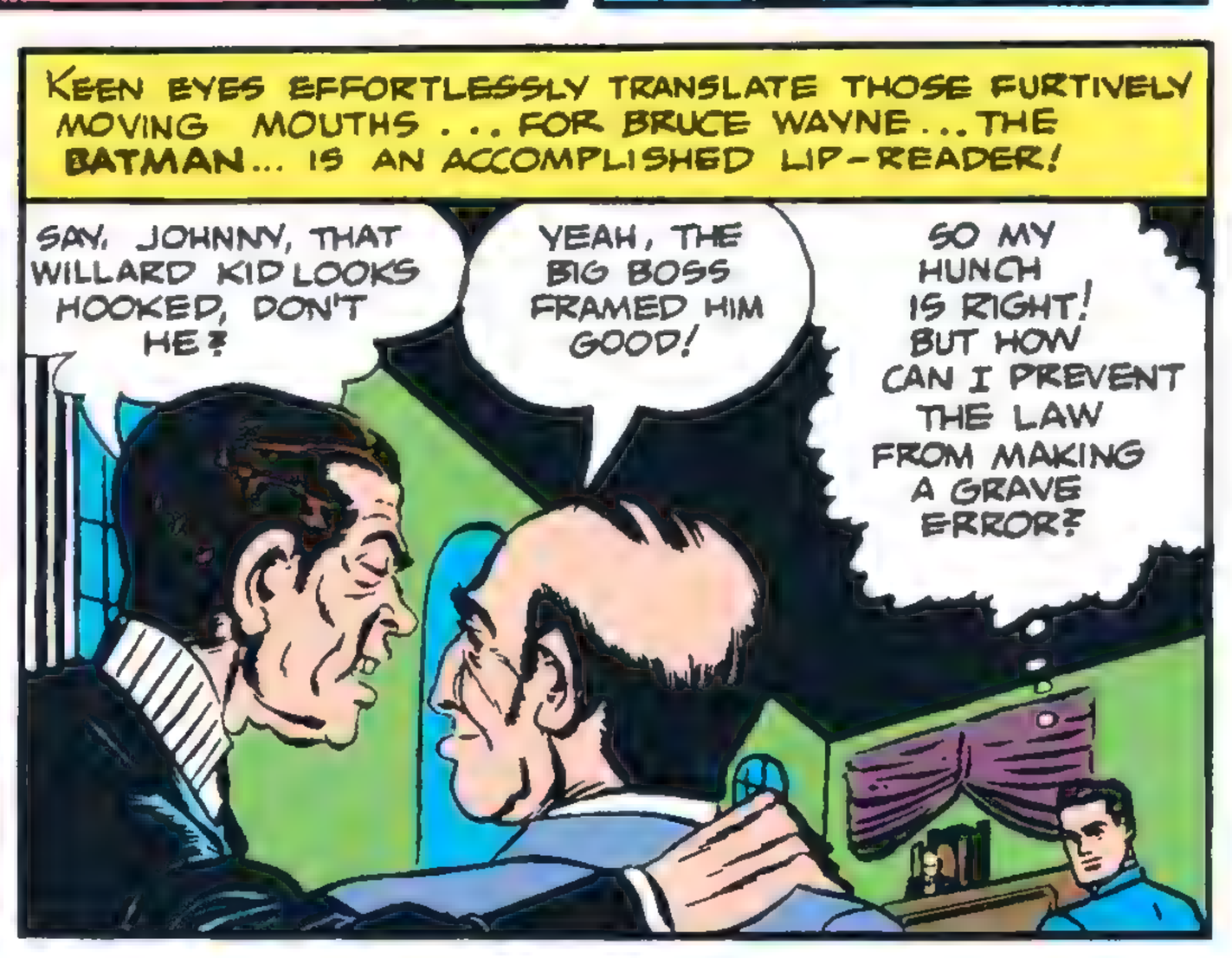

"A FORTUNE IN GEMS HAD BEEN STOLEN! BUT HOW? THE MEN WERE ALWAYS INSPECTED BY A FLUOROSCOPE MACHINE BEFORE LEAVING THE STORE!"
OKAY, NO JEWELS ON HIM! NEXT!

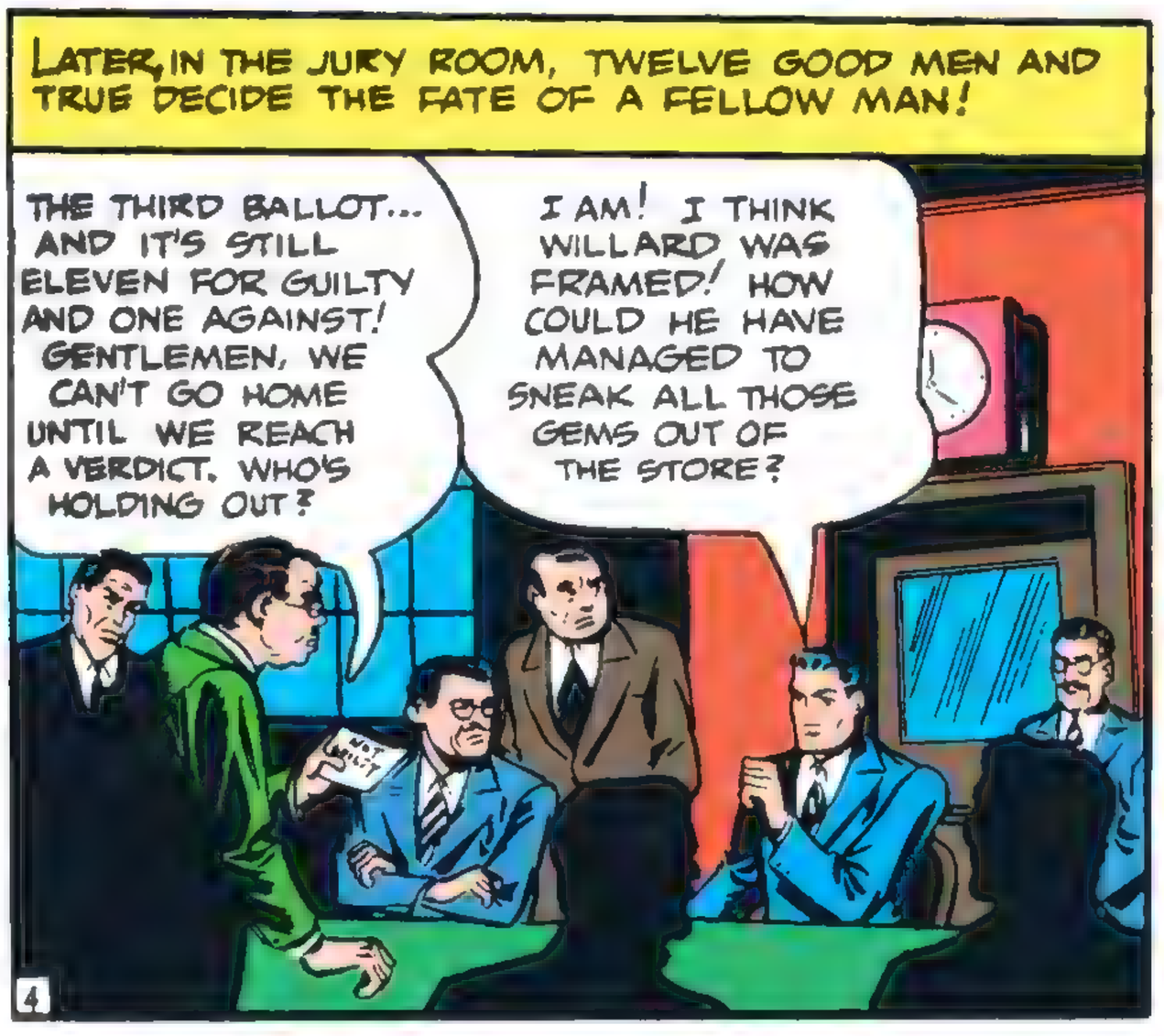
"A STORE DETECTIVE AND I SEARCHED THE LOCKERS WHERE THE EMPLOYEES KEPT THEIR COATS-AND IN ONE OF THEM..."
HERE ARE SOME OF THOSE JEWELS, MR. BURTON!
AHA! TOM WILLARD'S LOCKER! HE MUST HAVE BEEN ROBBING US FOR MONTHS!

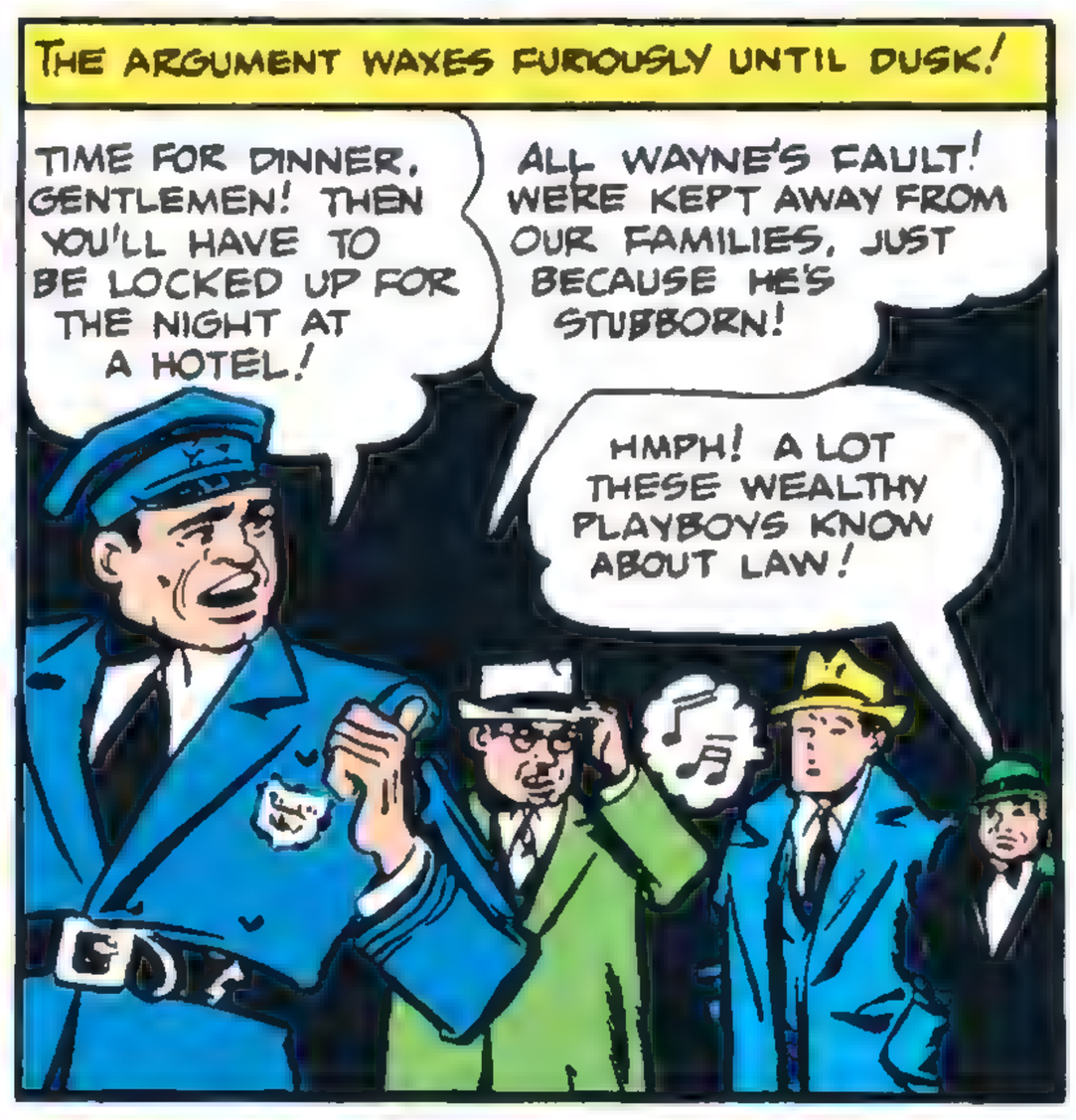
OBVIOUSLY, WILLARD HID THE GEMS IN HIS JACKET DURING BUSINESS HOURS!
THANK YOU, MR. BURTON! THAT WILL BE ALL!

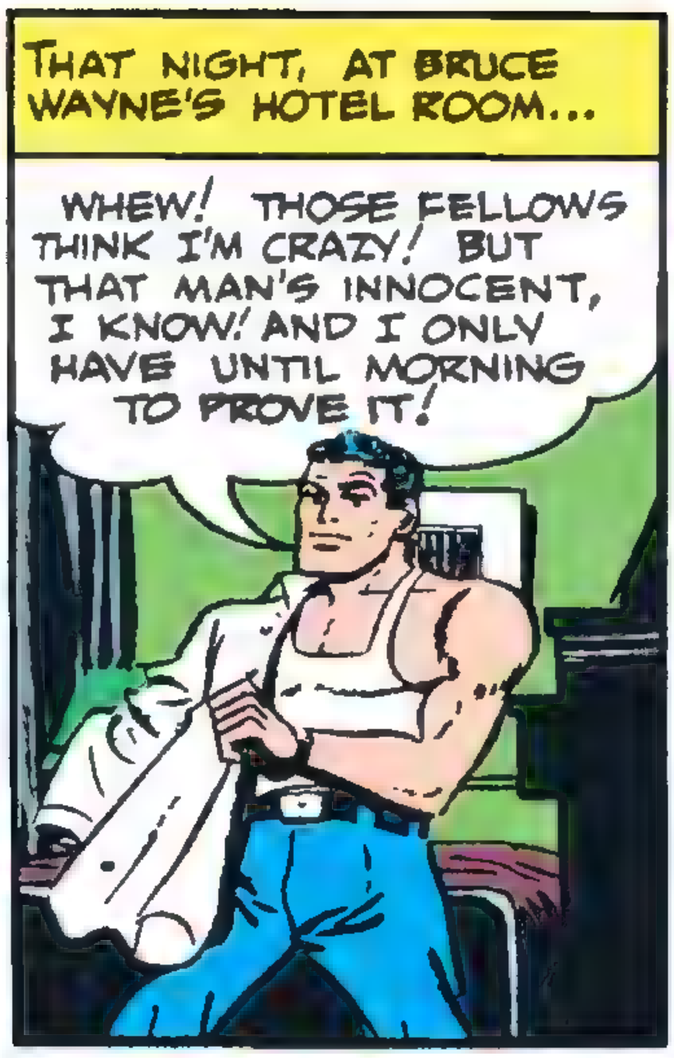
THAT FELLOW DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A CROOK! NICE WIFE, TOO! NO, A JOB LIKE THIS WOULD REQUIRE A CLEVER GANG OF ORGANIZED THIEVES!

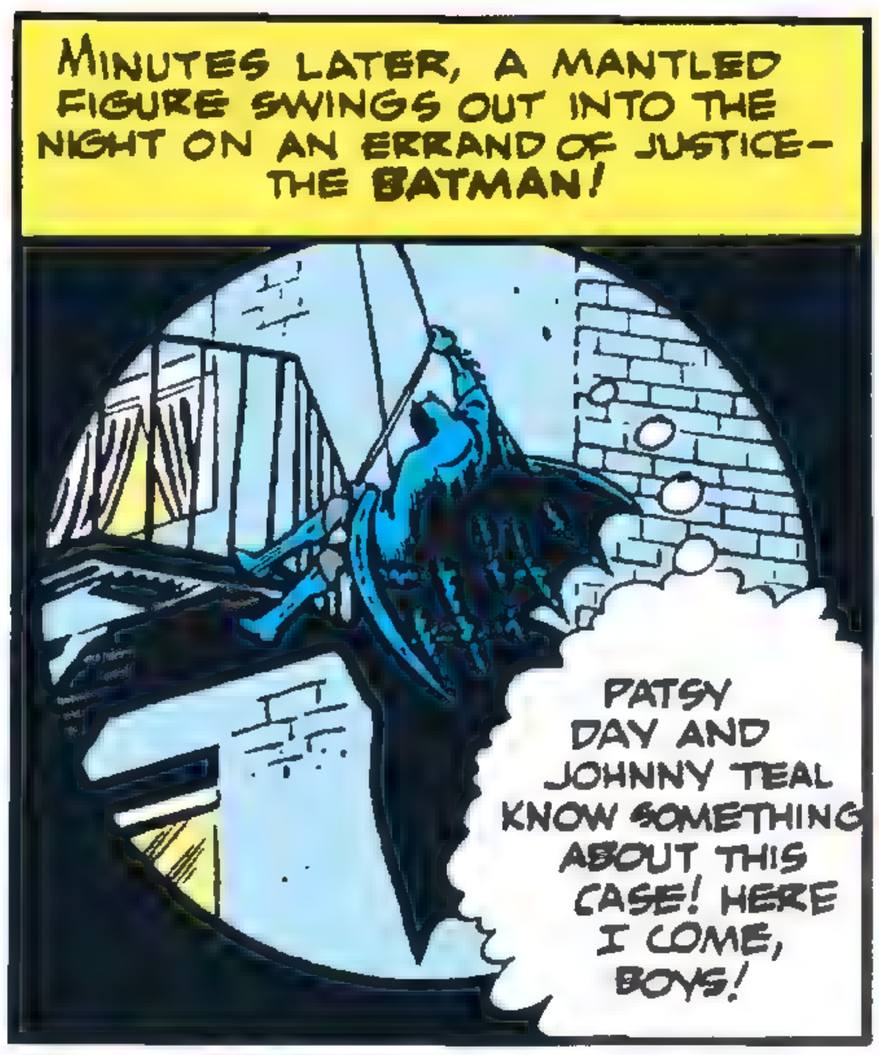

SUDDENLY, BRUCE'S ATTENTION IS ATTRACTED BY A PAIR OF FAMILIAR FACES AMONG THE SPECTATORS...
PATSY DAY AND JOHNNY TEAL.. MEMBERS OF "MUSCLES" MALONE'S GANG! WONDER WHAT THEY'RE JOKING ABOUT? I'LL SOON FIND OUT!


KEEN EYES EFFORTLESSLY TRANSLATE THOSE FURTIVELY MOVING MOUTHS . . . FOR BRUCE WAYNE . . . THE BATMAN... IS AN ACCOMPLISHED LIP-READER!
SAY, JOHNNY, THAT WILLARD KID LOOKS HOOKED, DON'T HE?
YEAH, THE BIG BOSS FRAMED HIM GOOD!
SO MY HUNCH IS RIGHT! BUT HOW CAN I PREVENT THE LAW FROM MAKING A GRAVE ERROR?

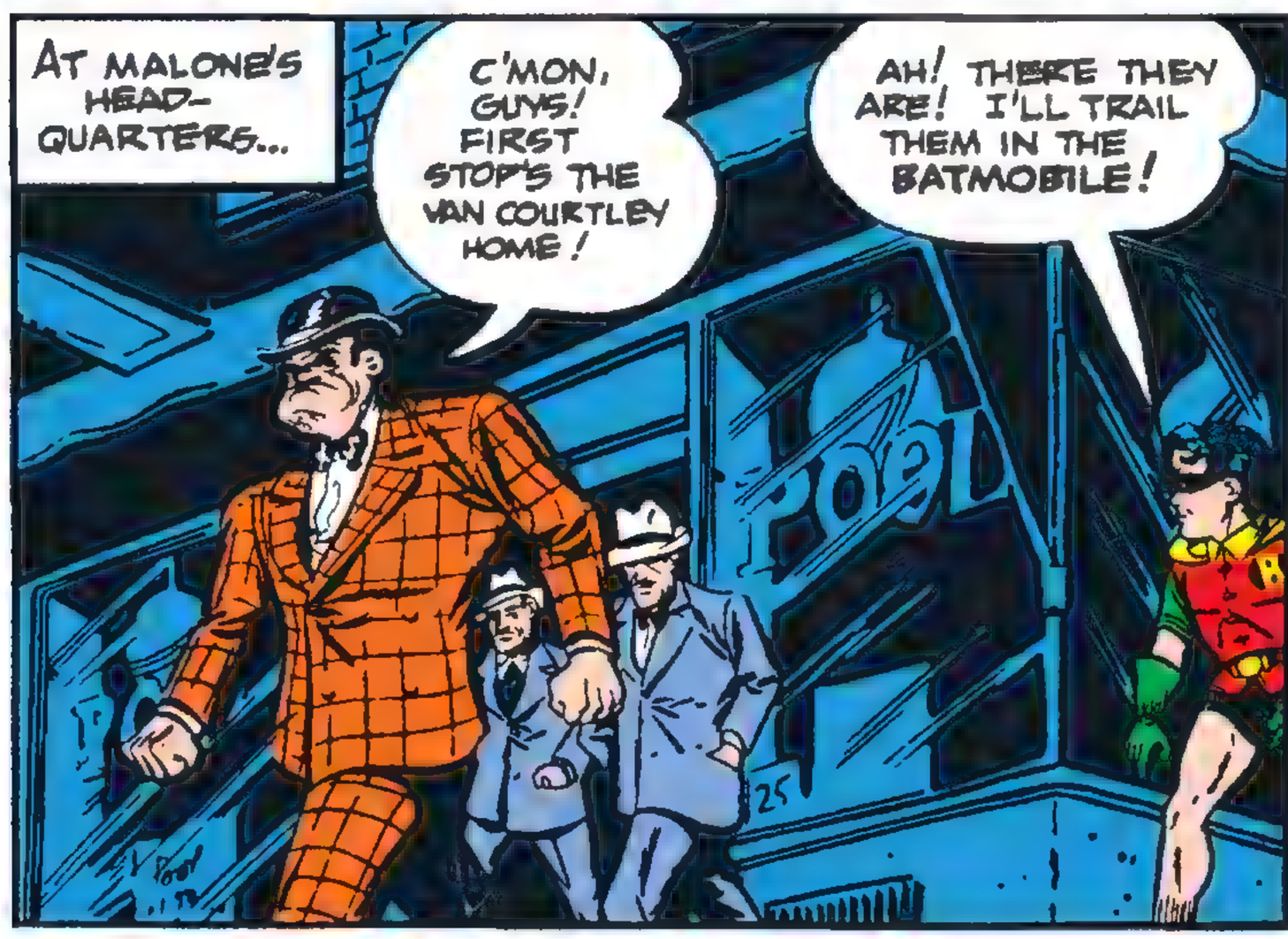

LATER, IN THE JURY ROOM, TWELVE GOOD MEN AND TRUE DECIDE THE FATE OF A FELLOW MAN!
THE THIRD BALLOT... AND IT'S STILL ELEVEN FOR GUILTY AND ONE AGAINST! GENTLEMEN, WE CAN'T GO HOME UNTIL WE REACH A VERDICT. WHO'S HOLDING OUT?
I AM! I THINK WILLARD WAS FRAMED! HOW COULD HE HAVE MANAGED TO SNEAK ALL THOSE GEMS OUT OF THE STORE?
4


THE ARGUMENT WAXES FURIOUSLY UNTIL DUSK!
TIME FOR DINNER, GENTLEMEN! THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO BE LOCKED UP FOR THE NIGHT AT A HOTEL!
ALL WAYNE'S FAULT! WE'RE KEPT AWAY FROM OUR FAMILIES, JUST BECAUSE HE'S STUBBORN!
HMPH! A LOT THESE WEALTHY PLAYBOYS KNOW ABOUT LAW!

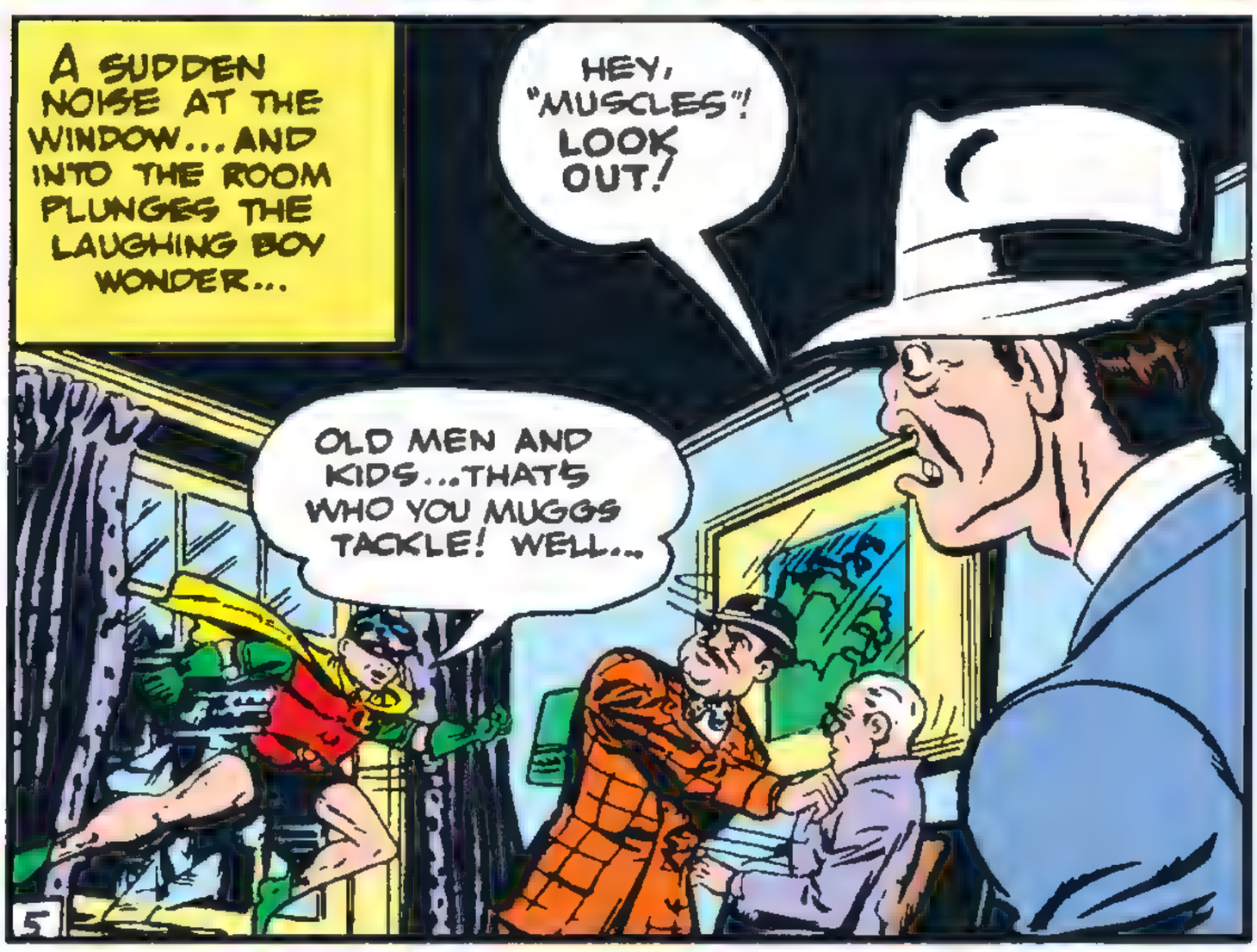

THAT NIGHT, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S HOTEL ROOM...
WHEW! THOSE FELLOWS THINK I'M CRAZY! BUT THAT MAN'S INNOCENT, I KNOW! AND I ONLY HAVE UNTIL MORNING TO PROVE IT!


MINUTES LATER, A MANTLED FIGURE SWINGS OUT INTO THE NIGHT ON AN ERRAND OF JUSTICE— THE BATMAN!
PATSY DAY AND JOHNNY TEAL KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CASE! HERE I COME, BOYS!

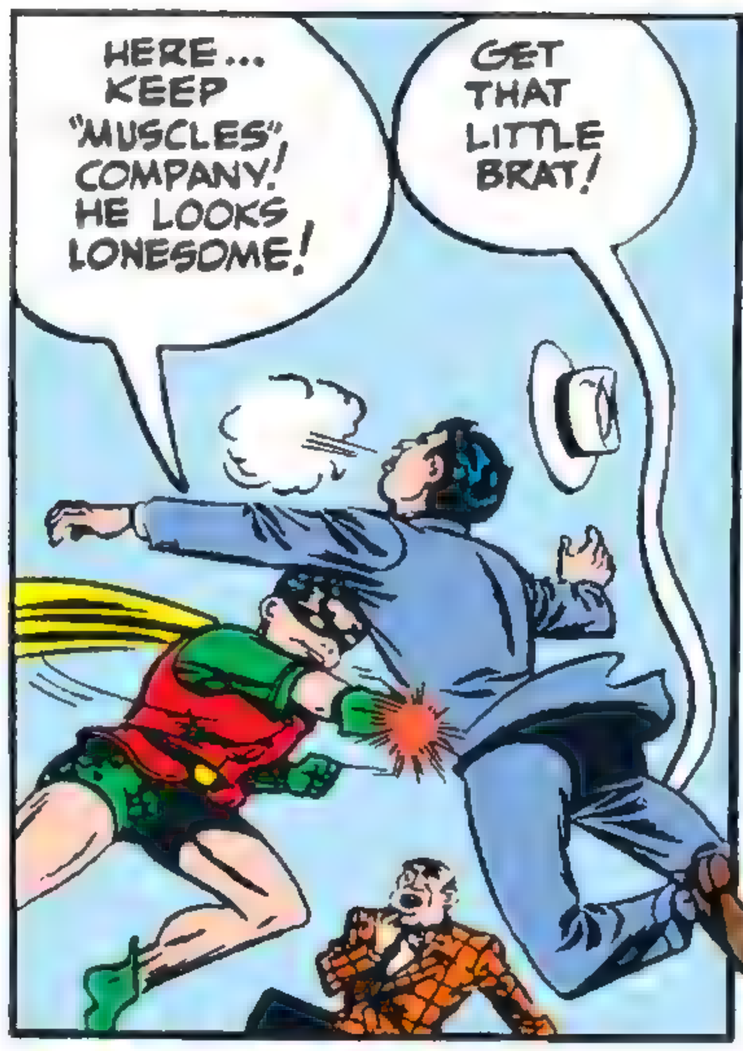
MEANWHILE, YOUNG ROBIN BECOMES RESTLESS...
THAT'S ENOUGH STUDYING! I'M GOING OUT TO SEE WHAT "MUSCLES" MALONE HAS TO DO WITH THOSE TOY ROBBERIES! WON'T BRUCE BE SURPRISED IF I SOLVE THIS CASE MYSELF!
CLICK!

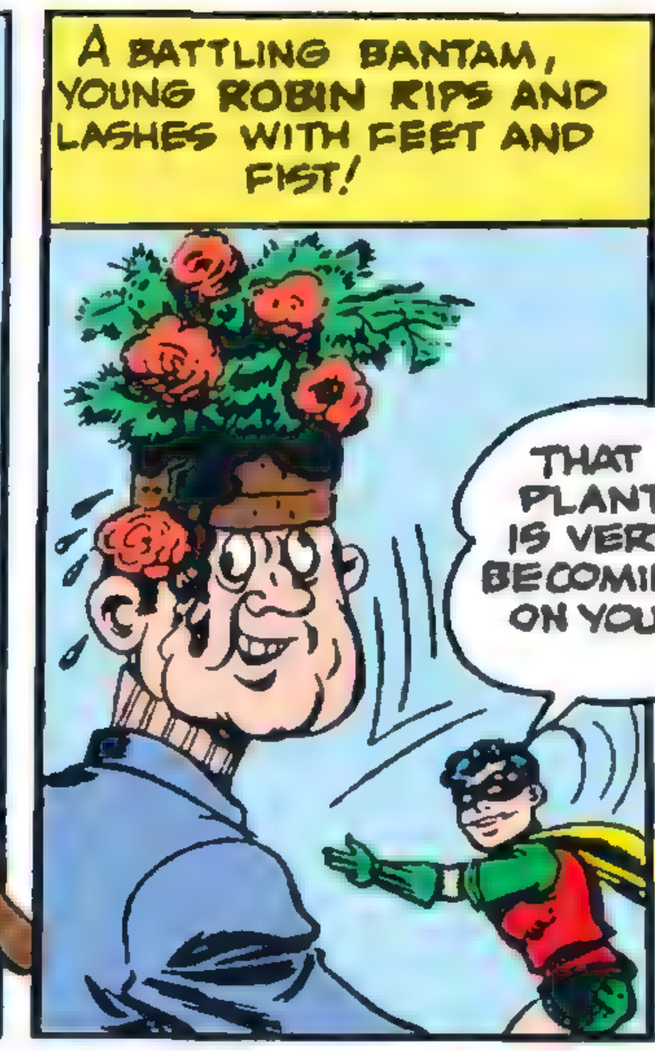

AT MALONE'S HEAD-QUARTERS...
C'MON, GUYS! FIRST STOP'S THE VAN COURTLEY HOME!
AH! THERE THEY ARE! I'LL TRAIL THEM IN THE BATMOBILE!

LATER... AT THE VAN COURTLEY RESIDENCE...
THERE'S A TOY AROUND HERE THAT I WANT... A LITTLE TANK! WHERE IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW! I'M THE BUTLER— THE FAMILY IS OUT. I...I BELIEVE THE TOY YOU MENTION WAS LEFT AT THE PLAYGROUND NEARBY!


A SUDDEN NOISE AT THE WINDOW... AND INTO THE ROOM PLUNGES THE LAUGHING BOY WONDER...
HEY, "MUSCLES"! LOOK OUT!
OLD MEN AND KIDS...THAT'S WHO YOU MUGGS TACKLE! WELL...

...HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS LITTLE BOY?

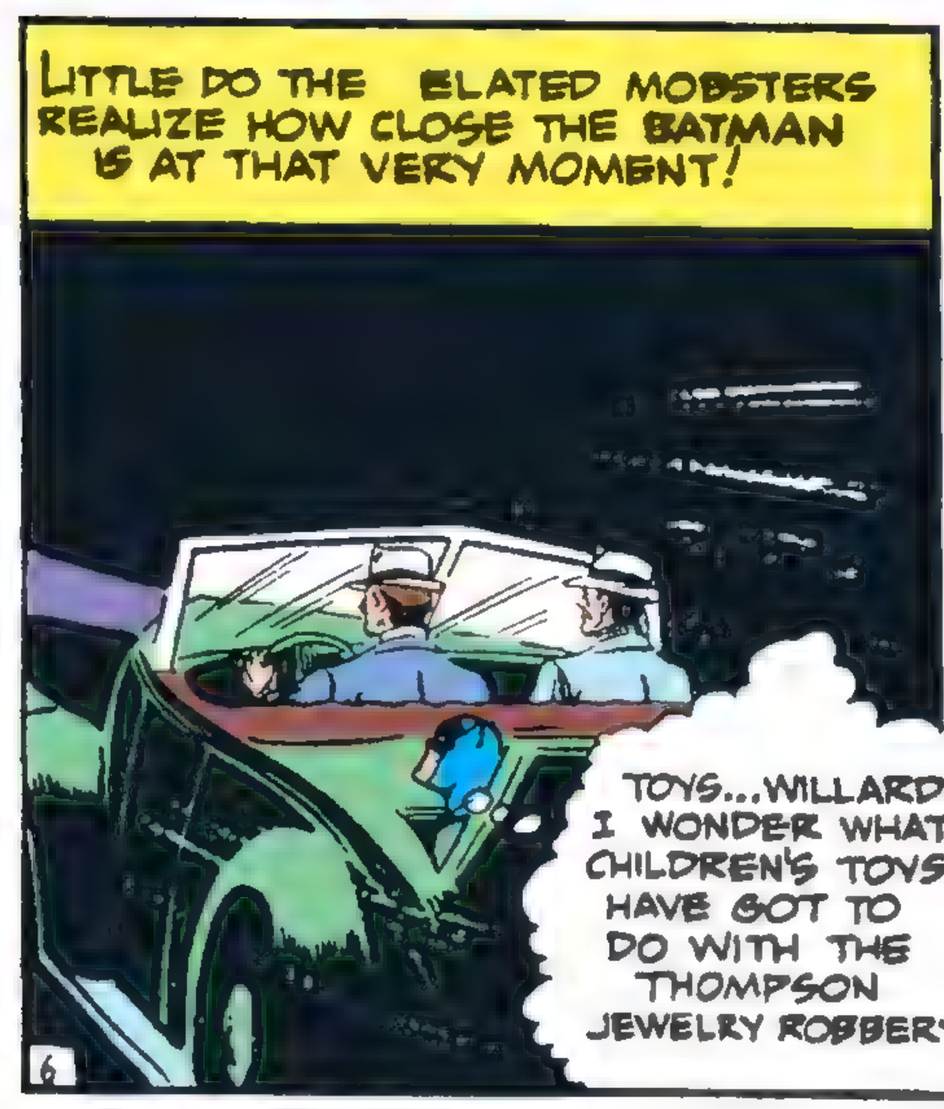

HERE... KEEP "MUSCLES", COMPANY! HE LOOKS LONESOME!
GET THAT LITTLE BRAT!


A BATTLING BANTAM, YOUNG ROBIN RIPS AND LASHES WITH FEET AND FIST!
THAT PLANT IS VERY BECOMING ON YOU!

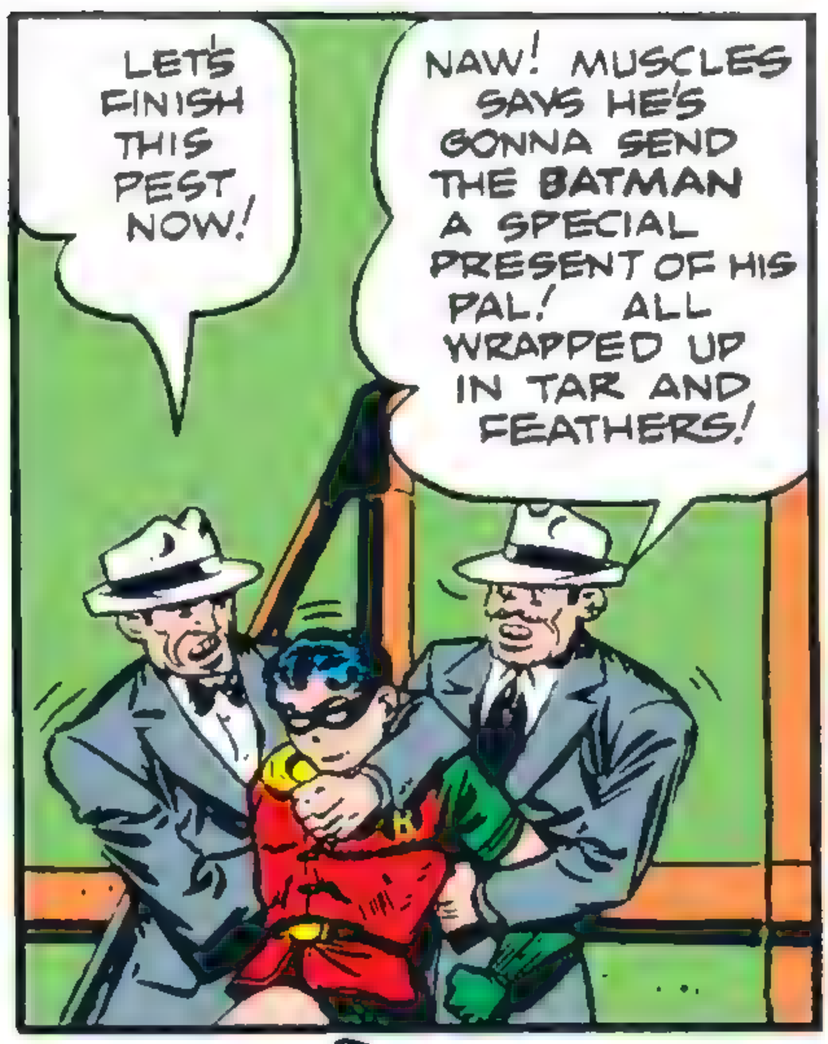
BUT EVEN ROBIN'S SUPERBLY TRAINED BODY CANNOT LONG STAND BEFORE THE CATARACT OF HUMAN BODIES THAT DELUGES HIM!
BE STILL, OR I'LL DENT YOUR SCALP!

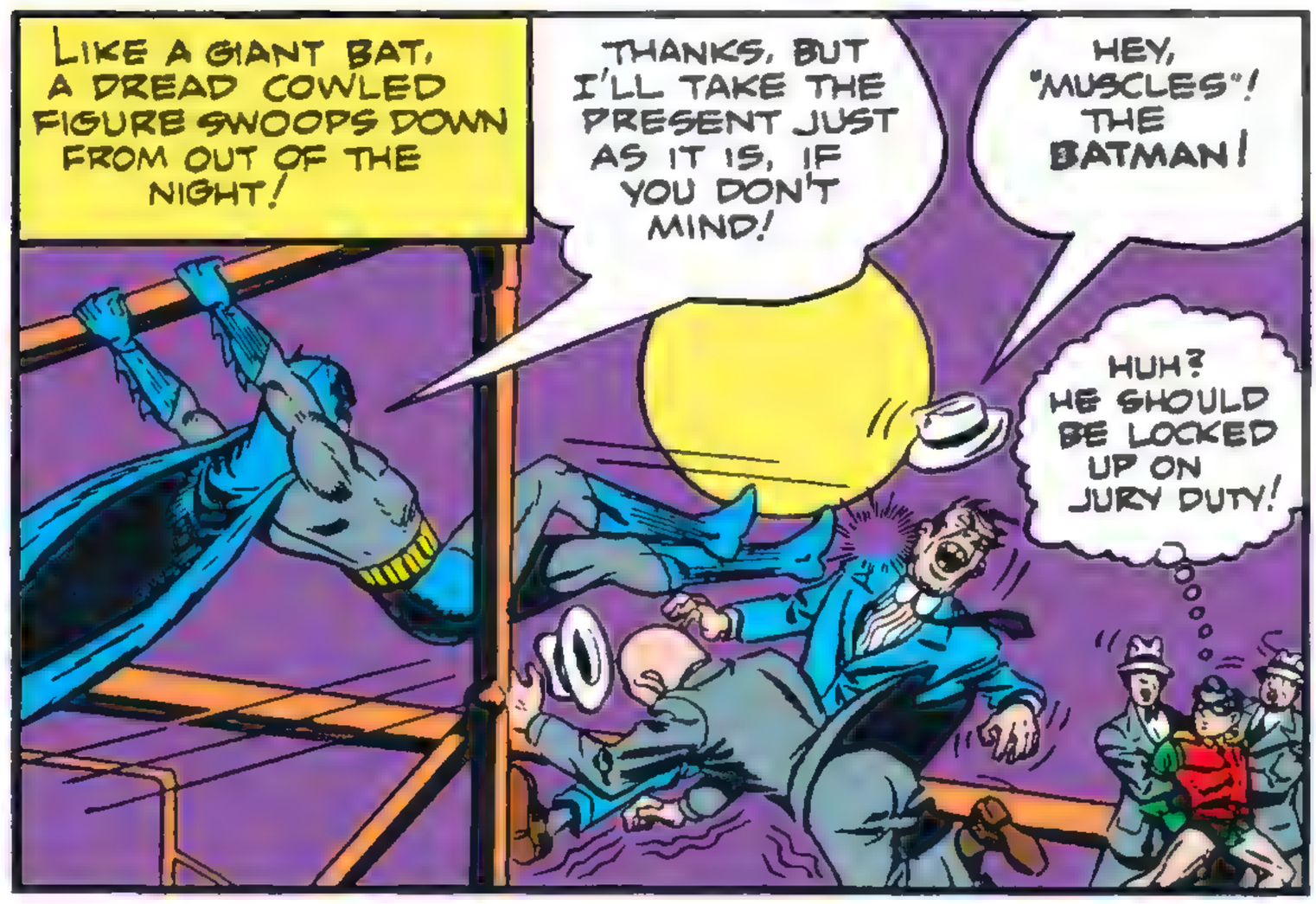
SOON AFTERWARD, FROM MALONE'S HEADQUARTERS...
THE BOSS WANTS US TO MEET HIM... WE GOTTA LOOK FOR A LOST TOY!
YEAH! AND THEN WE ONLY GOT TWO MORE PLACES TO SEARCH...THE DOLL HOUSE AND THE HENDRICKS MANSION!

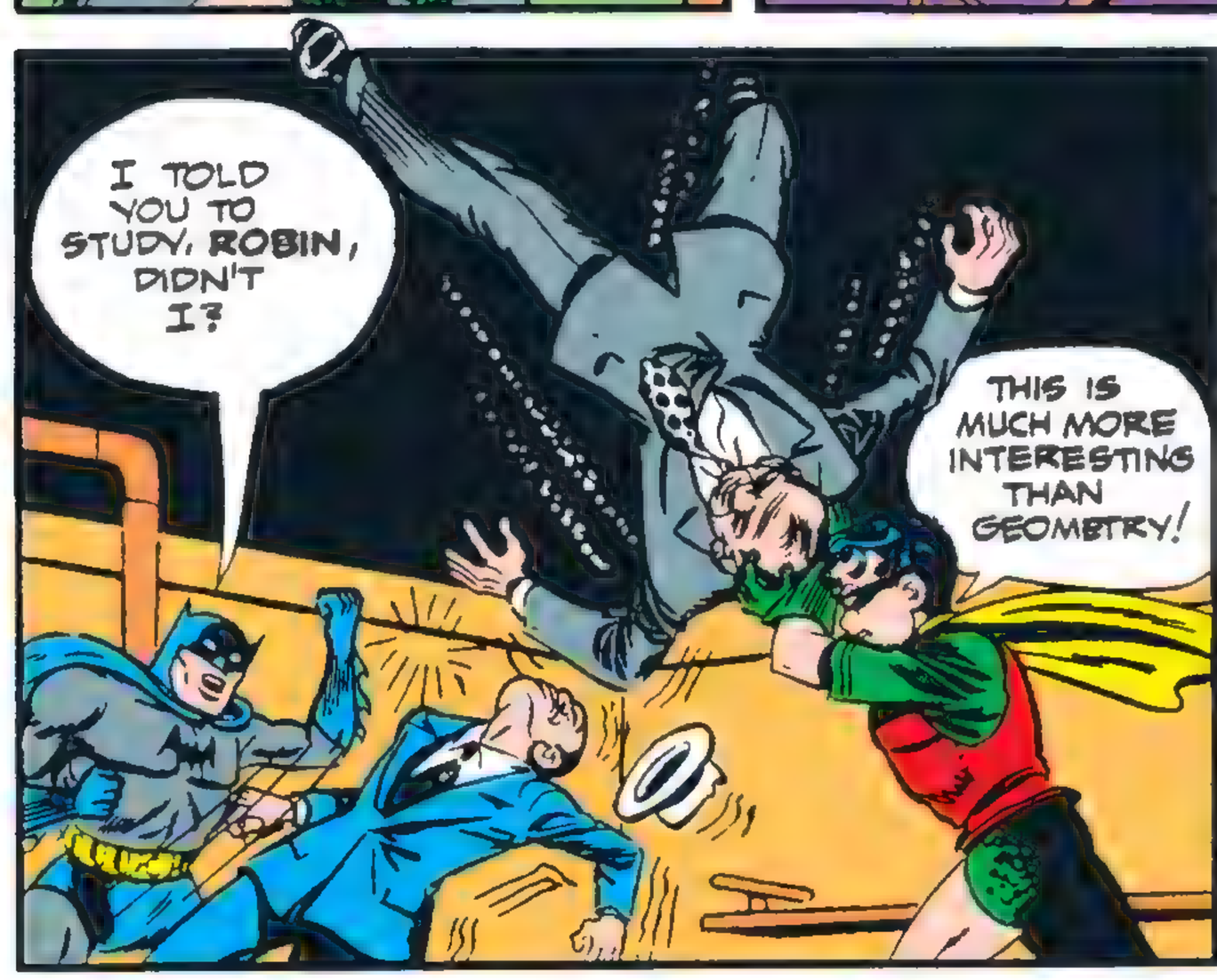
THEY'LL CONVICT THAT WILLARD SAP SURE! AND WE'RE IN THE CLEAR!
AND THIS IS ONE JOB THE BATMAN AIN'T WISE TO! BOY, WE PUT IT OVER, ALL RIGHT!


LITTLE DO THE ELATED MOBSTERS REALIZE HOW CLOSE THE BATMAN IS AT THAT VERY MOMENT!
TOYS...WILLARD? I WONDER WHAT CHILDREN'S TOYS HAVE GOT TO DO WITH THE THOMPSON JEWELRY ROBBERY?

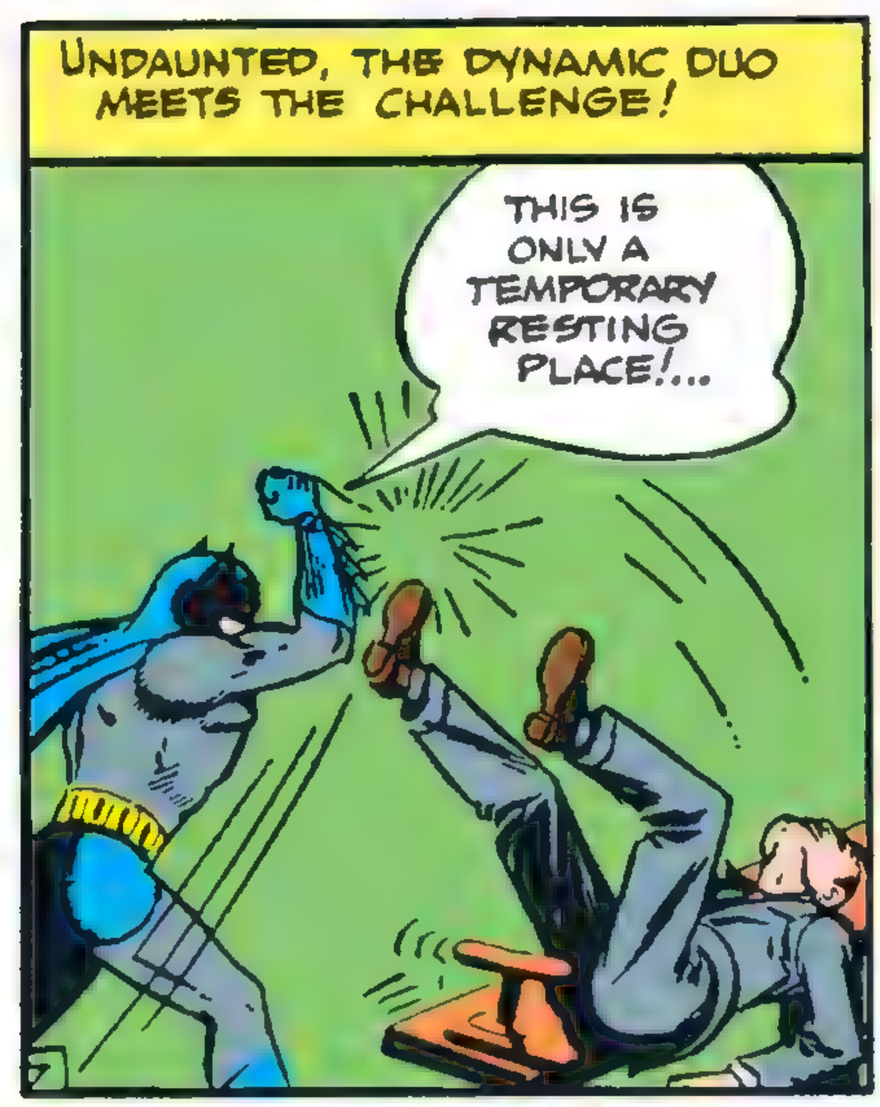
PRESENTLY, AT THE PLAYGROUND!
SAY, WHO'S THAT KID THEY GOT THERE?
THERE'S "MUSCLES" AND THE BOYS!


LET'S FINISH THIS PEST NOW!
NAW! MUSCLES SAYS HE'S GONNA SEND THE BATMAN A SPECIAL PRESENT OF HIS PAL! ALL WRAPPED UP IN TAR AND FEATHERS!


LIKE A GIANT BAT, A DREAD COWLED FIGURE SWOOPS DOWN FROM OUT OF THE NIGHT!
THANKS, BUT I'LL TAKE THE PRESENT JUST AS IT IS, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
HEY, "MUSCLES"! THE BATMAN!
HUH? HE SHOULD BE LOCKED UP ON JURY DUTY!

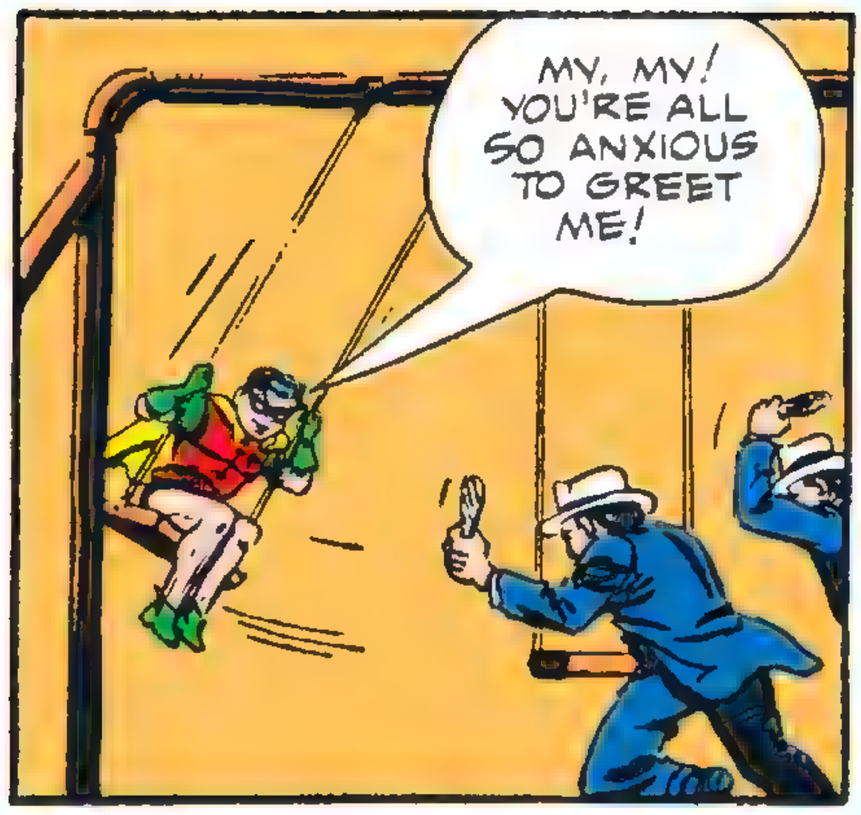

I TOLD YOU TO STUDY, ROBIN, DIDN'T I?
THIS IS MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN GEOMETRY!

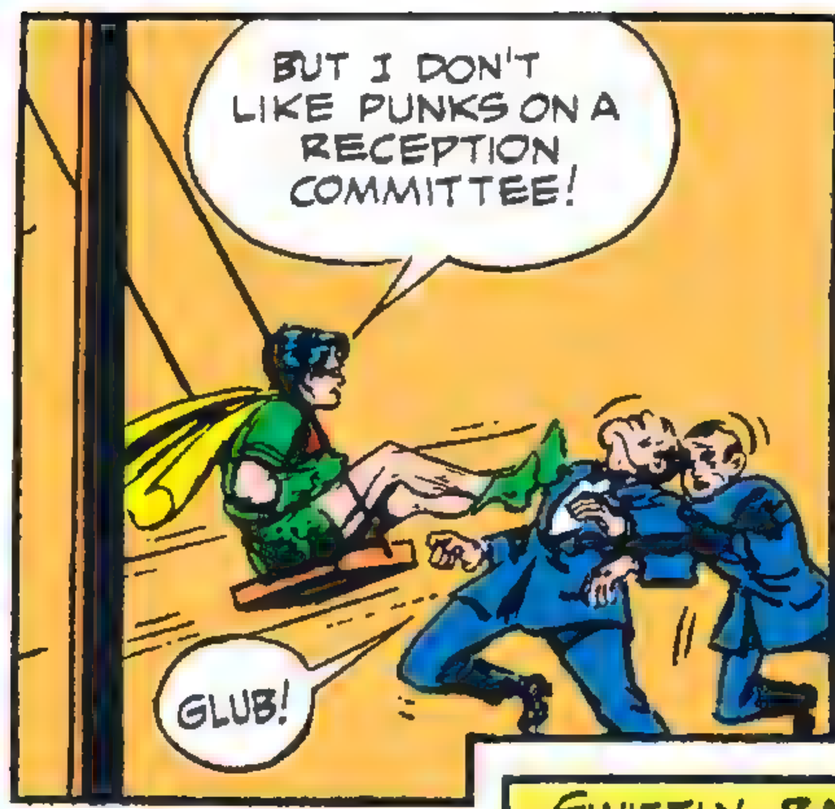
AN ANGRY ROAR CUTS THROUGH THE PLAYGROUND...
WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR, YOU FOOLS? IT'S THE BATMAN! GET HIM BEFORE HE GETS US!


UNDAUNTED, THE DYNAMIC DUO MEETS THE CHALLENGE!
THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY RESTING PLACE!...

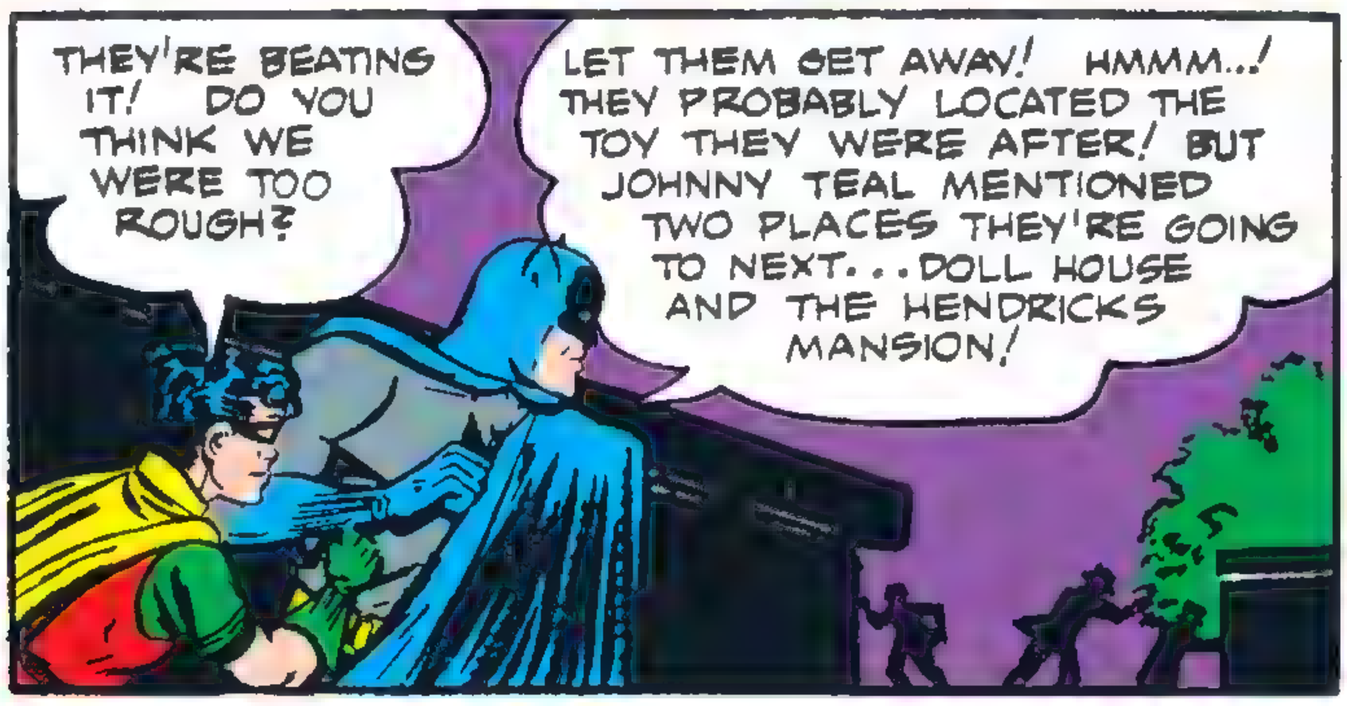
...BECAUSE BROTHER RAT, HERE, WILL HELP YOU!...

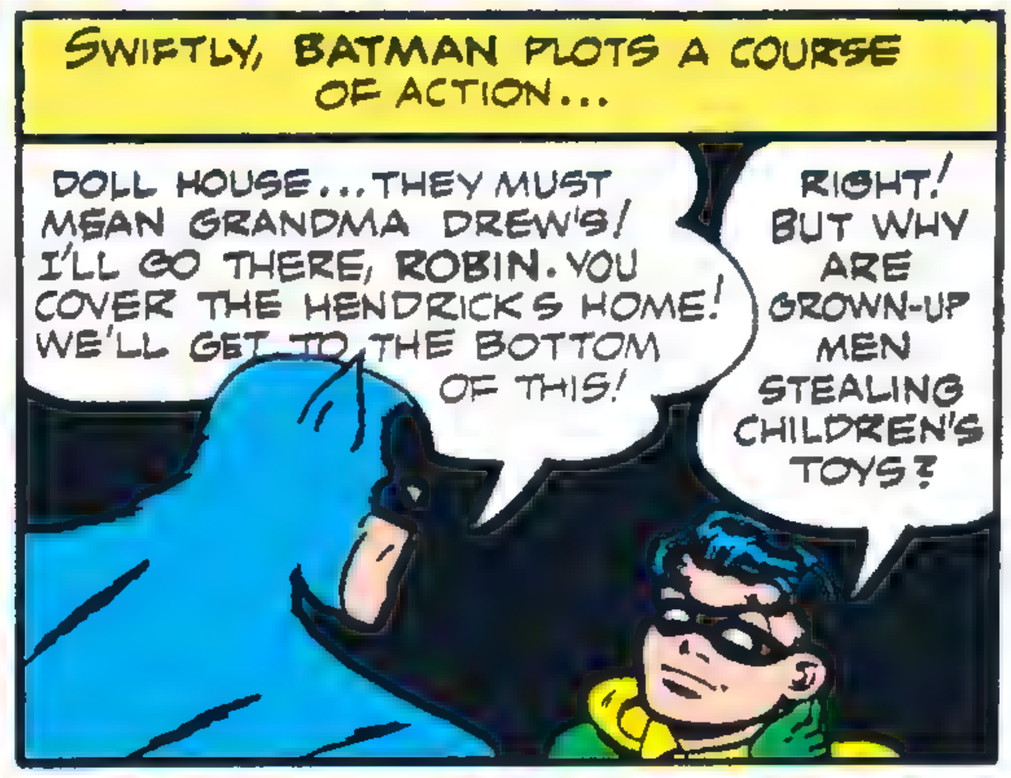
...RISE UP IN THE WORLD!

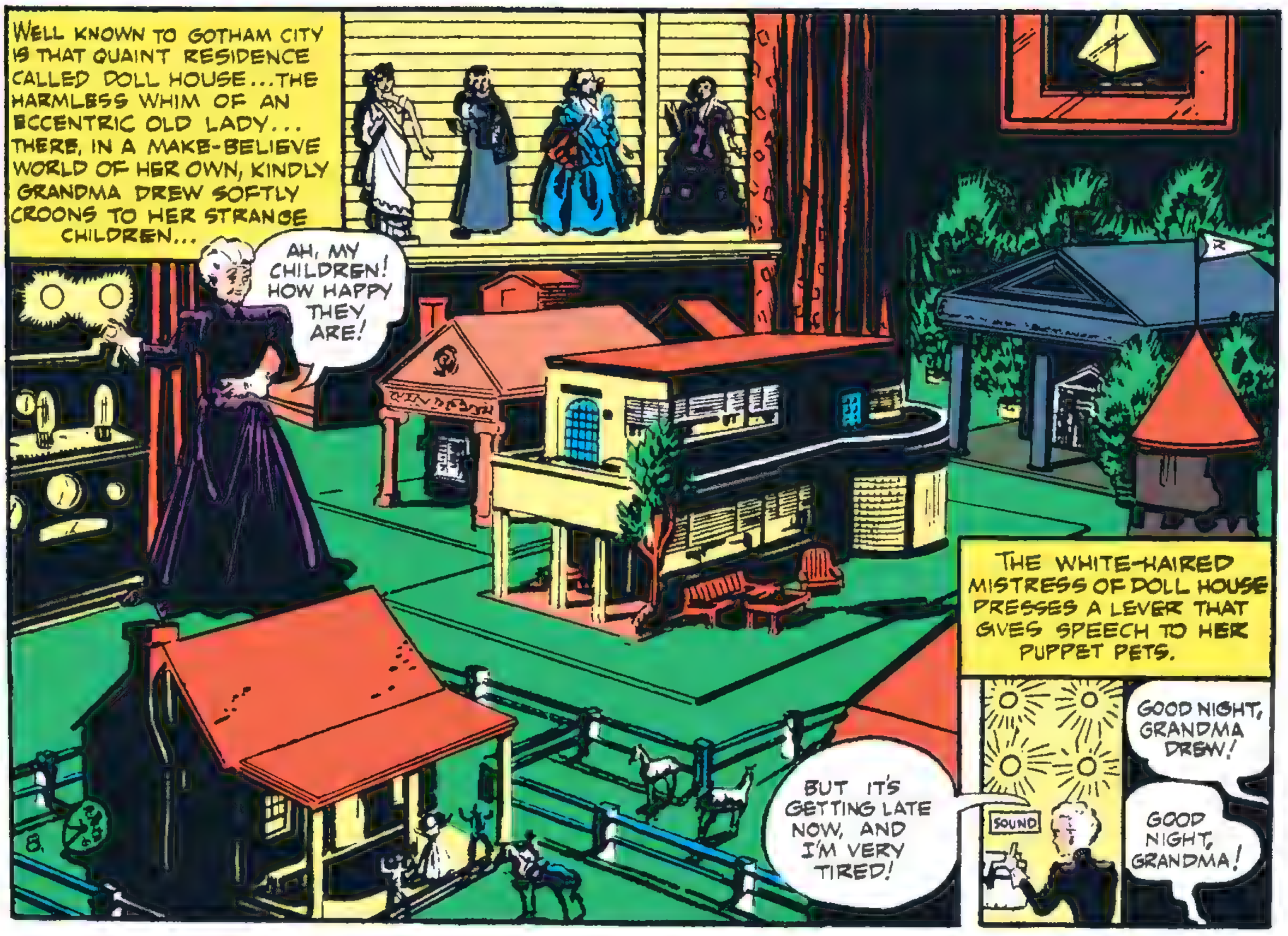

MY, MY! YOU'RE ALL SO ANXIOUS TO GREET ME!


BUT I DON'T LIKE PUNKS ON A RECEPTION COMMITTEE!
GLUB!

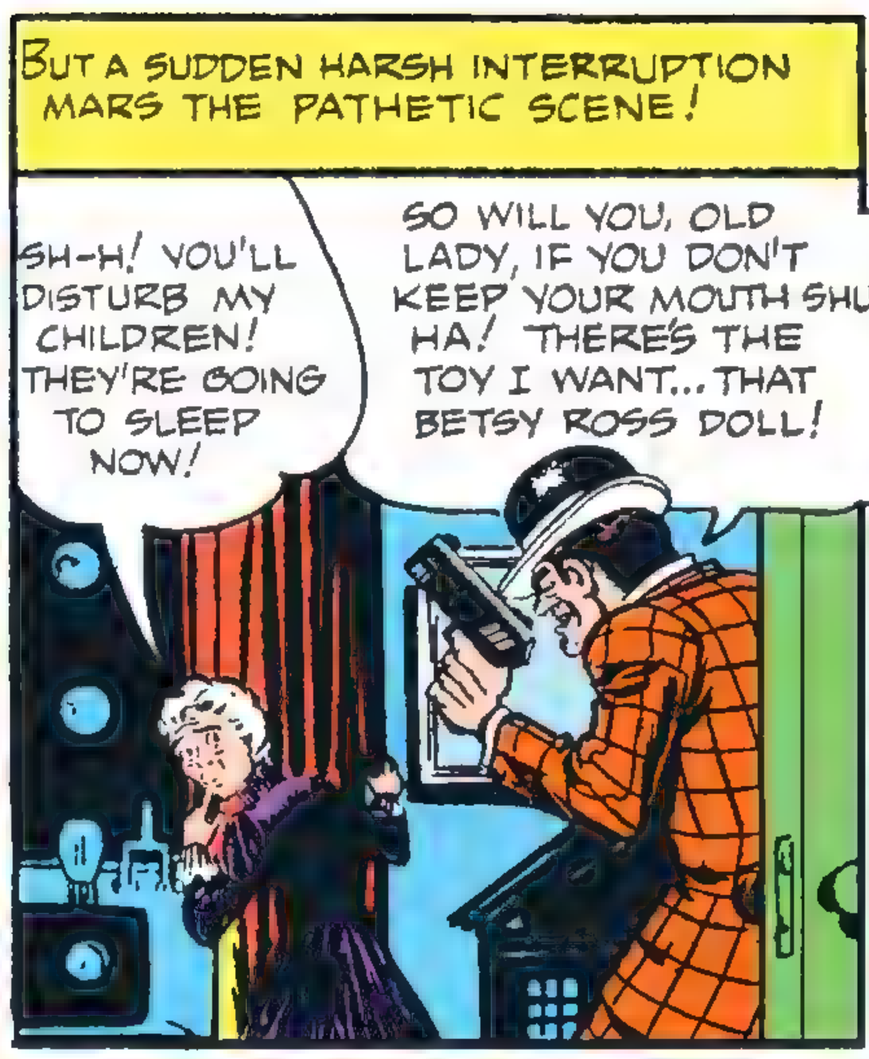
HERE'S THAT TOY WE WERE LOOKING FOR, "MUSCLES!"
SWELL! LET'S SCRAM NOW! THAT PAIR OF WILDCATS IS TOO HOT TO HANDLE!

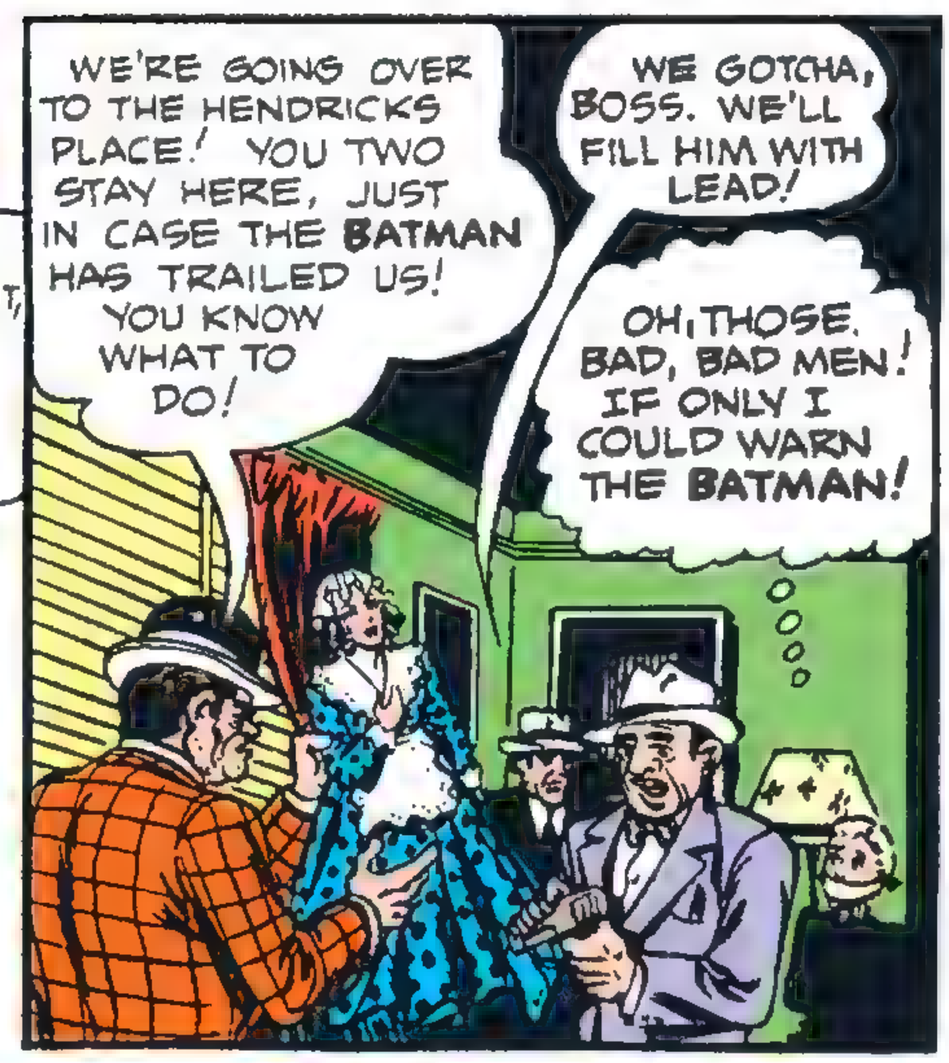

THEY'RE BEATING IT! DO YOU THINK WE WERE TOO ROUGH?
LET THEM GET AWAY! HMMM..! THEY PROBABLY LOCATED THE TOY THEY WERE AFTER! BUT JOHNNY TEAL MENTIONED TWO PLACES THEY'RE GOING TO NEXT...DOLL HOUSE AND THE HENDRICKS MANSION!

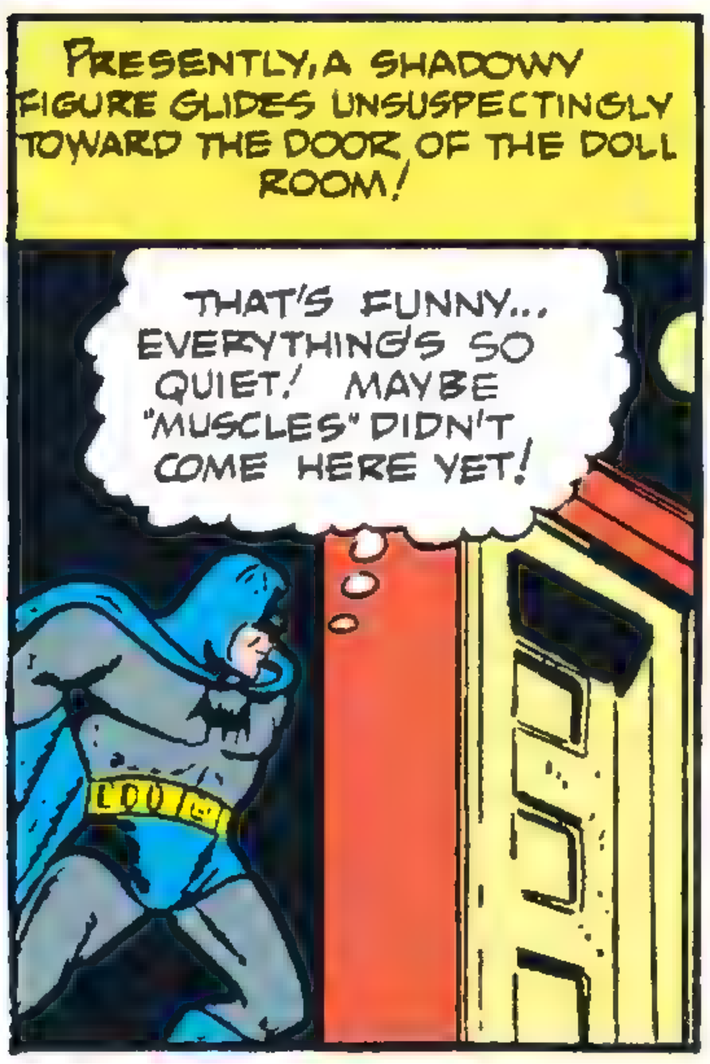

SWIFTLY, BATMAN PLOTS A COURSE OF ACTION...
DOLL HOUSE...THEY MUST MEAN GRANDMA DREW'S! I'LL GO THERE, ROBIN. YOU COVER THE HENDRICKS HOME! WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
RIGHT! BUT WHY ARE GROWN-UP MEN STEALING CHILDREN'S TOYS?


WELL KNOWN TO GOTHAM CITY IS THAT QUAINT RESIDENCE CALLED DOLL HOUSE...THE HARMLESS WHIM OF AN ECCENTRIC OLD LADY... THERE, IN A MAKE-BELIEVE WORLD OF HER OWN, KINDLY GRANDMA DREW SOFTLY CROONS TO HER STRANGE CHILDREN...
AH, MY CHILDREN! HOW HAPPY THEY ARE!
THE WHITE-HAIRED MISTRESS OF DOLL HOUSE PRESSES A LEVER THAT GIVES SPEECH TO HER PUPPET PETS.
BUT IT'S GETTING LATE NOW, AND I'M VERY TIRED!
SOUND
GOOD NIGHT, GRANDMA DREW!
GOOD NIGHT, GRANDMA!

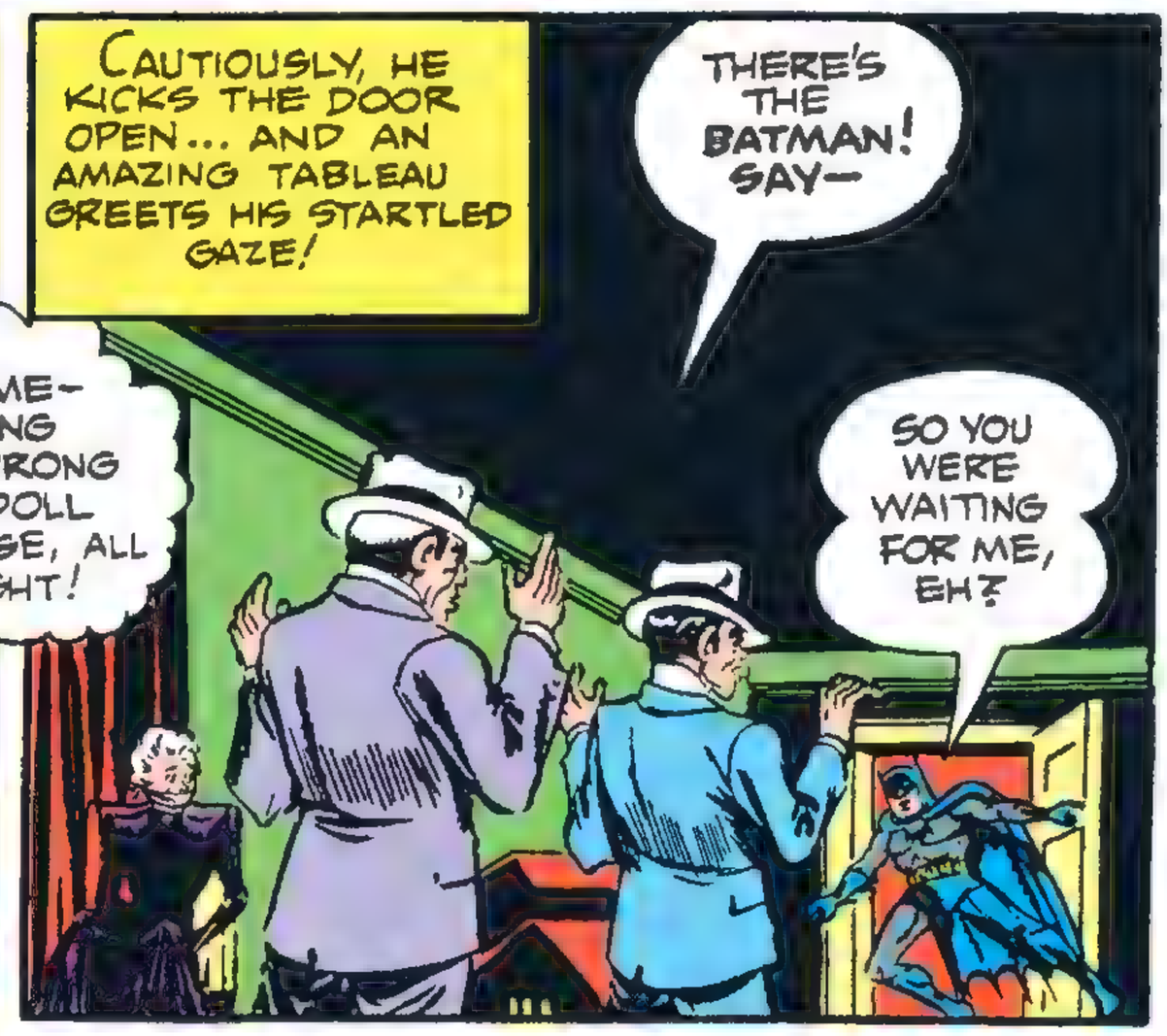
GOOD NIGHT, MY LITTLE ONES. AND NOW I'LL TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!


BUT A SUDDEN HARSH INTERRUPTION MARS THE PATHETIC SCENE!
SH-H! YOU'LL DISTURB MY CHILDREN! THEY'RE GOING TO SLEEP NOW!
SO WILL YOU, OLD LADY, IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, HA! THERE'S THE TOY I WANT... THAT BETSY ROSS DOLL!

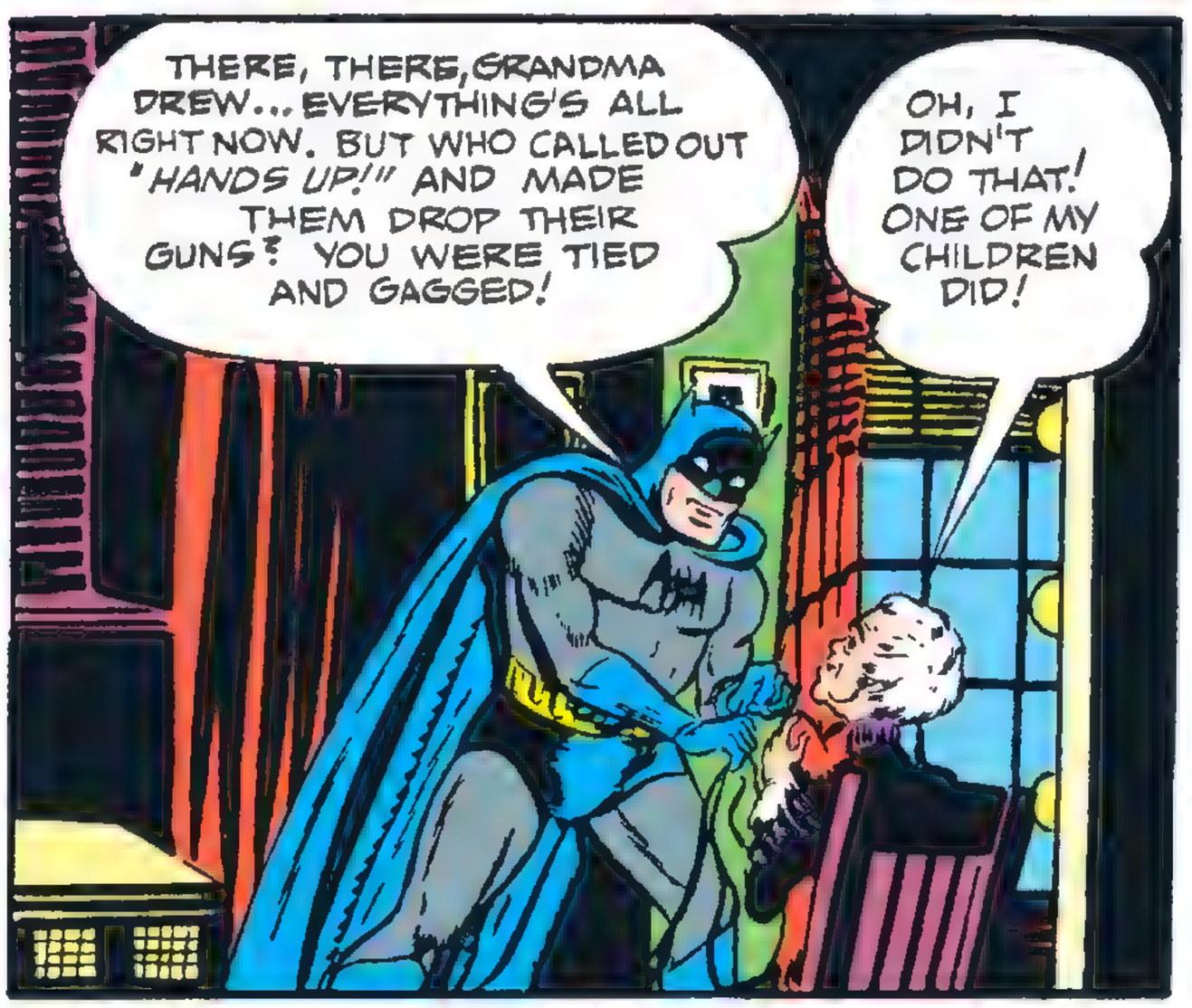

WE'RE GOING OVER TO THE HENDRICKS PLACE! YOU TWO STAY HERE, JUST IN CASE THE BATMAN HAS TRAILED US! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
WE GOTCHA, BOSS. WE'LL FILL HIM WITH LEAD!
OH, THOSE BAD, BAD MEN! IF ONLY I COULD WARN THE BATMAN!

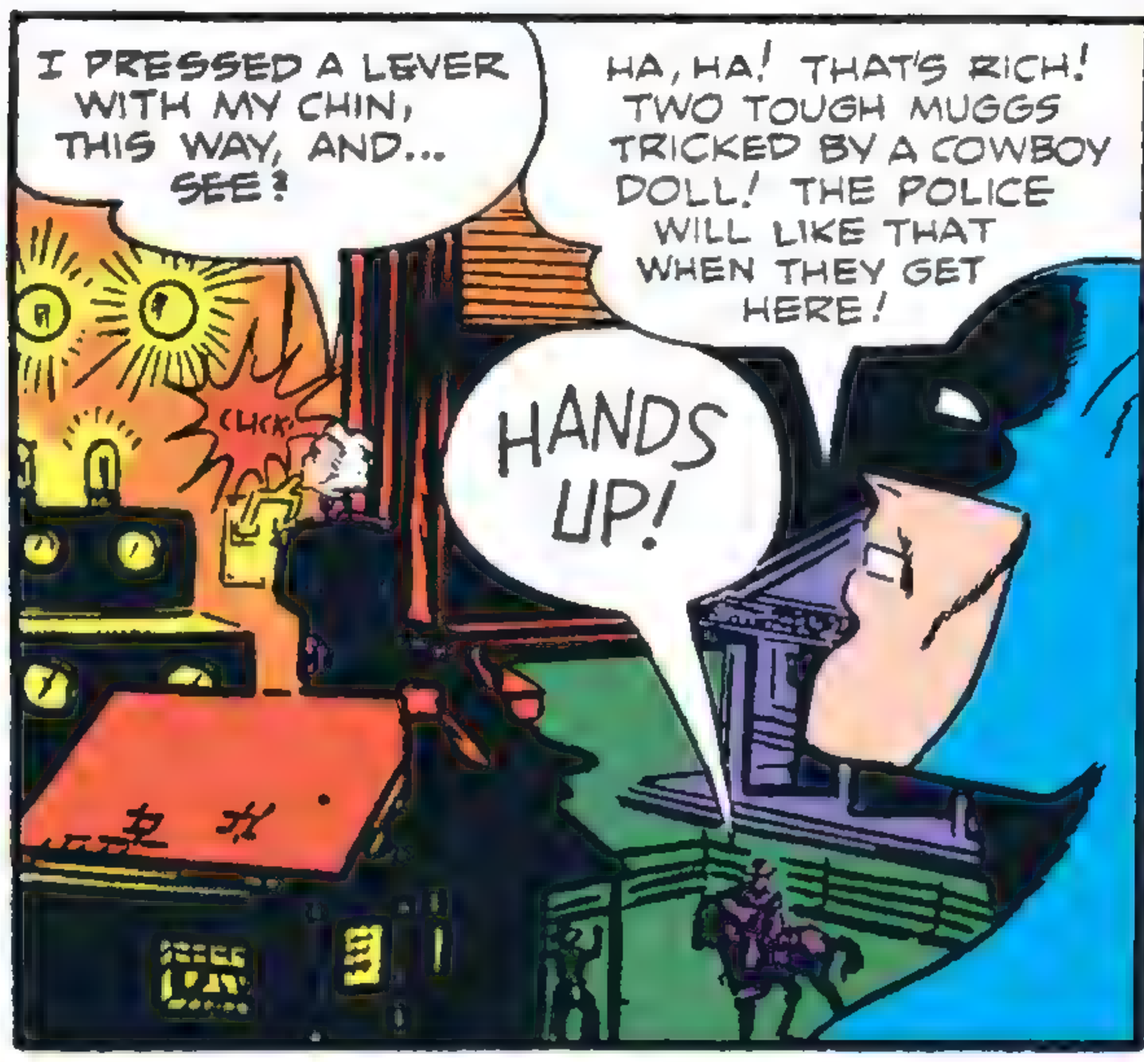

PRESENTLY, A SHADOWY FIGURE GLIDES UNSUSPECTINGLY TOWARD THE DOOR OF THE DOLL ROOM!
THAT'S FUNNY... EVERYTHING'S SO QUIET! MAYBE "MUSCLES" DIDN'T COME HERE YET!

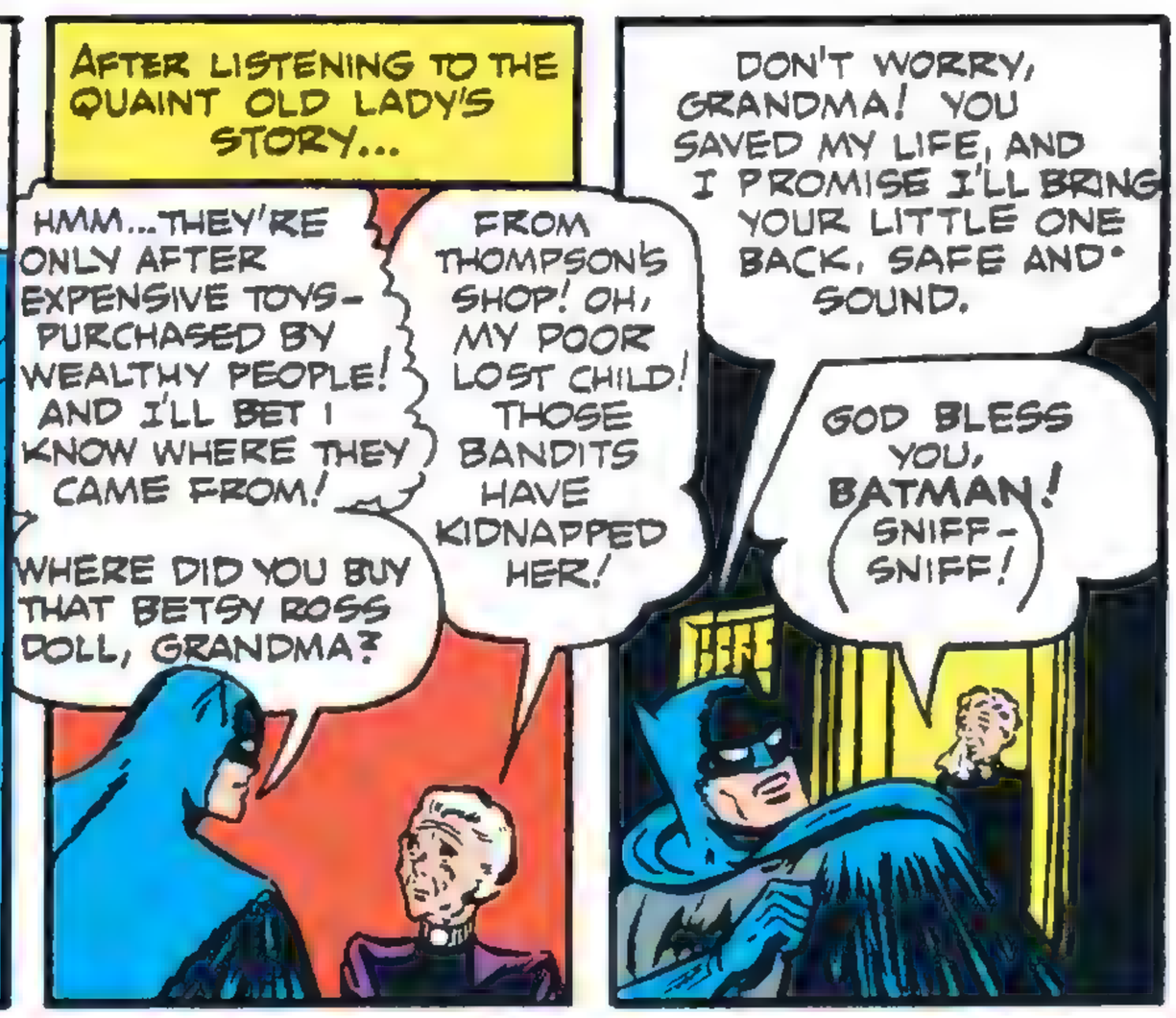
ABRUPTLY, A GRIM COMMAND BARKS OUT FROM BEYOND THE DOOR.
HANDS UP!
SOMETHING IS WRONG IN DOLL HOUSE, ALL RIGHT!

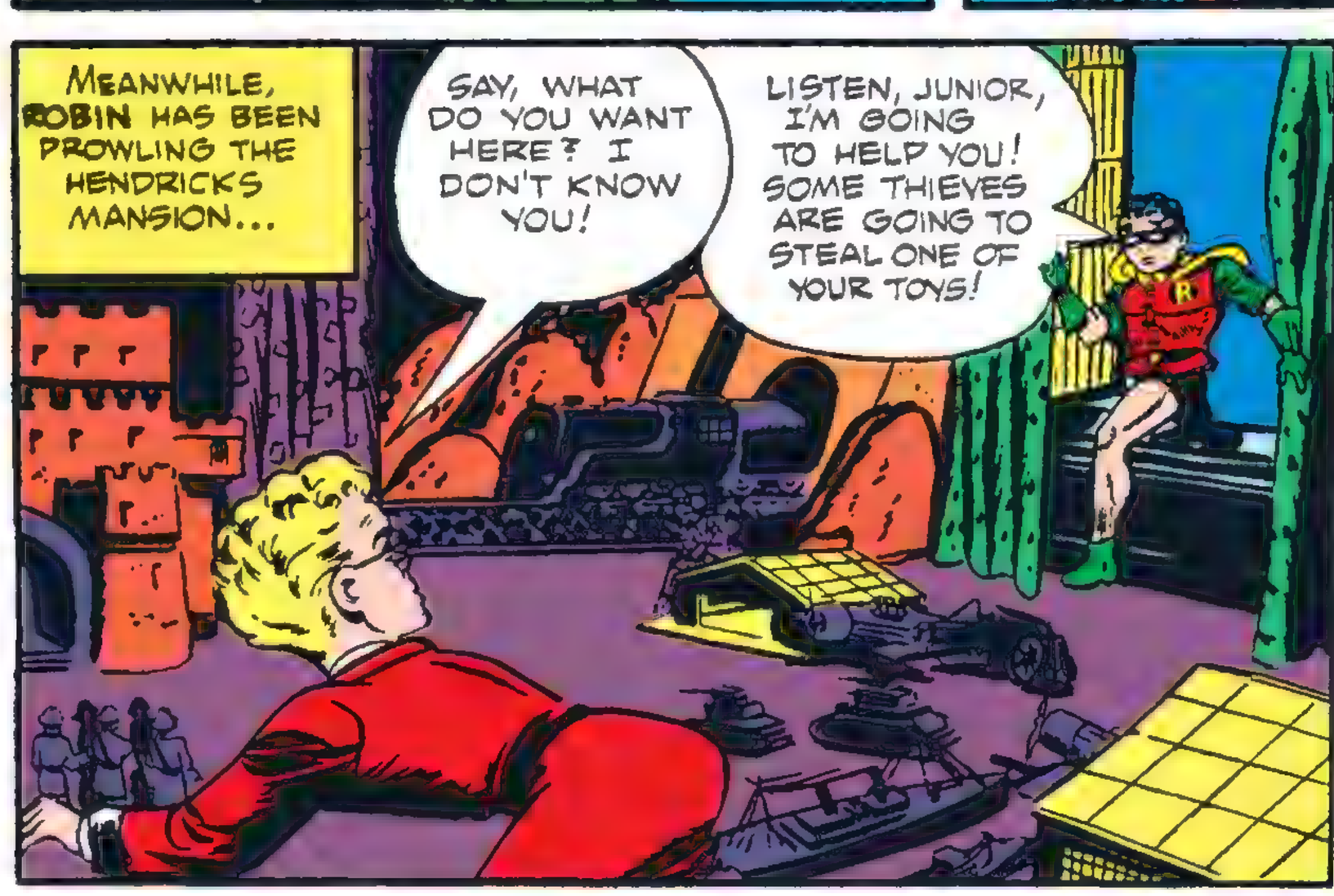

CAUTIOUSLY, HE KICKS THE DOOR OPEN... AND AN AMAZING TABLEAU GREETS HIS STARTLED GAZE!
THERE'S THE BATMAN! SAY—
SO YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME, EH?

HEADS... YOU LOSE!
CRACK!
9


THERE, THERE, GRANDMA DREW... EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW. BUT WHO CALLED OUT "HANDS UP!" AND MADE THEM DROP THEIR GUNS? YOU WERE TIED AND GAGGED!
OH, I DIDN'T DO THAT! ONE OF MY CHILDREN DID!

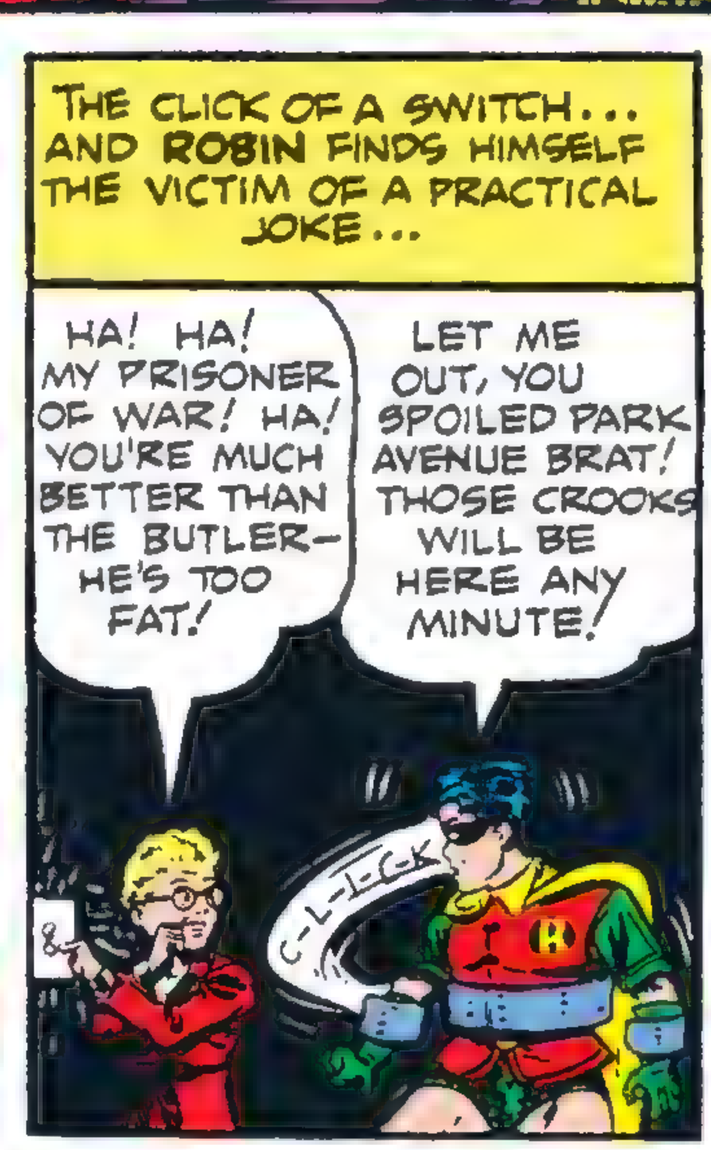

I PRESSED A LEVER WITH MY CHIN, THIS WAY, AND... SEE?
HA, HA! THAT'S RICH! TWO TOUGH MUGGS TRICKED BY A COWBOY DOLL! THE POLICE WILL LIKE THAT WHEN THEY GET HERE!
CLICK
HANDS UP!


AFTER LISTENING TO THE QUAINT OLD LADY'S STORY...
HMM...THEY'RE ONLY AFTER EXPENSIVE TOYS- PURCHASED BY WEALTHY PEOPLE! AND I'LL BET I KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM!
WHERE DID YOU BUY THAT BETSY ROSS DOLL, GRANDMA?
FROM THOMPSON'S SHOP! OH, MY POOR LOST CHILD! THOSE BANDITS HAVE KIDNAPPED HER!
DON'T WORRY, GRANDMA! YOU SAVED MY LIFE, AND I PROMISE I'LL BRING YOUR LITTLE ONE BACK, SAFE AND SOUND.
GOD BLESS YOU, BATMAN! SNIFF-SNIFF!


MEANWHILE, ROBIN HAS BEEN PROWLING THE HENDRICKS MANSION...
SAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE? I DON'T KNOW YOU!
LISTEN, JUNIOR, I'M GOING TO HELP YOU! SOME THIEVES ARE GOING TO STEAL ONE OF YOUR TOYS!

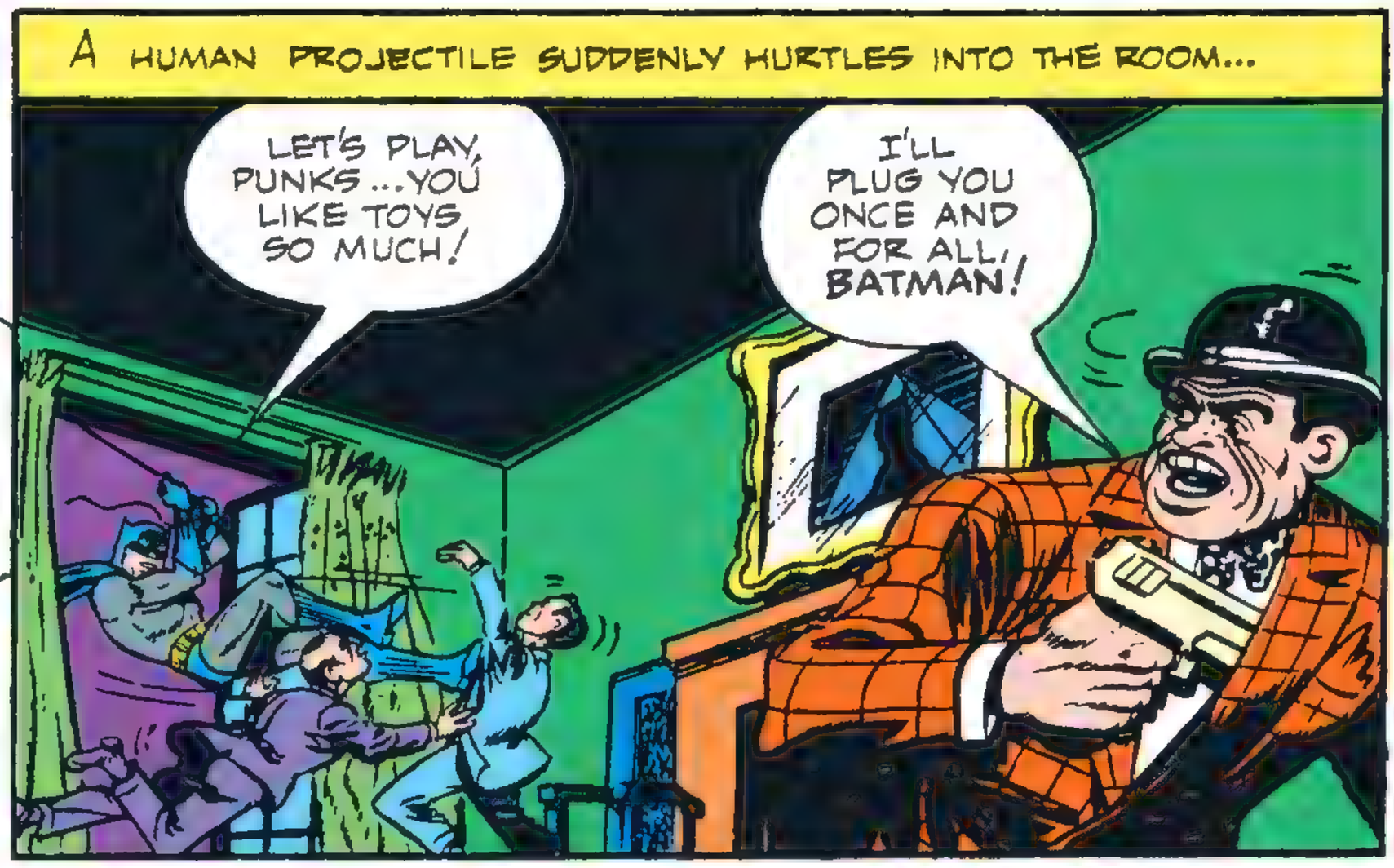
ROT! WHO WOULD WANT TO STEAL MY TOYS? AND WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT SILLY COSTUME?
NOW, LOOK...

WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE GOT A MARVELOUS IDEA! YOU STAND RIGHT THERE...I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
OKAY, BUT WHY...

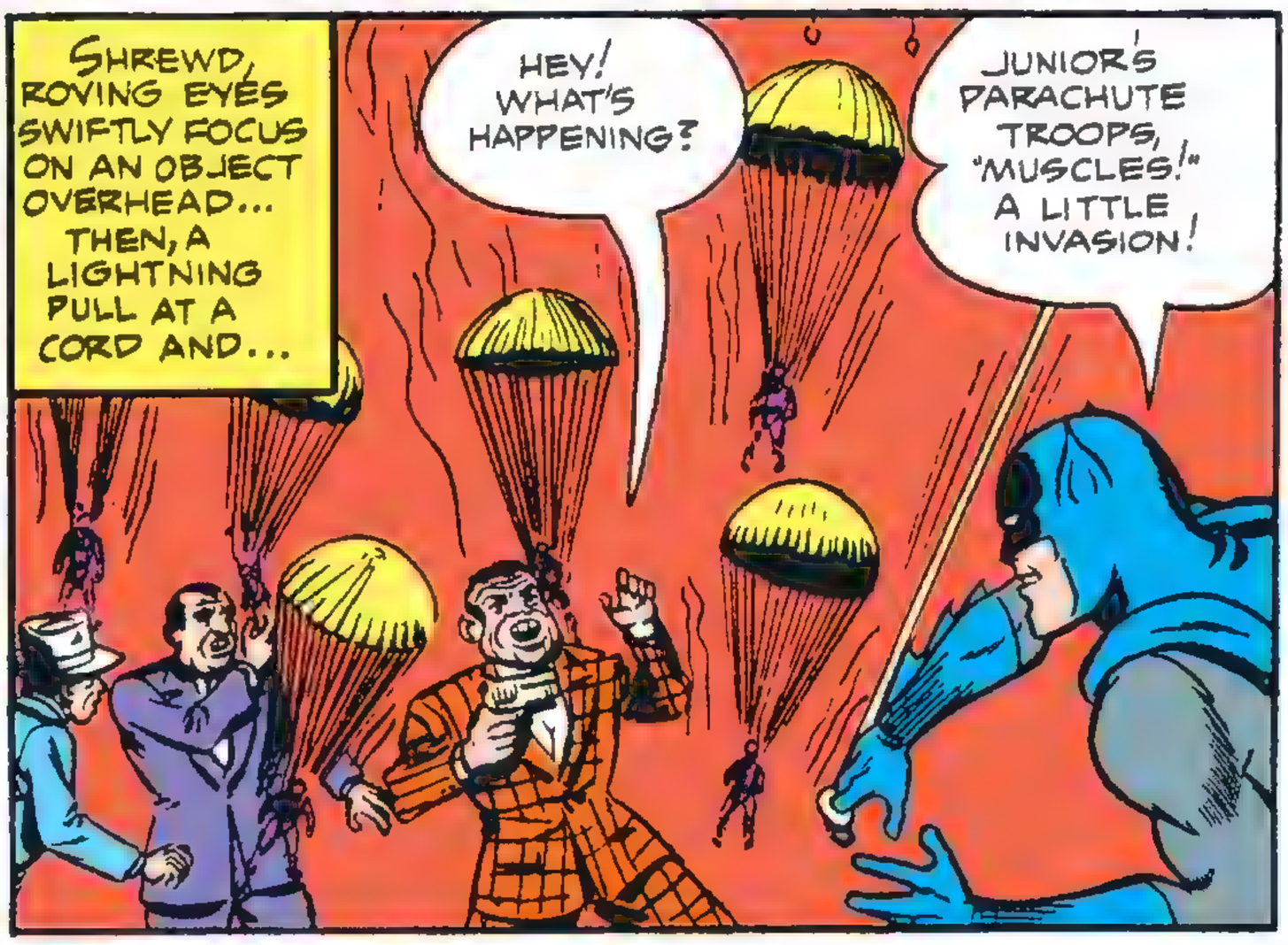

THE CLICK OF A SWITCH... AND ROBIN FINDS HIMSELF THE VICTIM OF A PRACTICAL JOKE...
HA! HA! MY PRISONER OF WAR! HA! YOU'RE MUCH BETTER THAN THE BUTLER- HE'S TOO FAT!
LET ME OUT, YOU SPOILED PARK AVENUE BRAT! THOSE CROOKS WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!
C-L-I-C-K

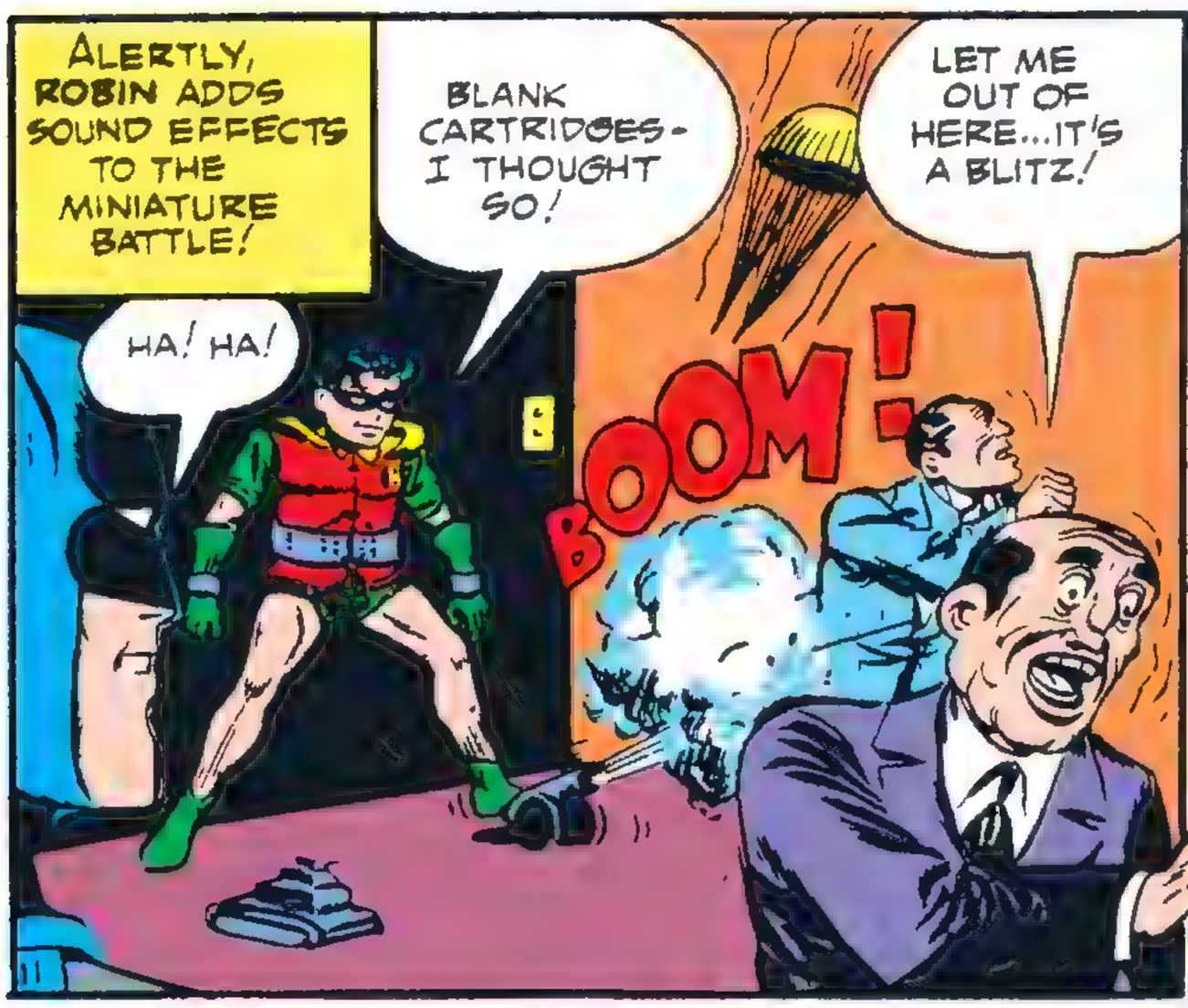
SOONER THAN THAT, YOU MEDDLING PUNK! MY, LOOK AT HIM...HAW! HAW!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
IF I COULD ONLY PUT MY HANDS ON YOU, JUNIOR!

COME ON KID, TALK! WHERE'S THAT TOY SUBMARINE YOUR FATHER BOUGHT YOU?
OUCH! YOU'RE HURTING ME! IT...IT WAS RETURNED TO THE STORE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T WORK!

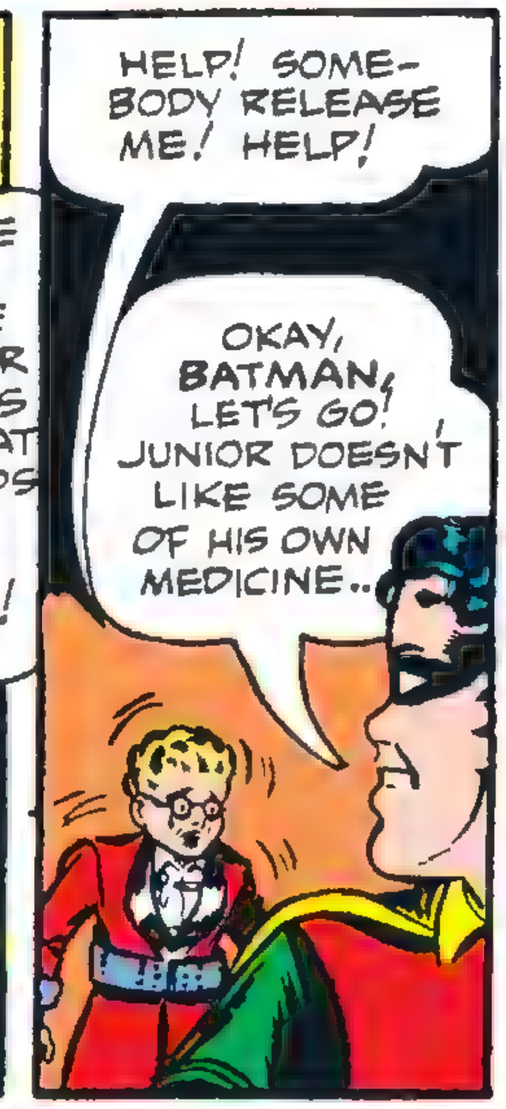

A HUMAN PROJECTILE SUDDENLY HURTLES INTO THE ROOM...
LET'S PLAY, PUNKS...YOU LIKE TOYS SO MUCH!
I'LL PLUG YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL, BATMAN!

AND JUST THEN, BY AN UNLUCKY TWIST OF FATE, THE VALIANT CRIME-FIGHTER SKIDS OVER A TOY...
ONE BULLET... AND YOU'RE THROUGH!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING, QUICK!
...AND STARES INTO THE YAWNING MOUTH OF DEATH!

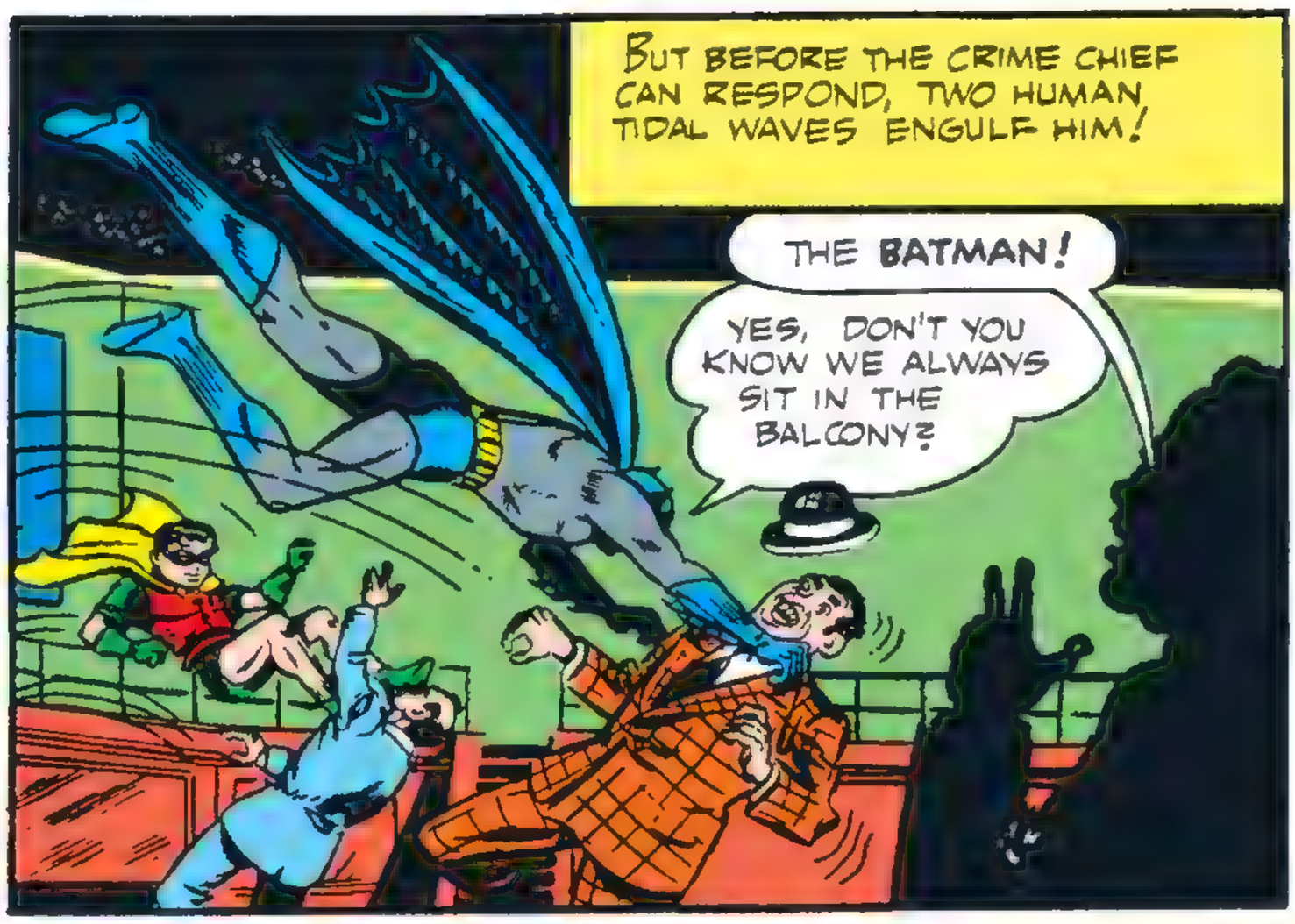

SHREWD, ROVING EYES SWIFTLY FOCUS ON AN OBJECT OVERHEAD... THEN, A LIGHTNING PULL AT A CORD AND...
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
JUNIOR'S PARACHUTE TROOPS, "MUSCLES!" A LITTLE INVASION!

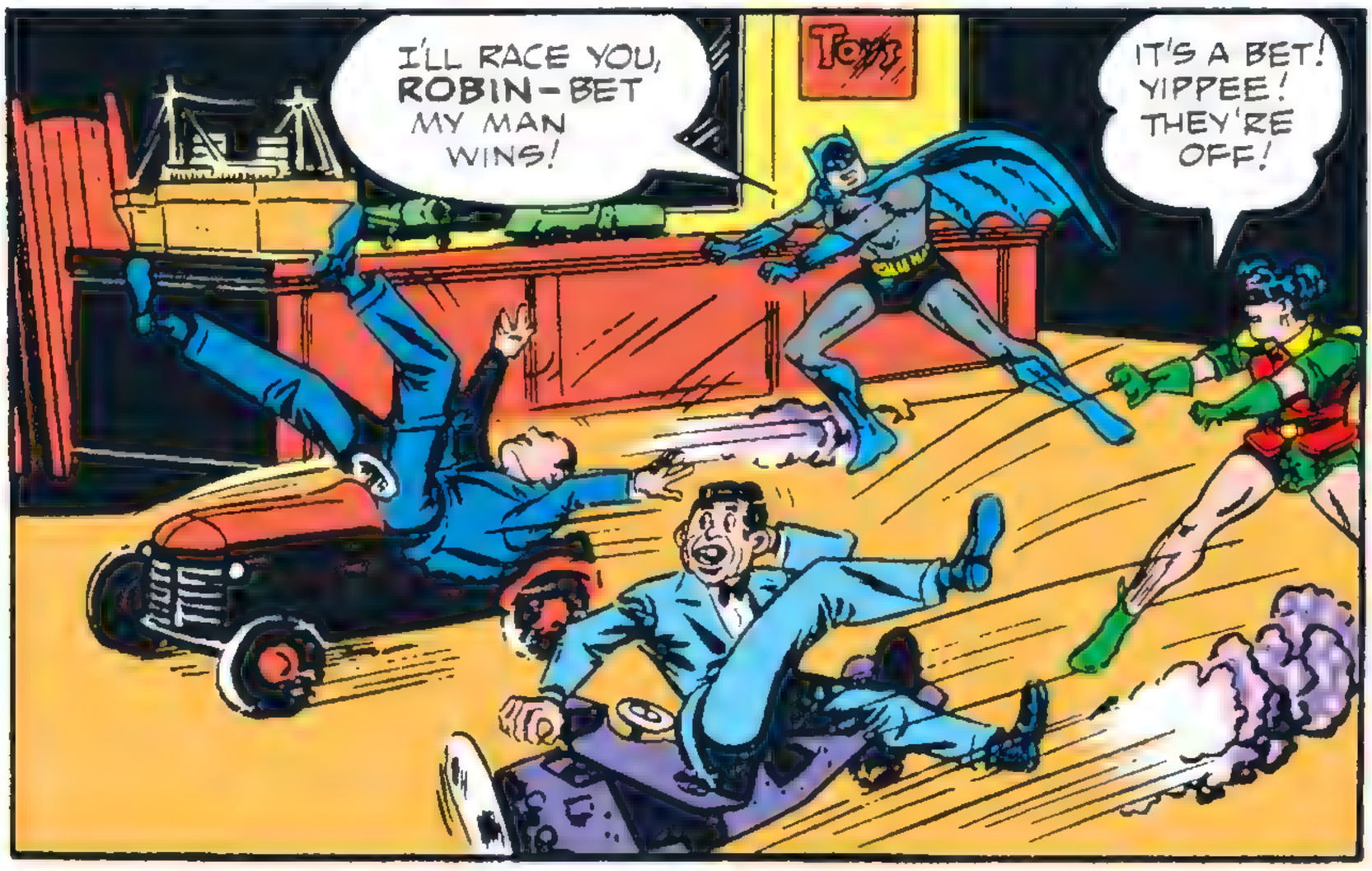

ALERTLY, ROBIN ADDS SOUND EFFECTS TO THE MINIATURE BATTLE!
BLANK CARTRIDGES - I THOUGHT SO!
LET ME OUT OF HERE...IT'S A BLITZ!
HA! HA!
BOOM!

THE ENEMY HAS RETREATED! ROBIN IS FREED!
NOW I KNOW HOW THE GEMS GOT OUT OF THE THOMPSON STORE! AND THE BIG BOSS MUST BE SOMEONE WHO HAS A LIST OF ALL CUSTOMERS!
THEY'RE GOING THERE NOW FOR JUNIOR'S TOY. THAT REMINDS ME... WAIT A SECOND!


HELP! SOME-BODY RELEASE ME! HELP!
OKAY, BATMAN, LET'S GO! JUNIOR DOESN'T LIKE SOME OF HIS OWN MEDICINE...

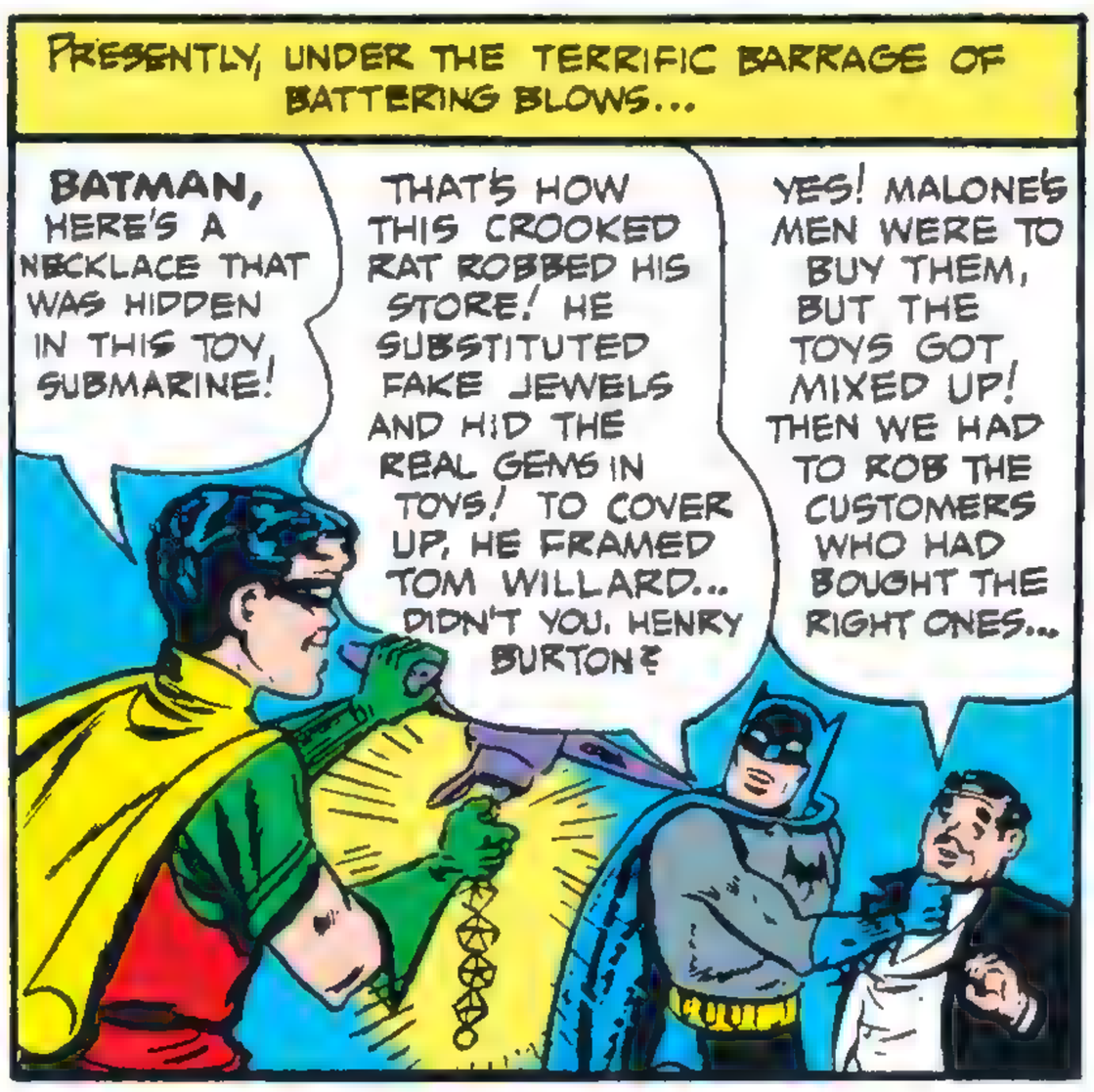
IN THE TOY DEPARTMENT OF THE THOMPSON LUXURY SHOP...
I TELL YOU, THE TOY MUST HAVE BEEN PUT BACK IN STOCK! I...
I FOUND IT, "MUSCLES!" HERE IT IS!
TOYS


BUT BEFORE THE CRIME CHIEF CAN RESPOND, TWO HUMAN TIDAL WAVES ENGULF HIM!
THE BATMAN!
YES, DON'T YOU KNOW WE ALWAYS SIT IN THE BALCONY?


I'LL RACE YOU, ROBIN—BET MY MAN WINS!
IT'S A BET! YIPPEE! THEY'RE OFF!
Toys

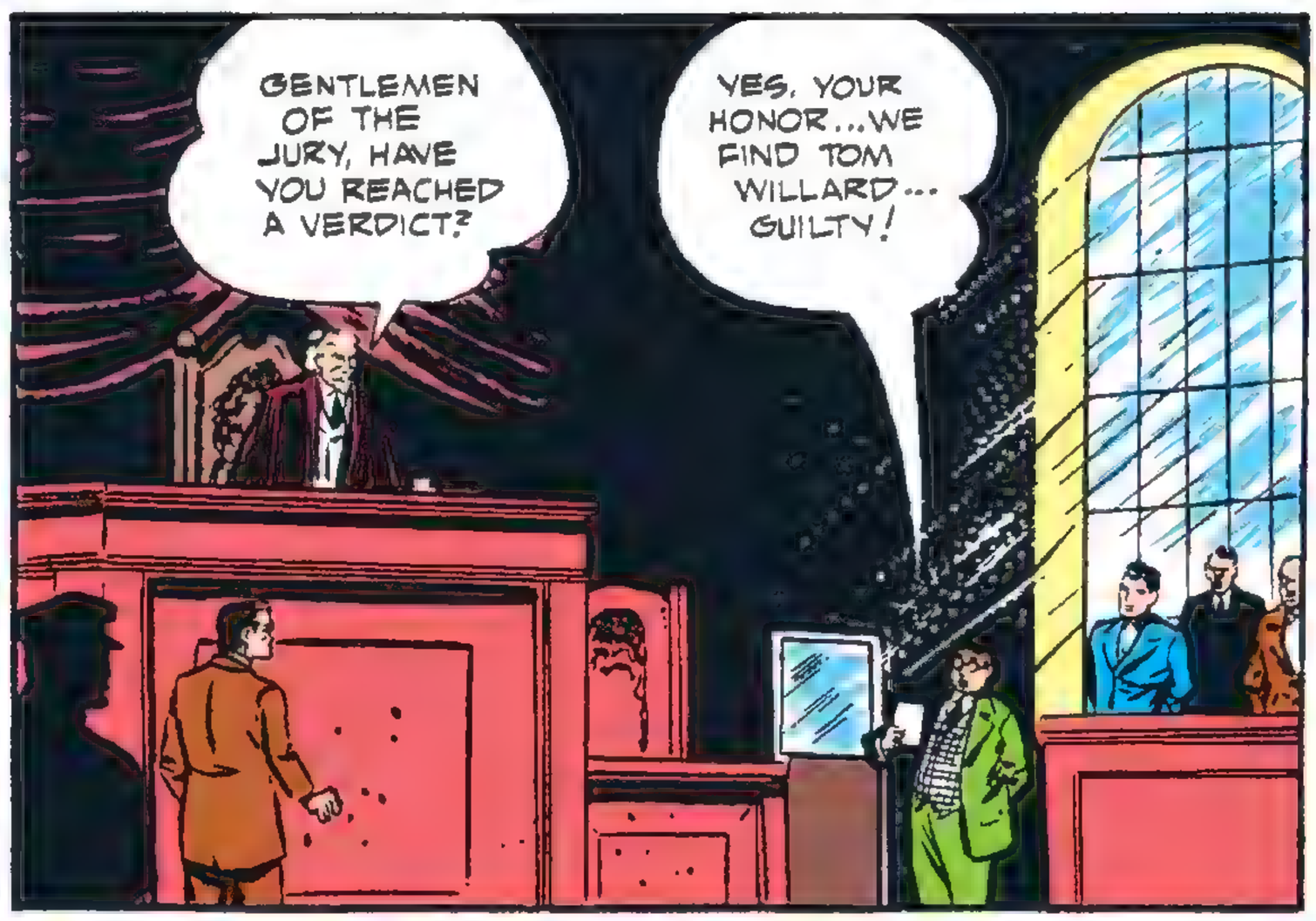
MY MAN WON!
SO I LOST... TSK...TSK!
CRASH!

YOU'RE GETTING FAT... NEED SOME EXERCISE!
OOF!


PRESENTLY, UNDER THE TERRIFIC BARRAGE OF BATTERING BLOWS...
BATMAN, HERE'S A NECKLACE THAT WAS HIDDEN IN THIS TOY SUBMARINE!
THAT'S HOW THIS CROOKED RAT ROBBED HIS STORE! HE SUBSTITUTED FAKE JEWELS AND HID THE REAL GEMS IN TOYS! TO COVER UP, HE FRAMED TOM WILLARD... DIDN'T YOU, HENRY BURTON?
YES! MALONE'S MEN WERE TO BUY THEM, BUT THE TOYS GOT MIXED UP! THEN WE HAD TO ROB THE CUSTOMERS WHO HAD BOUGHT THE RIGHT ONES...

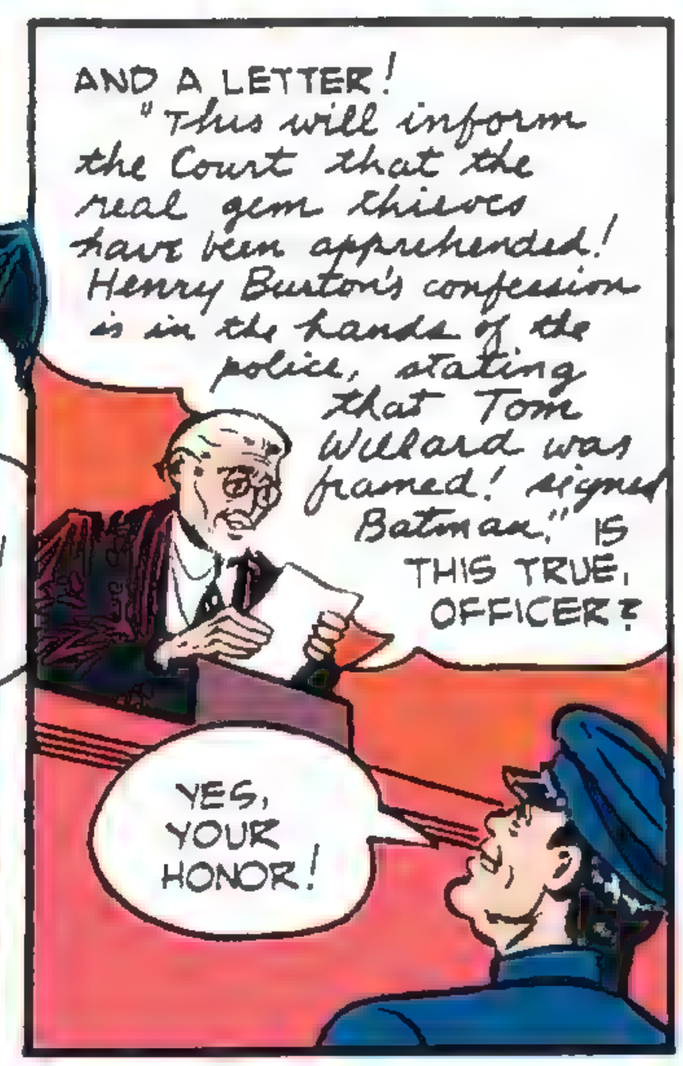
ROBIN... THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO DO! LISTEN—

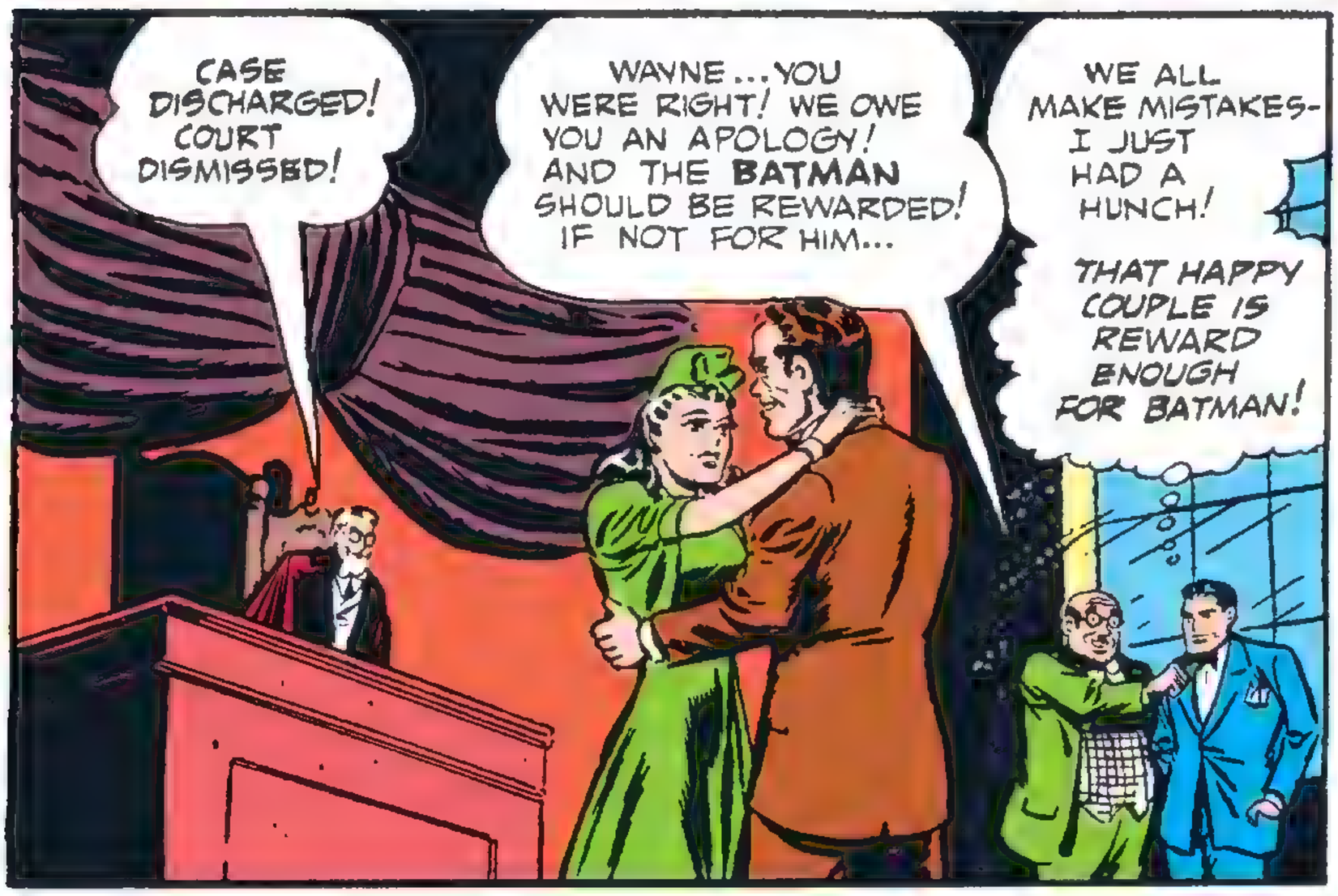
THE NEXT MORNING...IN THE JURY ROOM...
GUILTY... GUILTY! THAT MAKES TWELVE... UNANIMOUS! WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU FINALLY CAME TO YOUR SENSES, WAYNE!
I DON'T KNOW. I STILL THINK HE'S INNOCENT, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO DELAY MATTERS ANY LONGER.


GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY, HAVE YOU REACHED A VERDICT?
YES, YOUR HONOR...WE FIND TOM WILLARD... GUILTY!

A DEATHLY HUSH STILLS THE COURTROOM, BROKEN ONLY BY A WOMAN'S SOFT SOBS, WHEN SUDDENLY...
A PACKAGE FOR YOU, YOUR HONOR...TO BE OPENED IMMEDIATELY! MATERIAL WITNESS, SIR!

THE CARTON IS TORN OPEN... AND A GIANT BAT WINGS ITS WAY UPWARD!
BLESS MY SOUL! A BAT!


AND A LETTER! "This will inform the Court that the real gem thieves have been apprehended! Henry Burton's confession is in the hands of the police, stating that Tom Willard was framed! signed Batman." IS THIS TRUE, OFFICER?
YES, YOUR HONOR!


CASE DISCHARGED! COURT DISMISSED!
WAYNE...YOU WERE RIGHT! WE OWE YOU AN APOLOGY! AND THE BATMAN SHOULD BE REWARDED! IF NOT FOR HIM...
WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES- I JUST HAD A HUNCH!
THAT HAPPY COUPLE IS REWARD ENOUGH FOR BATMAN!

AND AS BRUCE WALKS DOWN THE COURTHOUSE STEPS AND WINKS AT THE STATUE OF JUSTICE...
JUSTICE MAY BE BLINDFOLDED... BUT SHE ISN'T BLIND!
The End

BATMAN WITH ROBIN

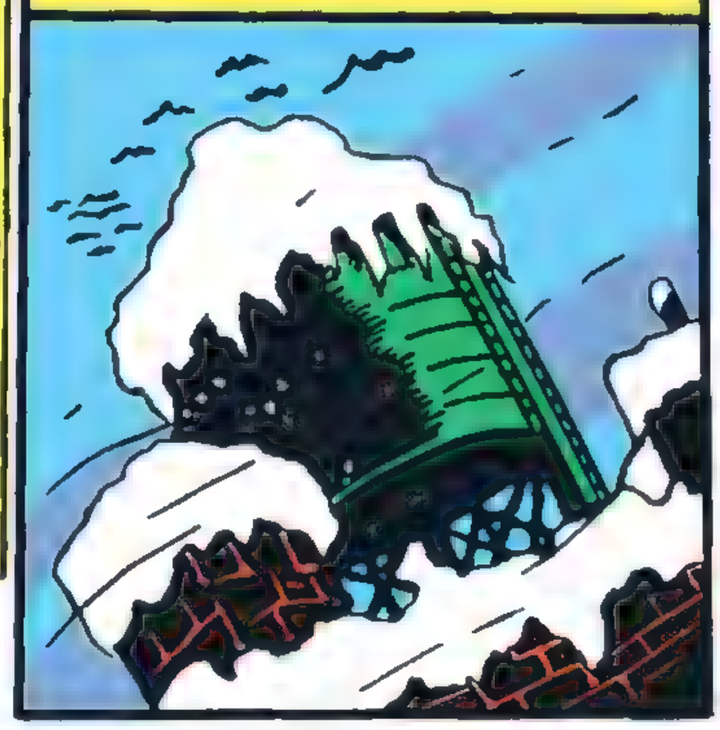
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CRIME SPROUTS WINGS?... MEET THE **CANARY!** SHE WARBLES A SWEET SONG--LIKE THE SCHEMING SIRENS OF OLD! JOE **CROW**...WHOSE HEART IS AS BLACK AS HIS NAMESAKE! **BUZZARD** BENNY... BIG, BRAWNY...BEASTLY! AND NOW... THE QUEEREST BIRD OF ALL... WHOSE JOVIAL MANNER BELIES A RACKET-HATCHING BRAIN!... MEET THAT INFAMOUS UMBRELLA MAN... **THE PENGUIN!!**

YES, HE'S BACK TO FLY HIS FEATHERED FRIENDS TO A CRIME-NEST, UNTIL THE **BATMAN AND RO**---BUT WHY GIVE THE SECRET AWAY? READ IT YOURSELF, IN THIS BIZARRE TALE OF ..."*Four Birds of a Feather!*"

SOB KANE

BUT BIRDS DO NOT STAY--- THEY HATE THE COLD AND MIGRATE SOUTHWARD IN QUEST OF THE SUN...

SNOW AND STORM HERALD OLD MAN WINTER. HE SWIRLS INTO GOTHAM CITY AND PLUCKS ICILY AT ITS INHABITANTS!



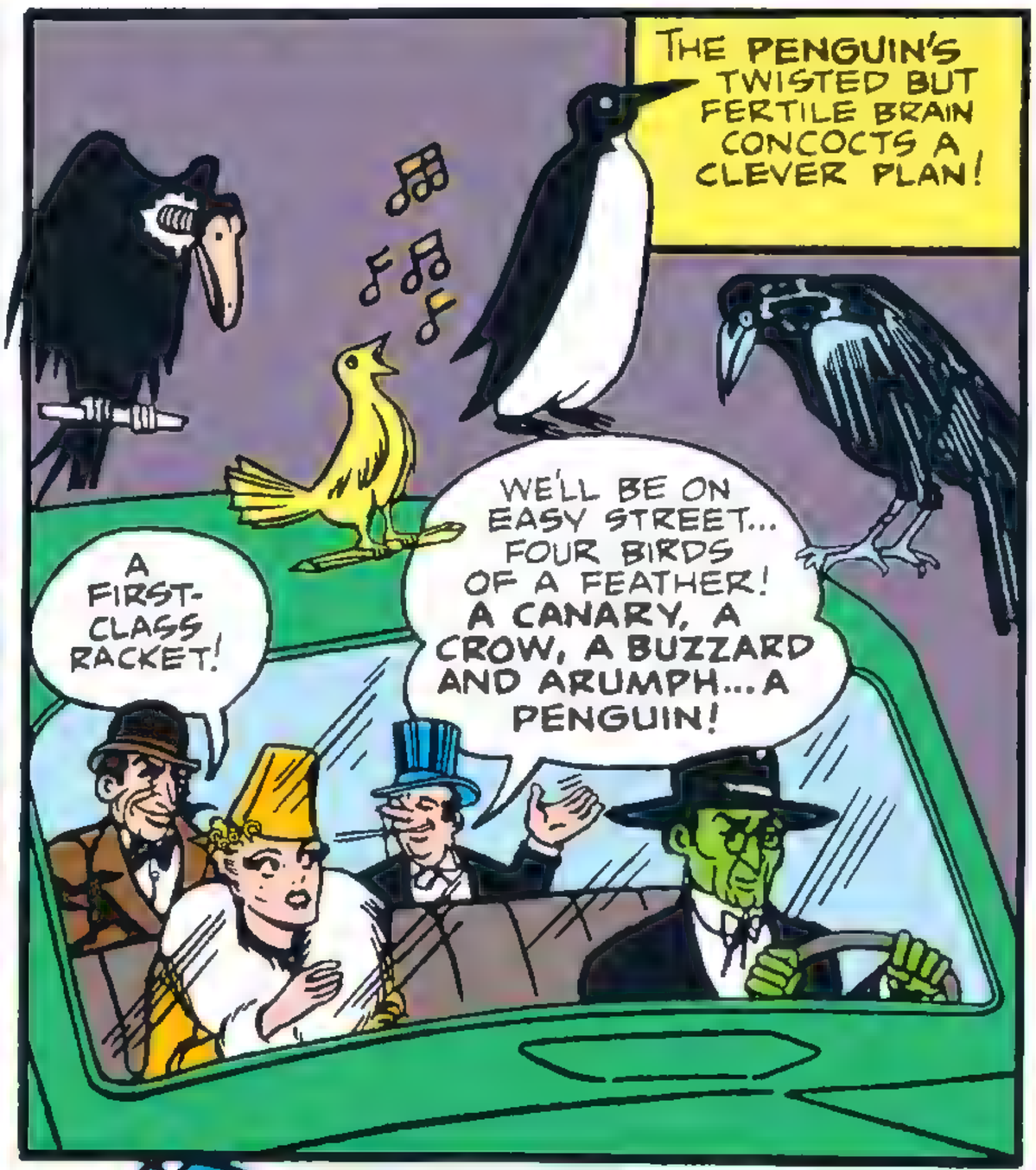
OTHER "BIRDS", TOO, THINK OF THE WARM SOUTHLAND... BIRDS OF PREY...HUMAN VULTURES!
BUZZARD, THE NIGHT-CLUB BUSINESS IS DEAD!
YEAH, CROW! THE CANARY, HERE, AIN'T EVEN GOT ONE CUSTOMER TO SING TO!
LET'S SHAKE THIS TOWN AND GO SOUTH ...FLORIDA! THE TOURIST TRADE DOWN THERE IS FULL OF CHUMPS!

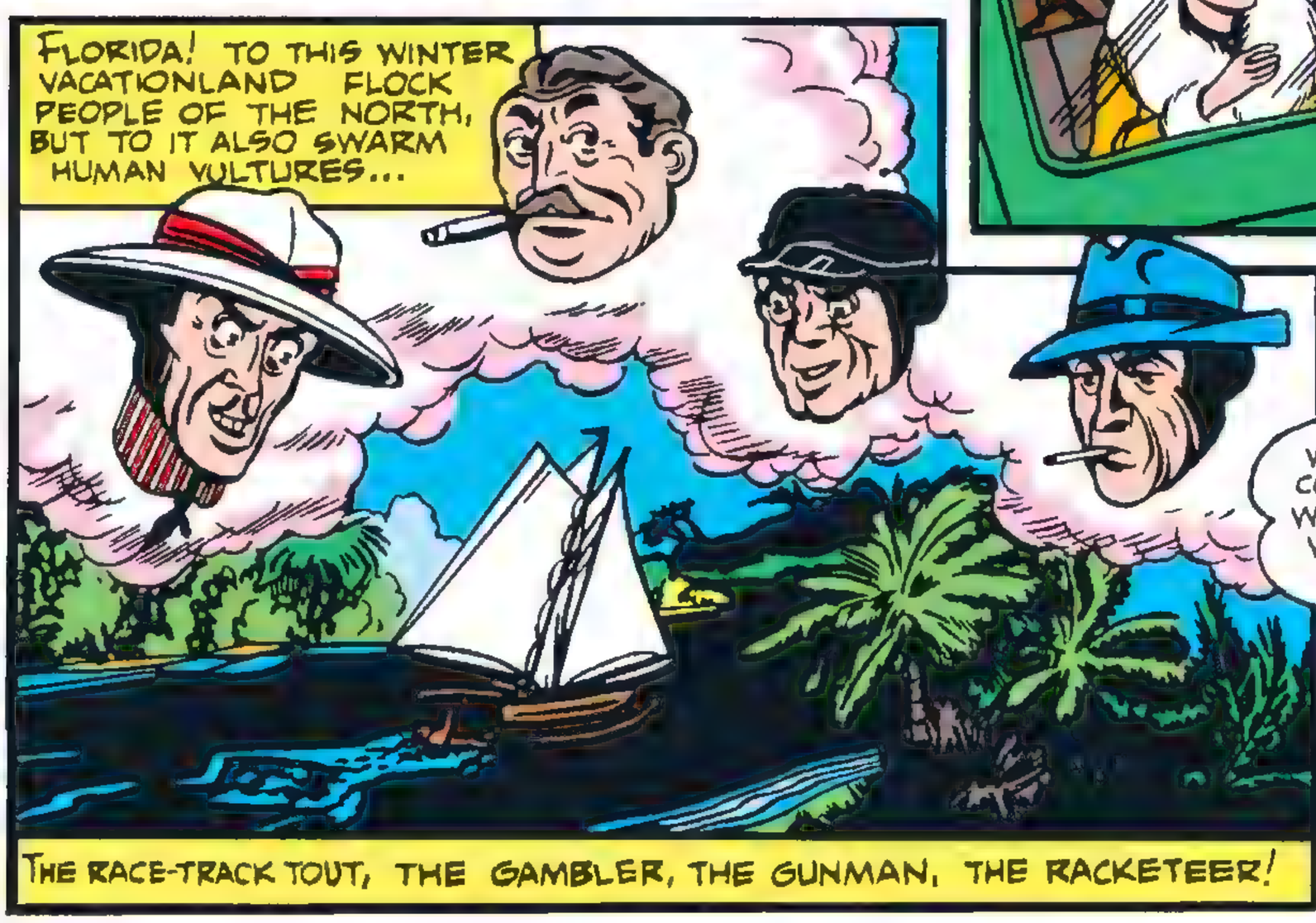
NOW WE MEET ANOTHER "BIRD", WHOSE WADDLING GAIT AND CHERUBIC FACE MASKS EVIL PURPOSE...THE PENGUIN!
REAL PENGUINS RELISH THE COLD, BUT NOT I! JOVE... A CAR! HO, THERE! HALT!

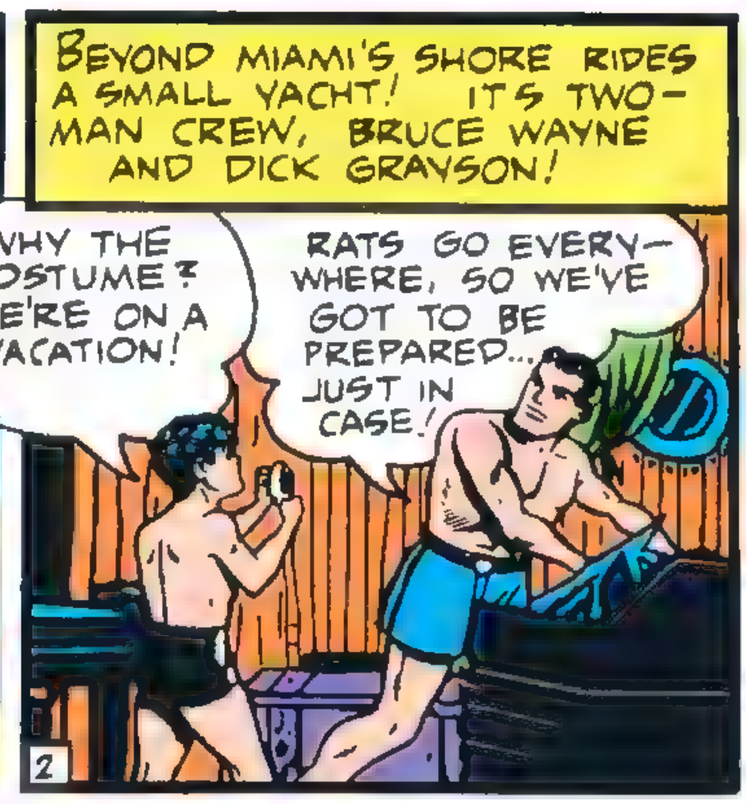
SHADES OF SHELLEY, BUT THIS IS DELIGHTFUL! MY OLD COMPATRIOTS THE EVER-LOVELY CANARY, JOE CROW AND BUZZARD BENNY!
THE PENGUIN! HOP IN! WE'RE DRIVIN DOWN SOUTH!

WE HEARD THE BATMAN WAS ON YOUR TAIL!
THE BATMAN? HE'LL FIND IT HARD TO PUT SALT ON MY TAIL... HA, HA!

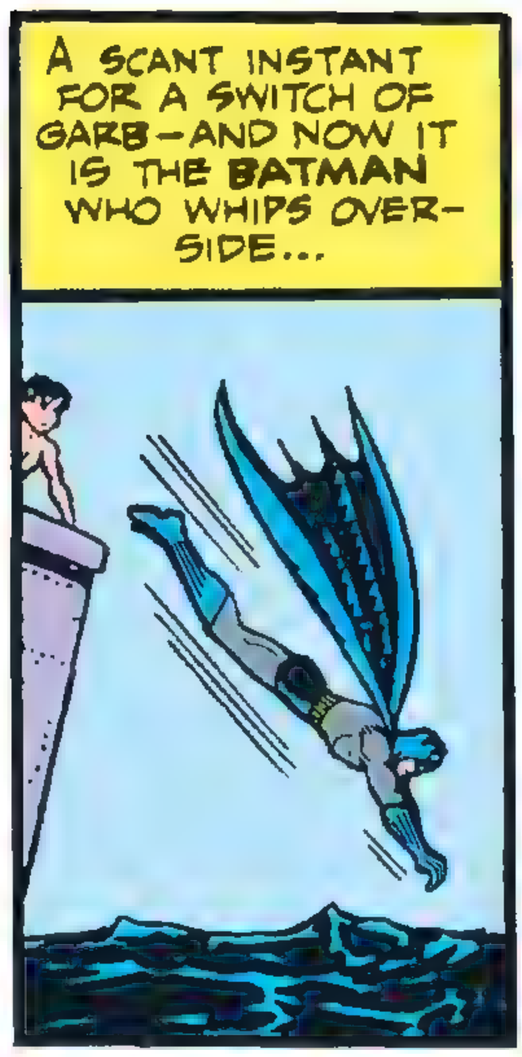
WE WANT TO OPEN A NIGHT CLUB IN FLORIDA, WITH GAMBLING AS THE REAL RACKET! ONLY WE NEED MORE DOUGH TO GET STARTED!
THEN BEHOLD YOUR NEW PARTNER! THE PROCEEDS OF MY LAST ESCAPADE... THE HOBOES' "JUNGLE" AFFAIR!

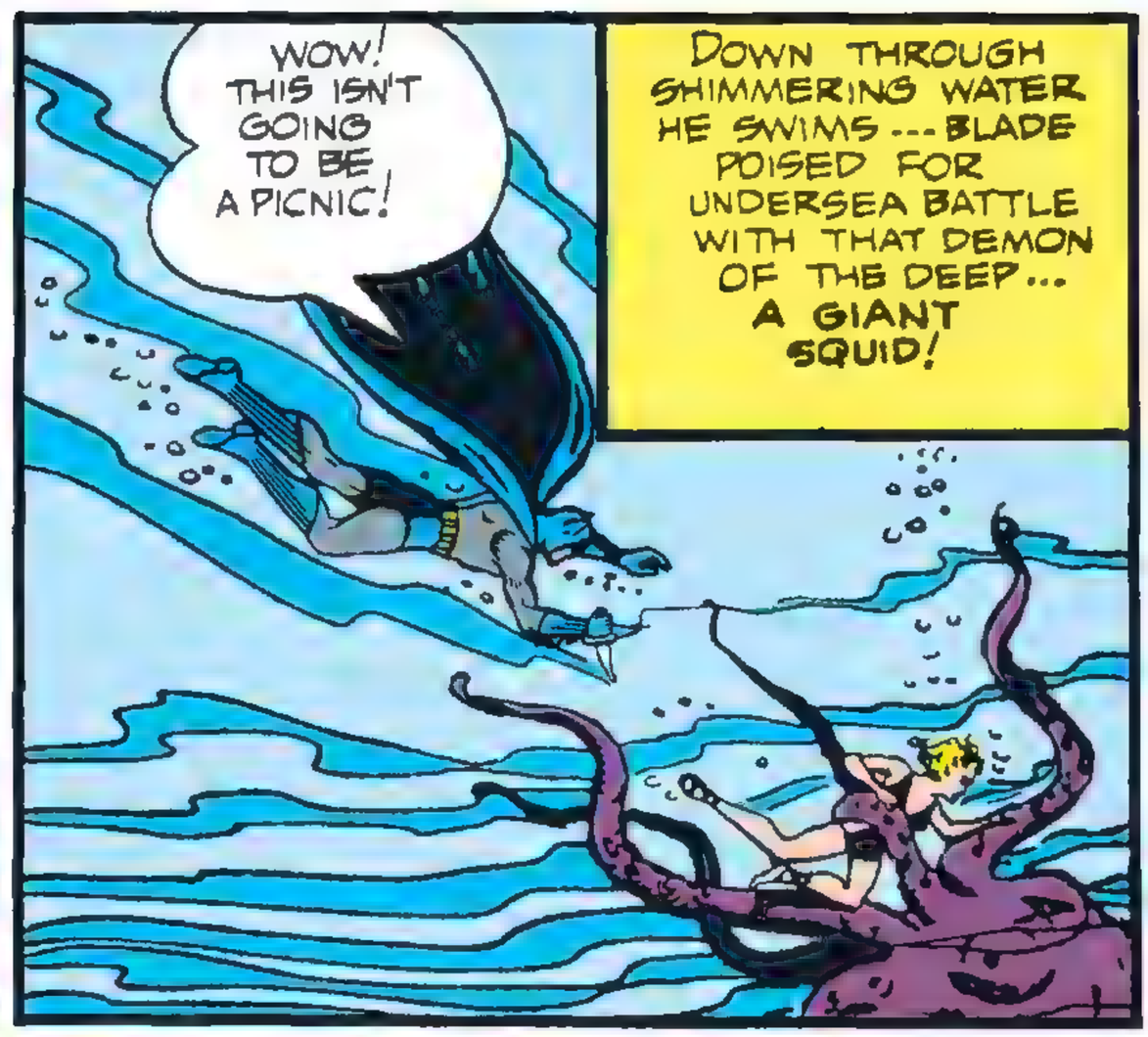

THE PENGUIN'S TWISTED BUT FERTILE BRAIN CONCOCTS A CLEVER PLAN!
A FIRST-CLASS RACKET!
WE'LL BE ON EASY STREET... FOUR BIRDS OF A FEATHER! A CANARY, A CROW, A BUZZARD AND ARUMPH...A PENGUIN!

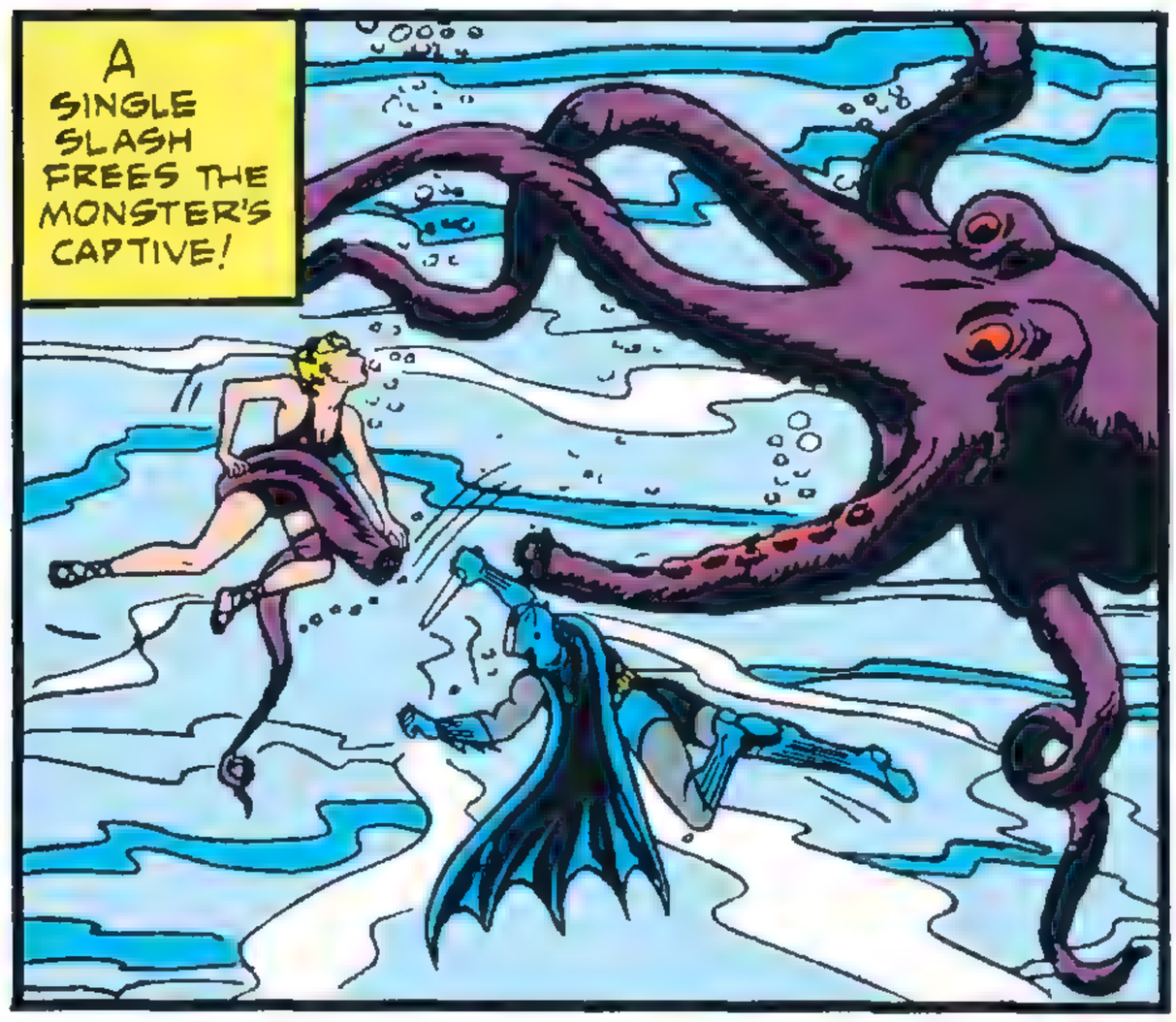

FLORIDA! TO THIS WINTER VACATIONLAND FLOCK PEOPLE OF THE NORTH, BUT TO IT ALSO SWARM HUMAN VULTURES...
THE RACE-TRACK TOUT, THE GAMBLER, THE GUNMAN, THE RACKETEER!

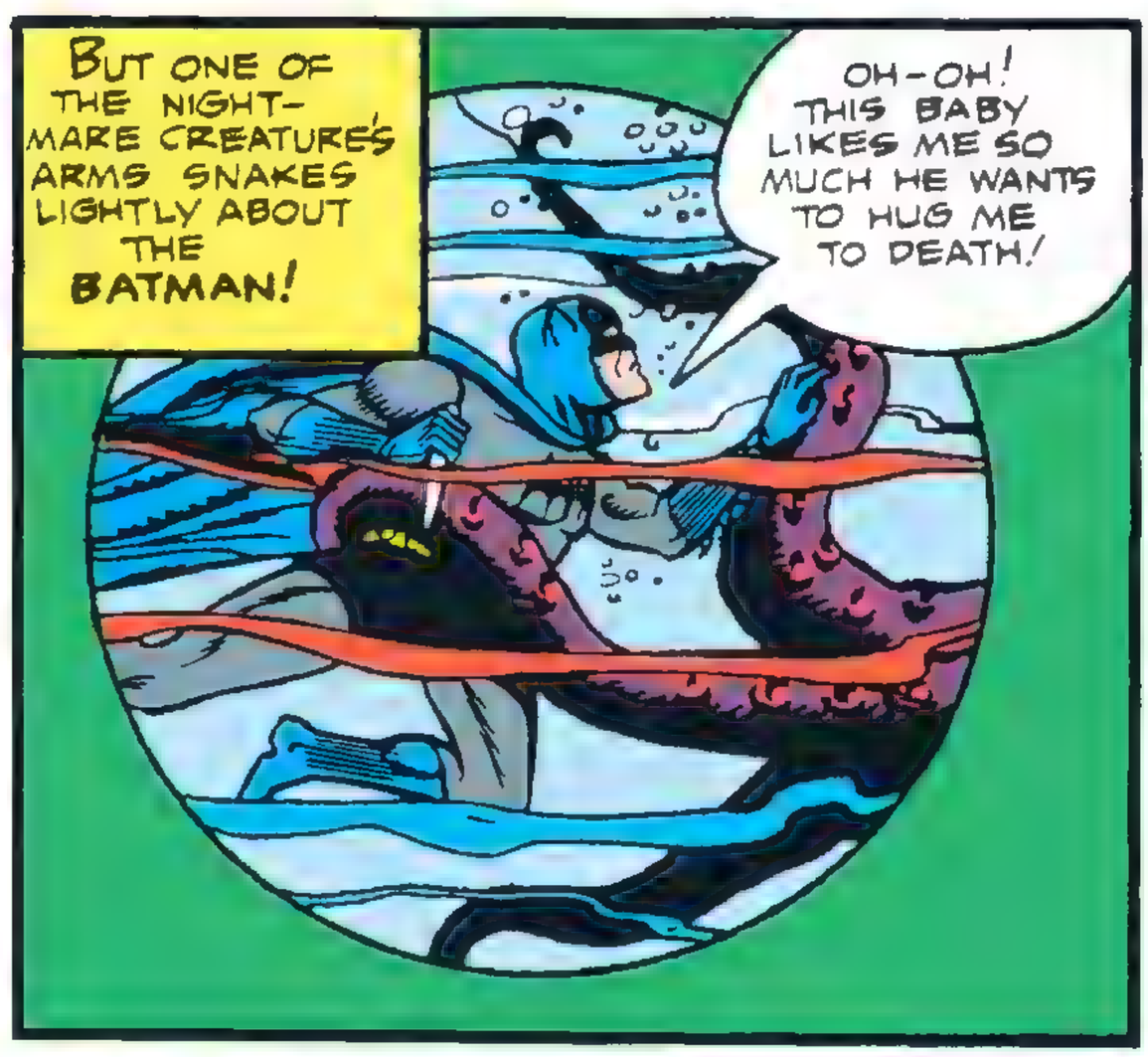

BEYOND MIAMI'S SHORE RIDES A SMALL YACHT! IT'S TWO-MAN CREW, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON!
WHY THE COSTUME? WE'RE ON A VACATION!
RATS GO EVERY-WHERE, SO WE'VE GOT TO BE PREPARED... JUST IN CASE!
2

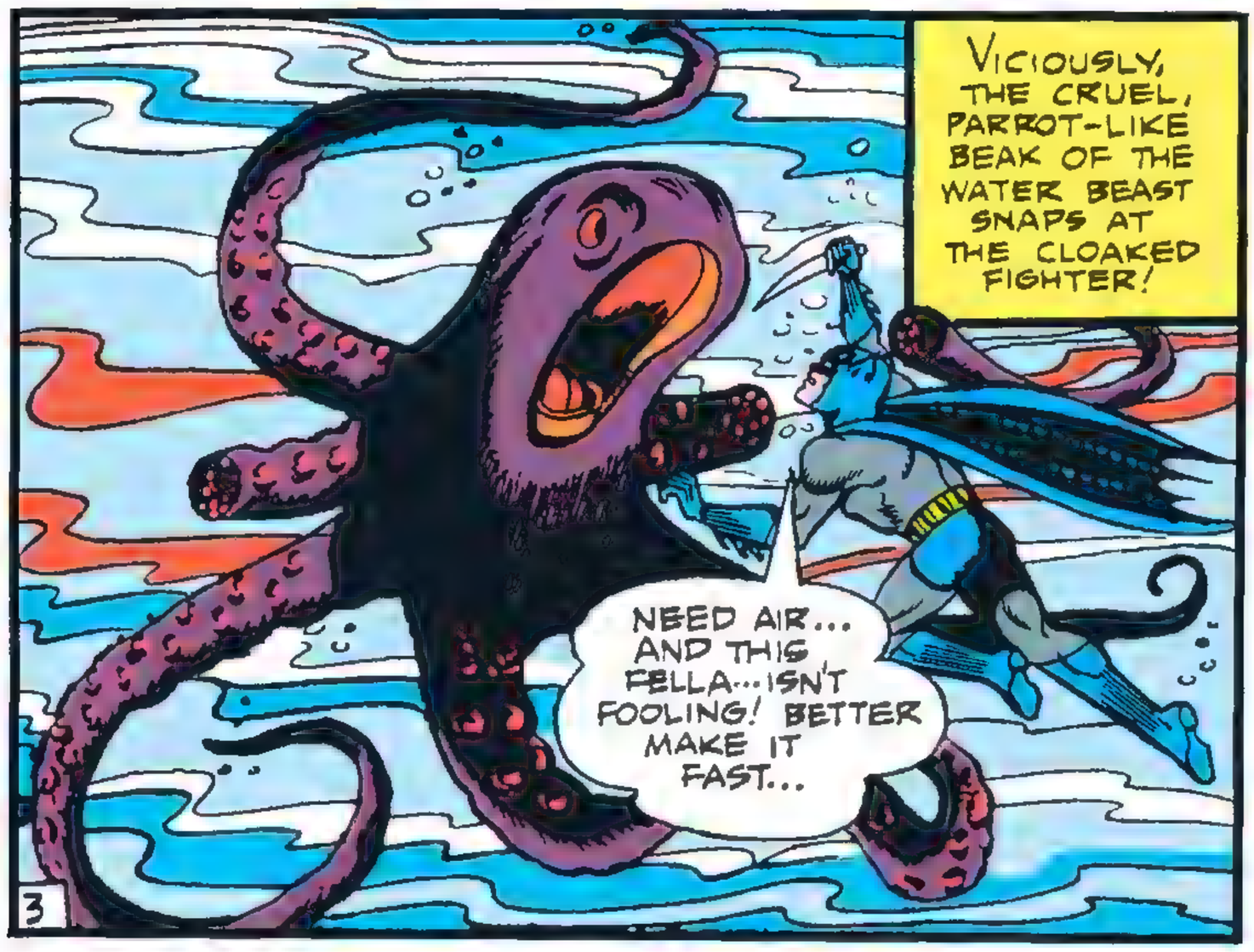
SUDDENLY...A CRY FOR HELP!
LOOK! THAT GIRL SWAM TOO FAR OUT AND SHE'S IN DANGER!
HELP
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THOSE TENTACLES!

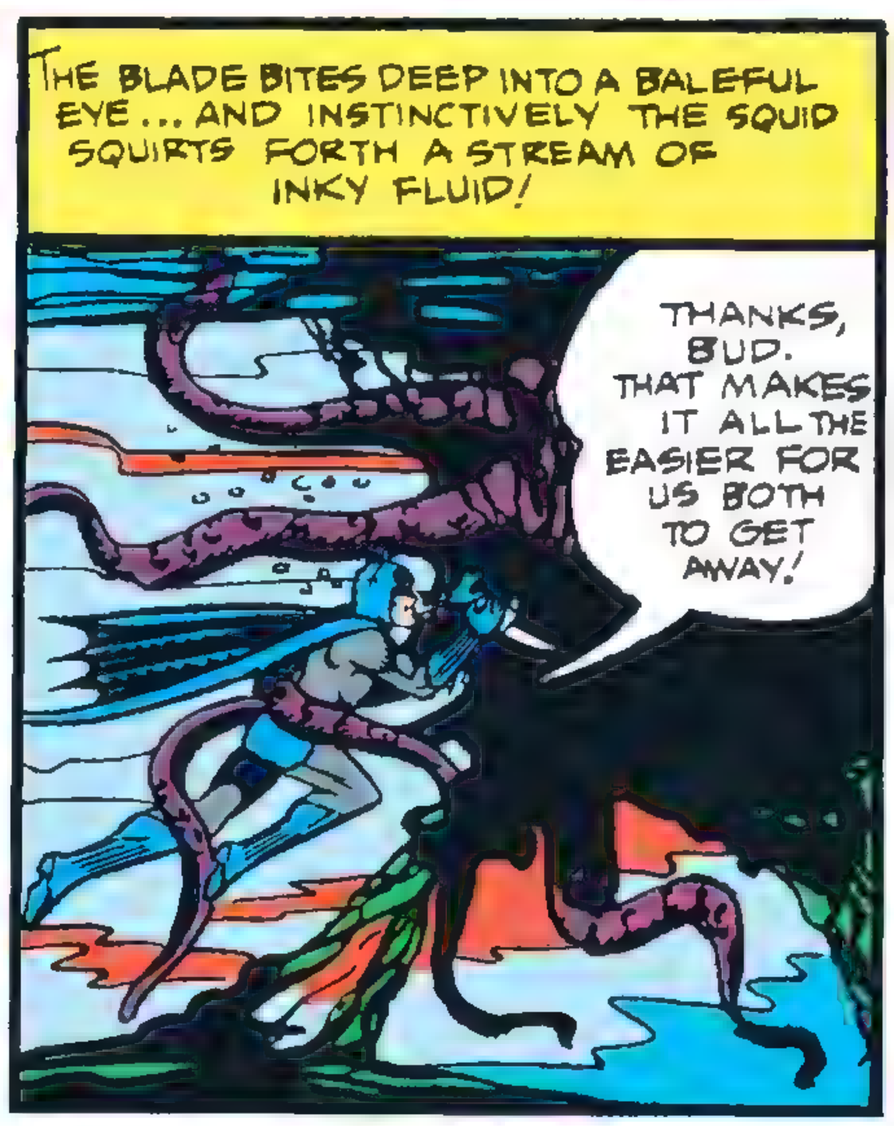

A SCANT INSTANT FOR A SWITCH OF GARB—AND NOW IT IS THE BATMAN WHO WHIPS OVER-SIDE...

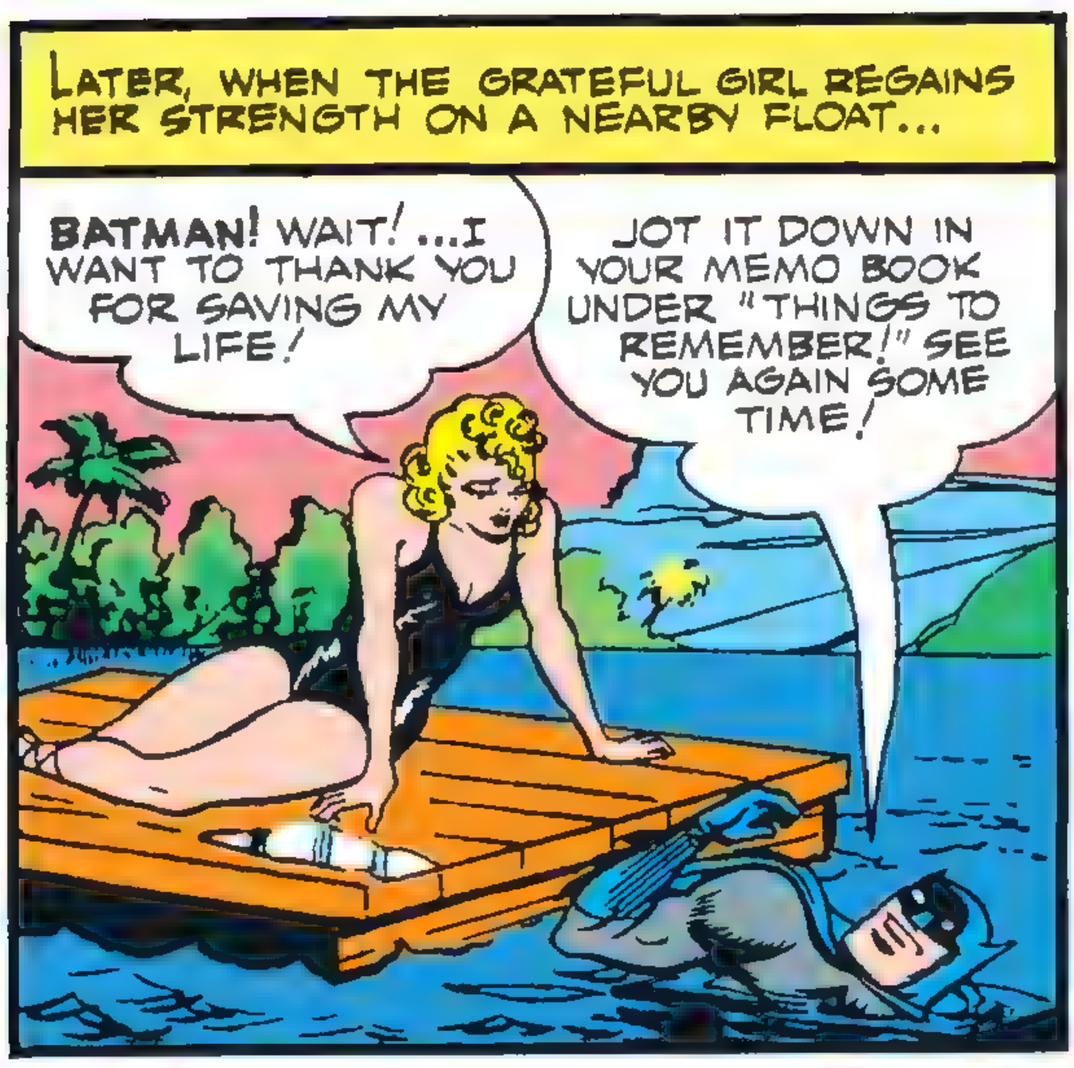

WOW! THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE A PICNIC!
DOWN THROUGH SHIMMERING WATER HE SWIMS ... BLADE POISED FOR UNDERSEA BATTLE WITH THAT DEMON OF THE DEEP... A GIANT SQUID!

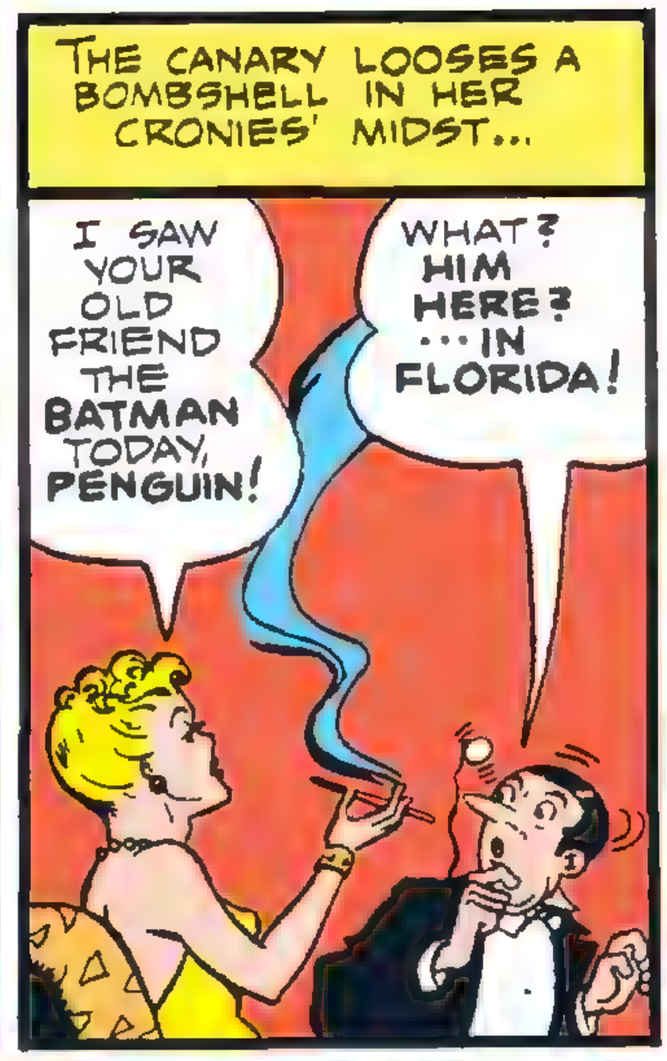

A SINGLE SLASH FREES THE MONSTER'S CAPTIVE!


BUT ONE OF THE NIGHT-MARE CREATURE'S ARMS SNAKES LIGHTLY ABOUT THE BATMAN!
OH-OH! THIS BABY LIKES ME SO MUCH HE WANTS TO HUG ME TO DEATH!

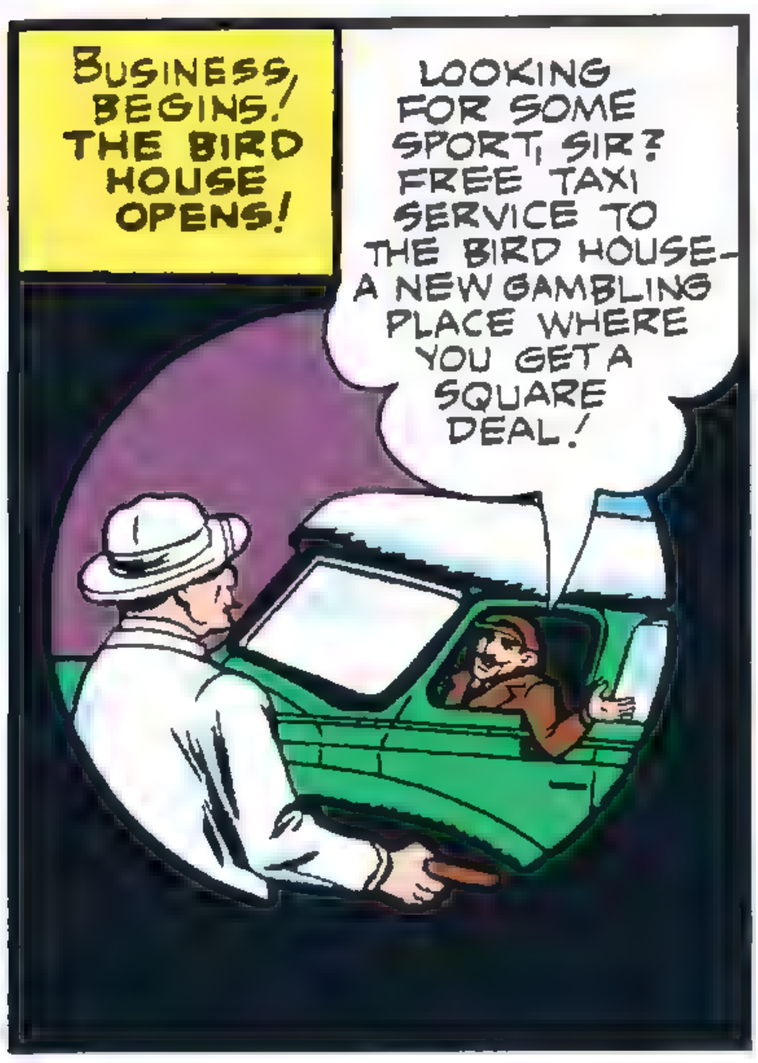

VICIOUSLY, THE CRUEL, PARROT-LIKE BEAK OF THE WATER BEAST SNAPS AT THE CLOAKED FIGHTER!
NEED AIR... AND THIS FELLA...ISN'T FOOLING! BETTER MAKE IT FAST...
3

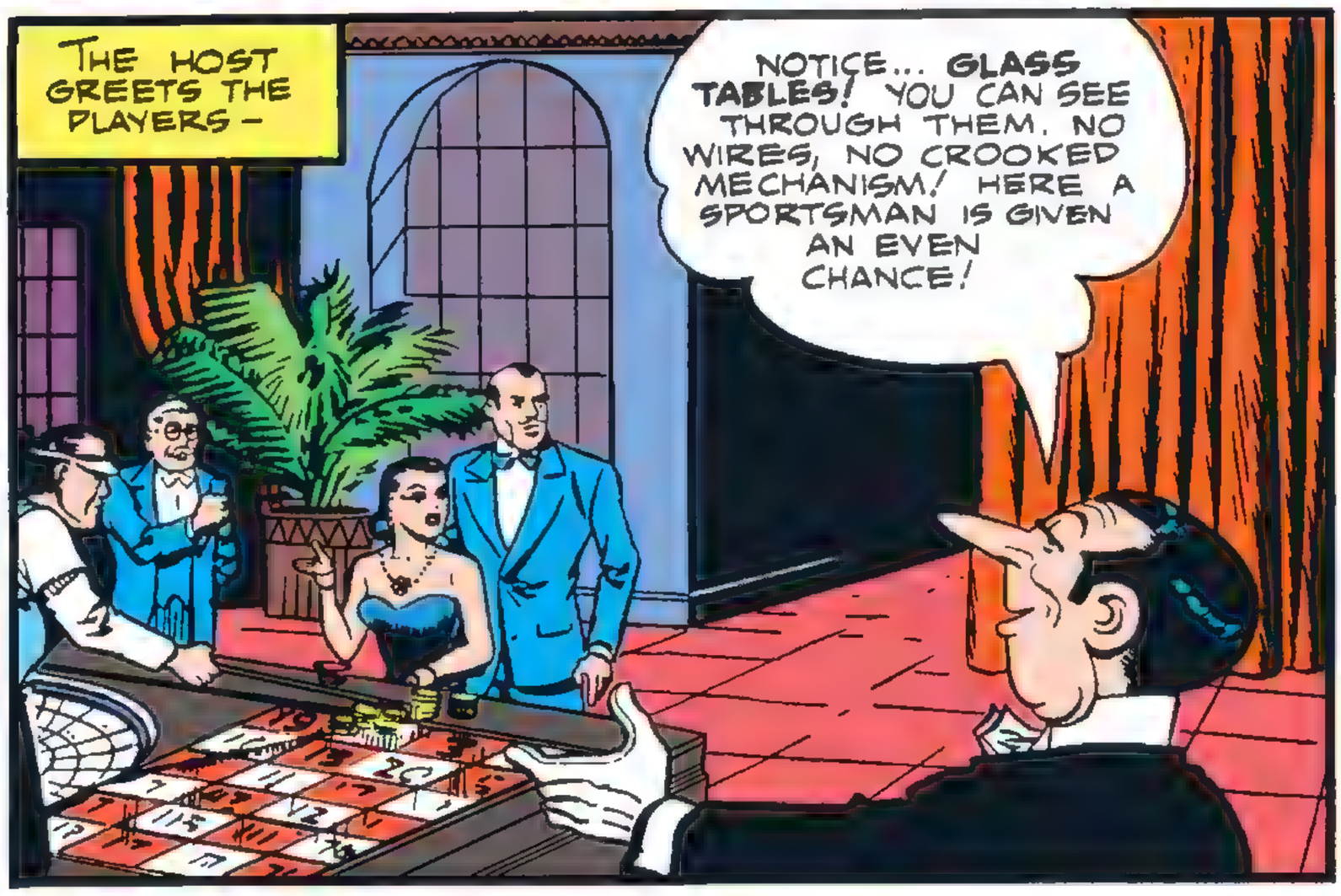

THE BLADE BITES DEEP INTO A BALEFUL EYE... AND INSTINCTIVELY THE SQUID SQUIRTS FORTH A STREAM OF INKY FLUID!
THANKS, BUD. THAT MAKES IT ALL THE EASIER FOR US BOTH TO GET AWAY!


LATER, WHEN THE GRATEFUL GIRL REGAINS HER STRENGTH ON A NEARBY FLOAT...
BATMAN! WAIT! ...I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
JOT IT DOWN IN YOUR MEMO BOOK UNDER "THINGS TO REMEMBER!" SEE YOU AGAIN SOME TIME!


THE CANARY LOOSES A BOMBSHELL IN HER CRONIES' MIDST...
I SAW YOUR OLD FRIEND THE BATMAN TODAY, PENGUIN!
WHAT? HIM HERE? ...IN FLORIDA!

SHE TELLS OF HER TIMELY RESCUE BY THE BATMAN.
JUST 'CAUSE HE PULLED THAT "HERO" STUNT, DON'T START GETTING ANY IDEAS ABOUT HIM!
HERE! LET US FORGET THE BATMAN AND CONCENTRATE ON OUR BUSINESS VENTURE!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME FROM DREAMING!

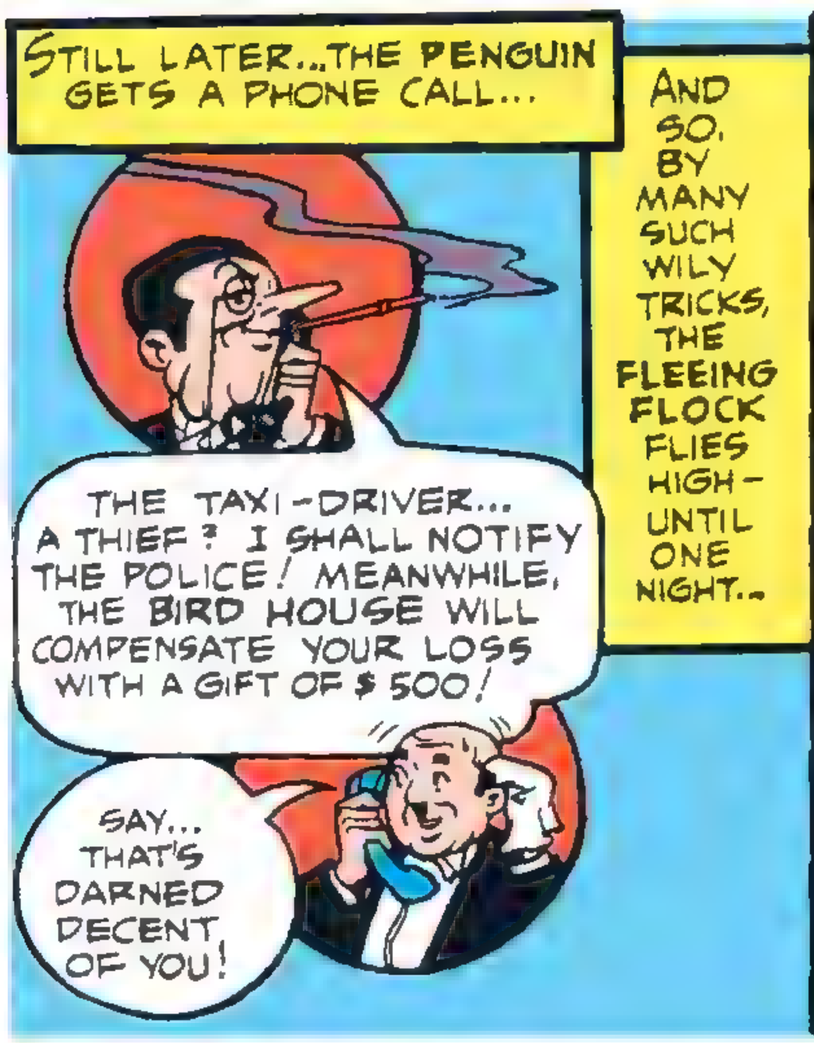

BUSINESS BEGINS! THE BIRD HOUSE OPENS!
LOOKING FOR SOME SPORT, SIR? FREE TAXI SERVICE TO THE BIRD HOUSE- A NEW GAMBLING PLACE WHERE YOU GET A SQUARE DEAL!


THE HOST GREETS THE PLAYERS -
NOTICE... GLASS TABLES! YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THEM. NO WIRES, NO CROOKED MECHANISM! HERE A SPORTSMAN IS GIVEN AN EVEN CHANCE!

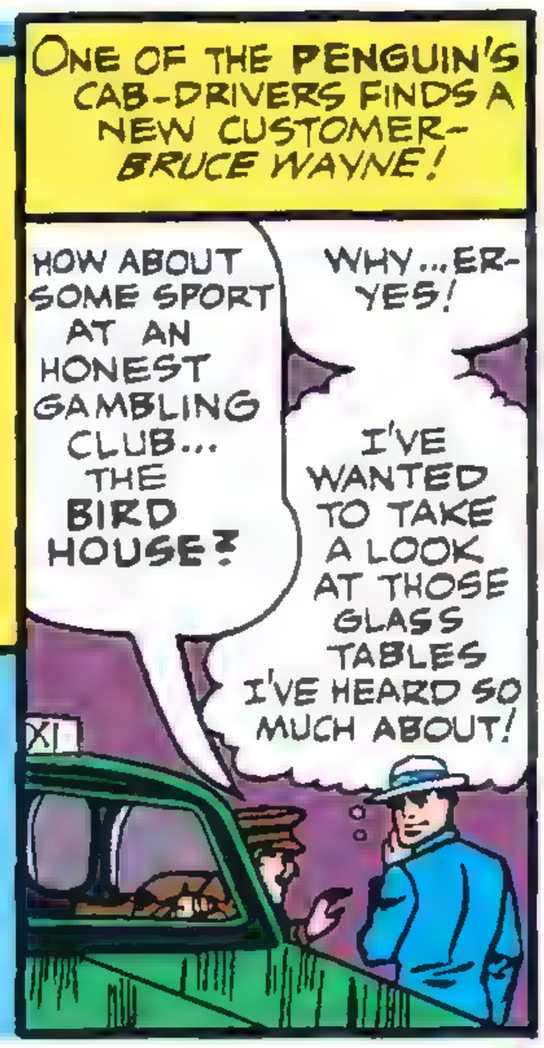
SOON THE AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE THE NEW PHENOMENON ...AN HONEST GAMBLING HOUSE!
YOUR BOOKS SHOW HARDLY ANY PROFIT AT ALL!
TOO TRUE! WHAT LITTLE WE WIN FROM THE SMALL PLAYERS IS LOST WHEN ONE OR TWO INDIVIDUALS MAKE A BIG KILL!
ONLY LAST WEEK, A MAN WON OVER $10,000! THAT'S WHERE OUR PROFIT GOES! GOOD THING WE HAVE THE NIGHT CLUB TO KEEP US GOING!
4

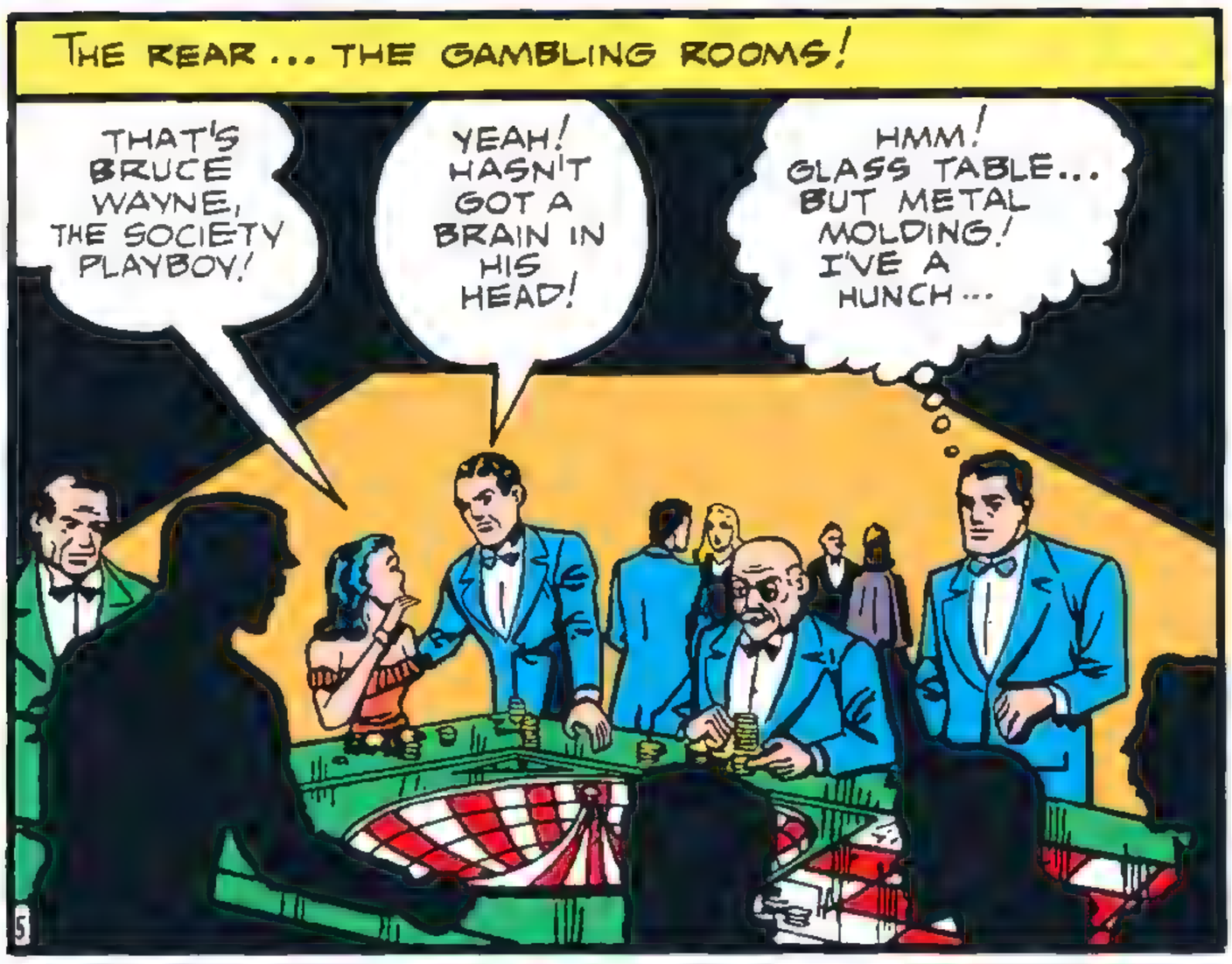
BUT WHEN THE POLICE LEAVE, THE TRUE TALE OF TREACHERY IS REVEALED...
HEE-HEE! I DO BELIEVE THEY FELT SORRY FOR US! WELL... TO WORK AGAIN! IT IS TIME WE MADE A PROFIT!
I GOT A STUPID-LOOKING SAP ALL PICKED OUT!

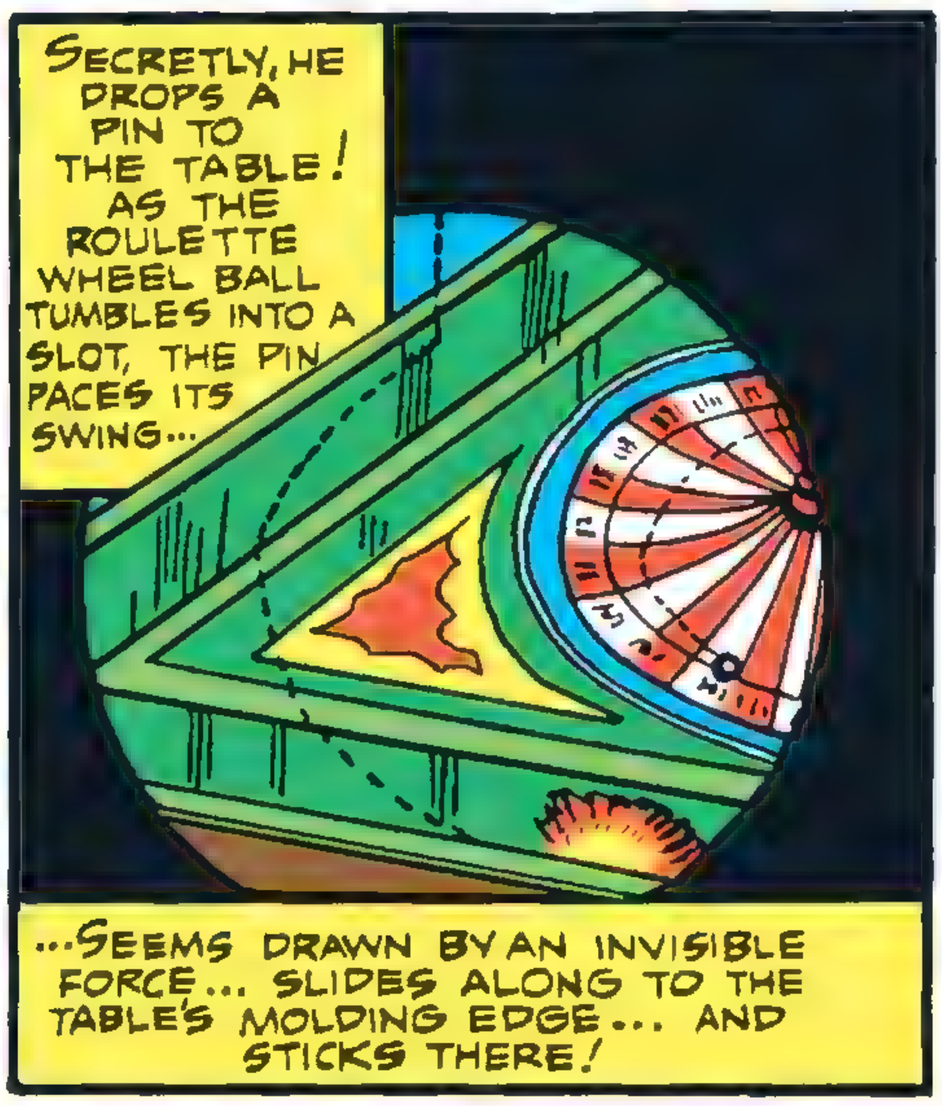
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AN UNBELIEVING VICTIM FINDS HIMSELF A BIG WINNER AT ROULETTE...
G-GOLLY! JUST LOOK AT ALL THIS MONEY!
EGAD, SIR... TOO MUCH MONEY INVITES THIEVERY! CABBY, SEE THIS GENTLEMAN AND HIS WINNINGS... AH... SAFELY TO HIS HOTEL!

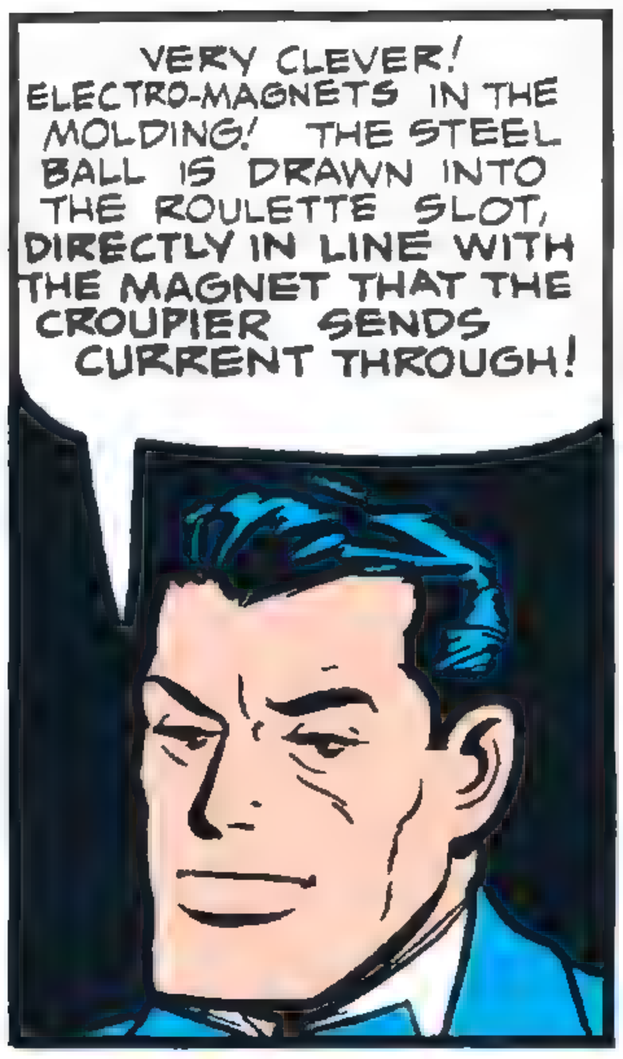


AND SO, BY MANY SUCH WILY TRICKS, THE FLEEING FLOCK FLIES HIGH— UNTIL ONE NIGHT...

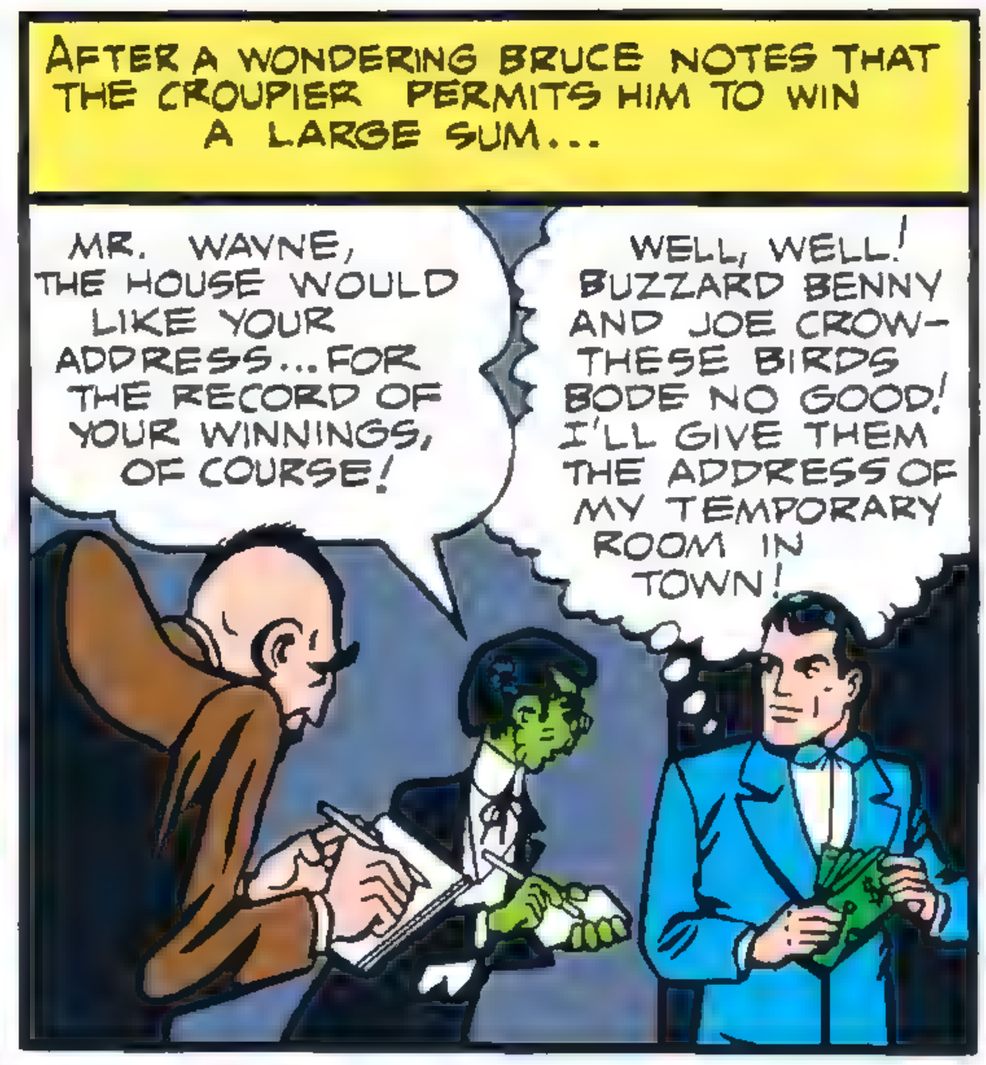


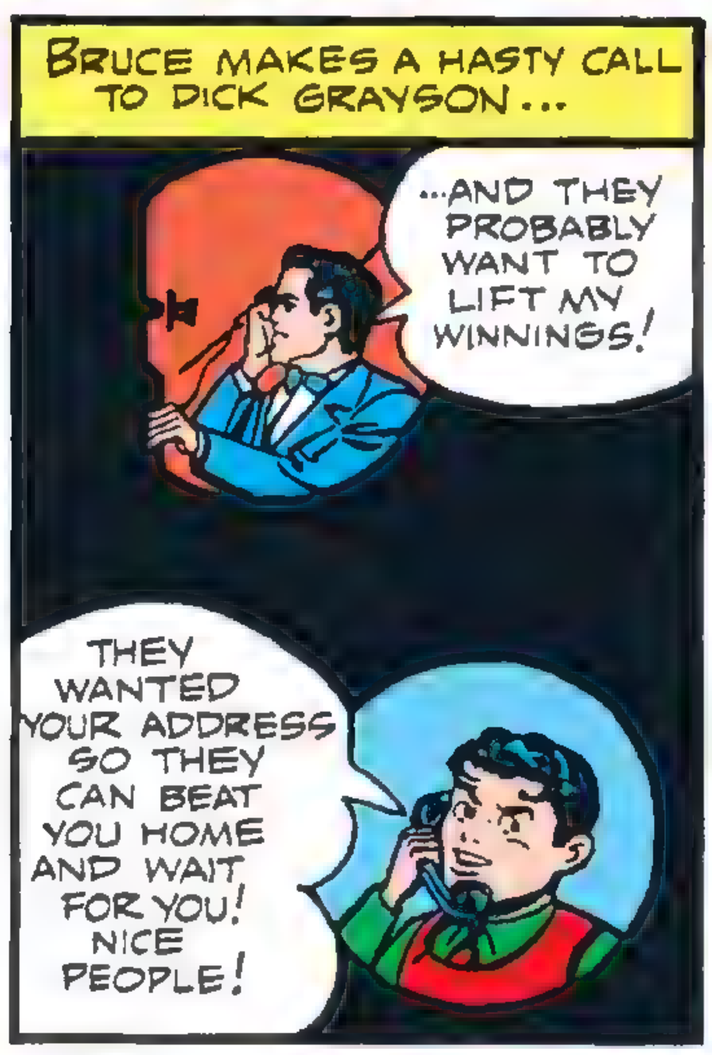




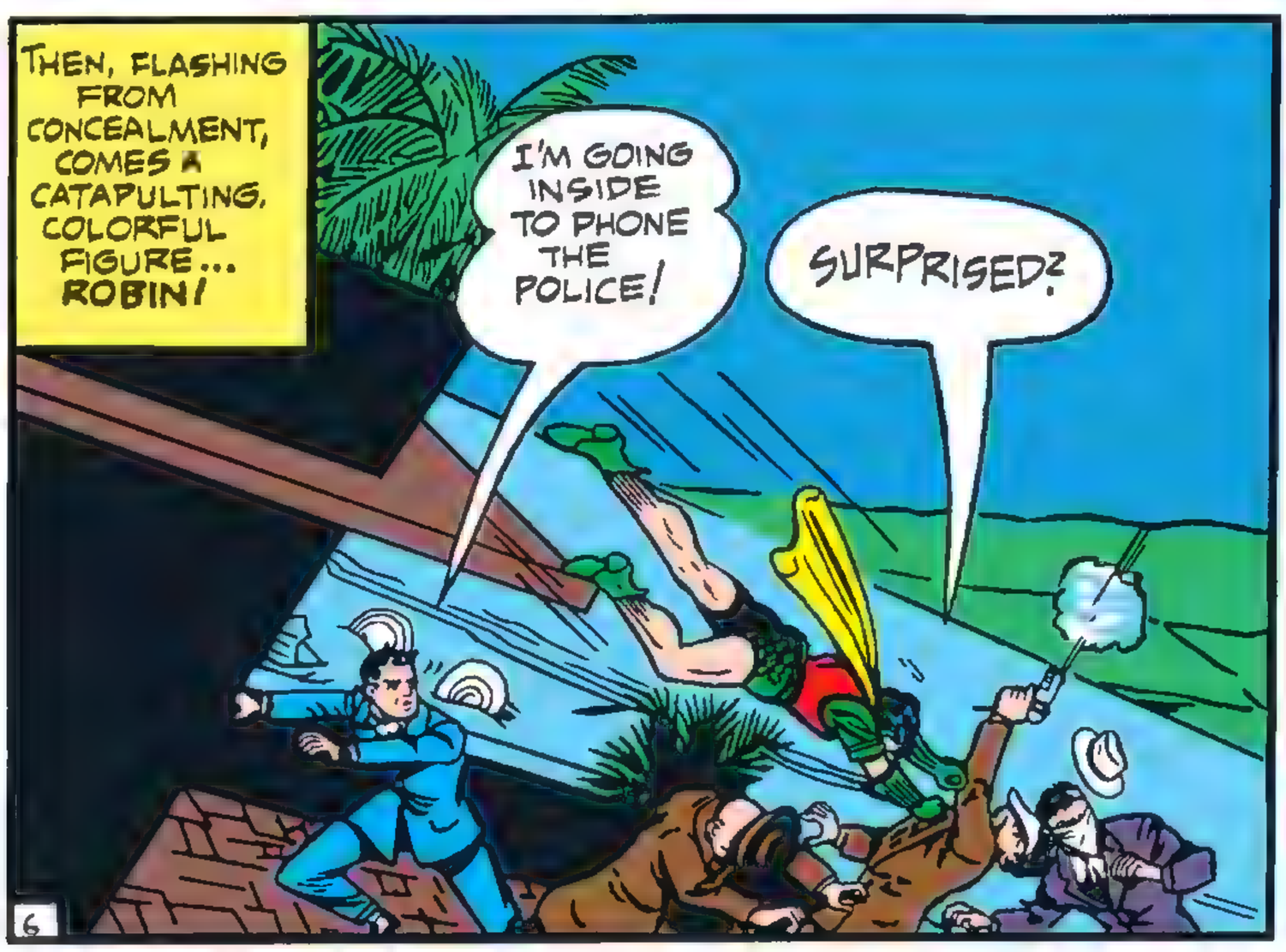

VERY CLEVER! ELECTRO-MAGNETS IN THE MOLDING! THE STEEL BALL IS DRAWN INTO THE ROULETTE SLOT, DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH THE MAGNET THAT THE CROUPIER SENDS CURRENT THROUGH!

GOT A NEW CLUCK PICKED OUT TONIGHT! BRUCE WAYNE, A PLAYBOY. YOU KNOW THE KIND... PLENTY OF MONEY BUT SHORT ON BRAINS!
SOUNDS FASCINATING. THINK I'LL TODDLE ALONG, TOO, AND WATCH YOU... AH... TAKE HIM!
BIRD LIFE IN AMERIC


AFTER A WONDERING BRUCE NOTES THAT THE CROUPIER PERMITS HIM TO WIN A LARGE SUM...
MR. WAYNE, THE HOUSE WOULD LIKE YOUR ADDRESS... FOR THE RECORD OF YOUR WINNINGS, OF COURSE!
WELL, WELL! BUZZARD BENNY AND JOE CROW- THESE BIRDS BODE NO GOOD! I'LL GIVE THEM THE ADDRESS OF MY TEMPORARY ROOM IN TOWN!

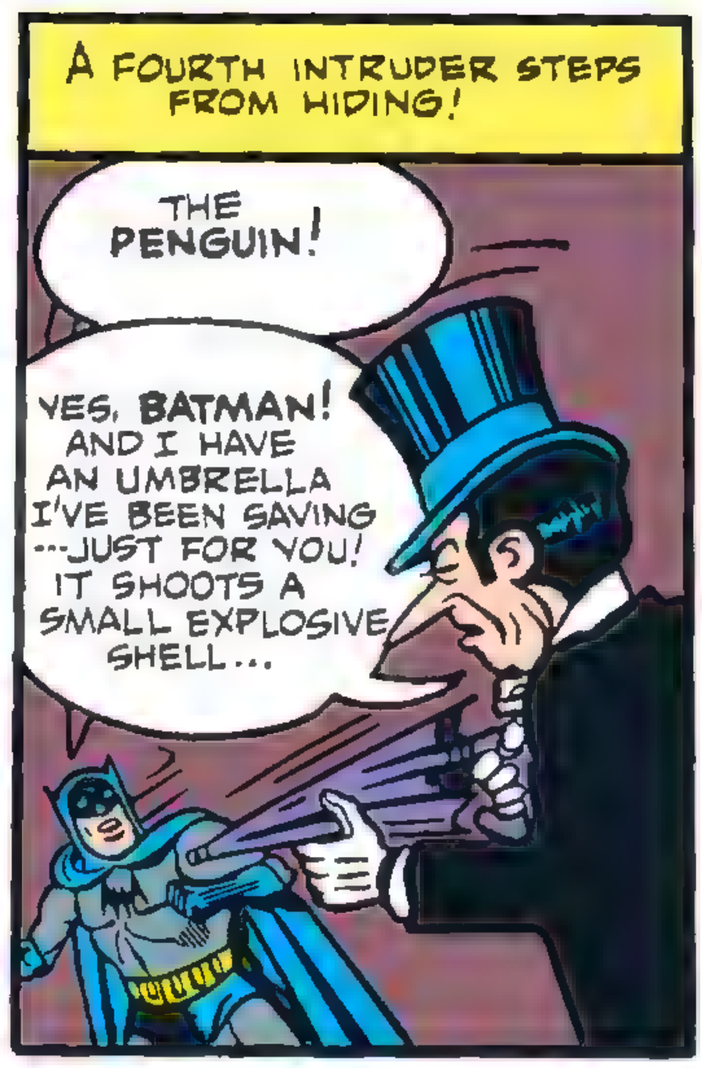

BRUCE MAKES A HASTY CALL TO DICK GRAYSON...
...AND THEY PROBABLY WANT TO LIFT MY WINNINGS!
THEY WANTED YOUR ADDRESS SO THEY CAN BEAT YOU HOME AND WAIT FOR YOU! NICE PEOPLE!

LATER... FROM THE BROODING SHADOWS OF BRUCE'S PENTHOUSE...
REACH FOR A CLOUD, CHUM!
Y... YES, SIR!

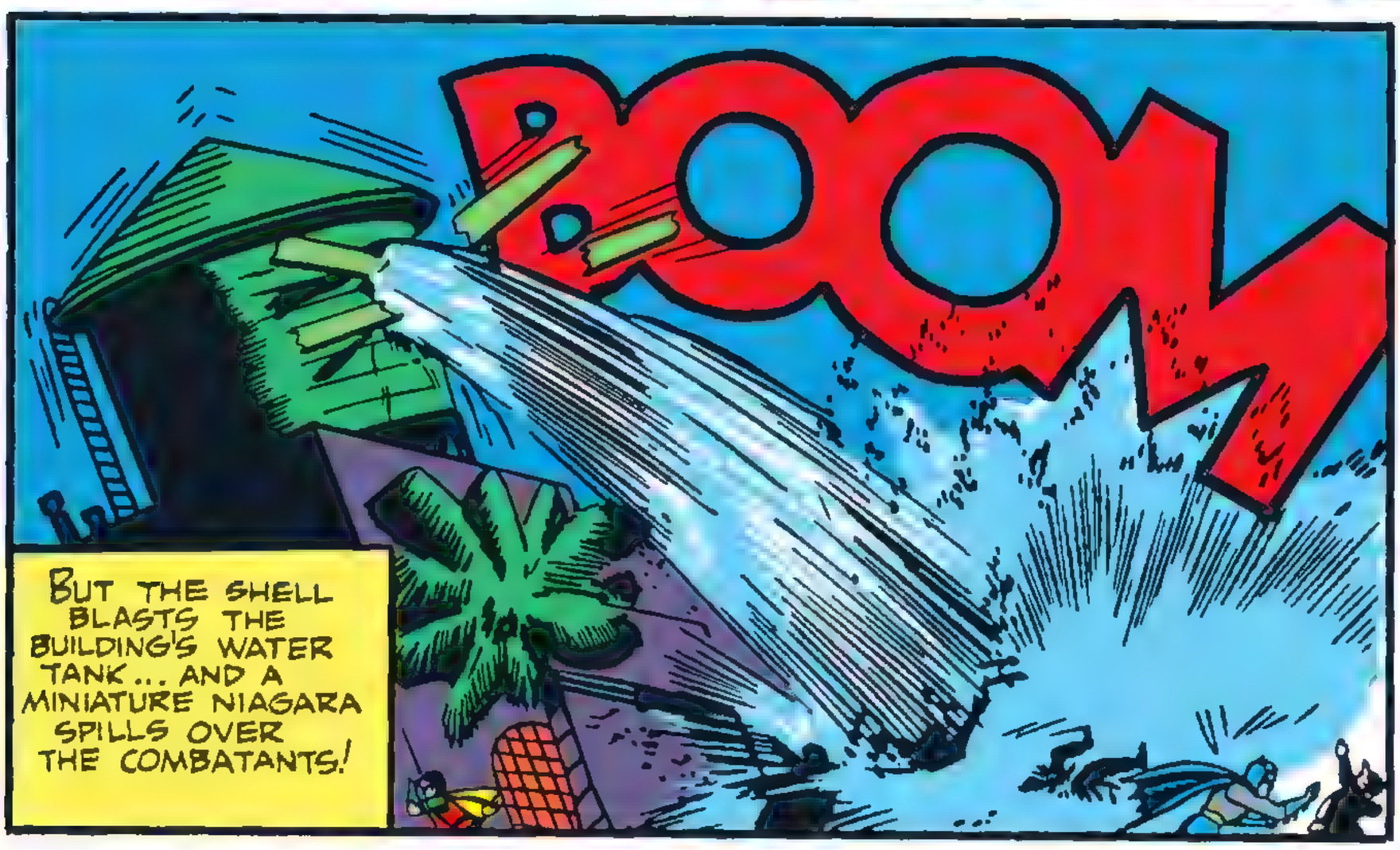

THEN, FLASHING FROM CONCEALMENT, COMES A CATAPULTING, COLORFUL FIGURE... ROBIN!
I'M GOING INSIDE TO PHONE THE POLICE!
SURPRISED?
6

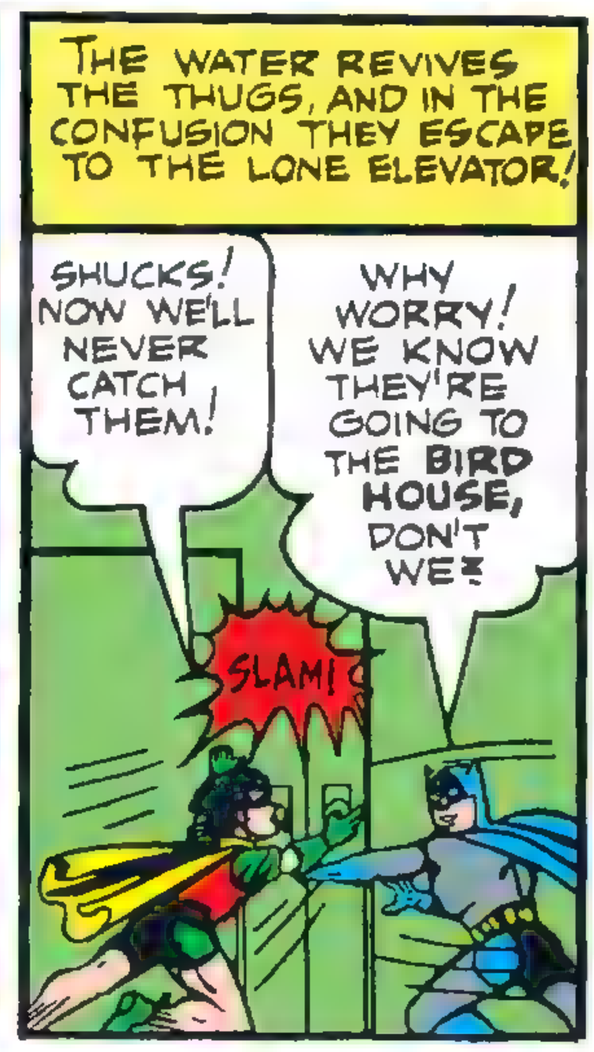
A SPLIT-SECOND DISCARD OF OUTER CLOTHING... AND THE BATMAN CRASHES THE FRAY!
GOT TO KEEP MY IDENTITY A SECRET, SO...
DON'T PHONE THE POLICE, MR. WAYNE! ROBIN AND I SPOTTED THESE RATS PROWLING ABOUT AND WE CLAIM THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FIGHT!

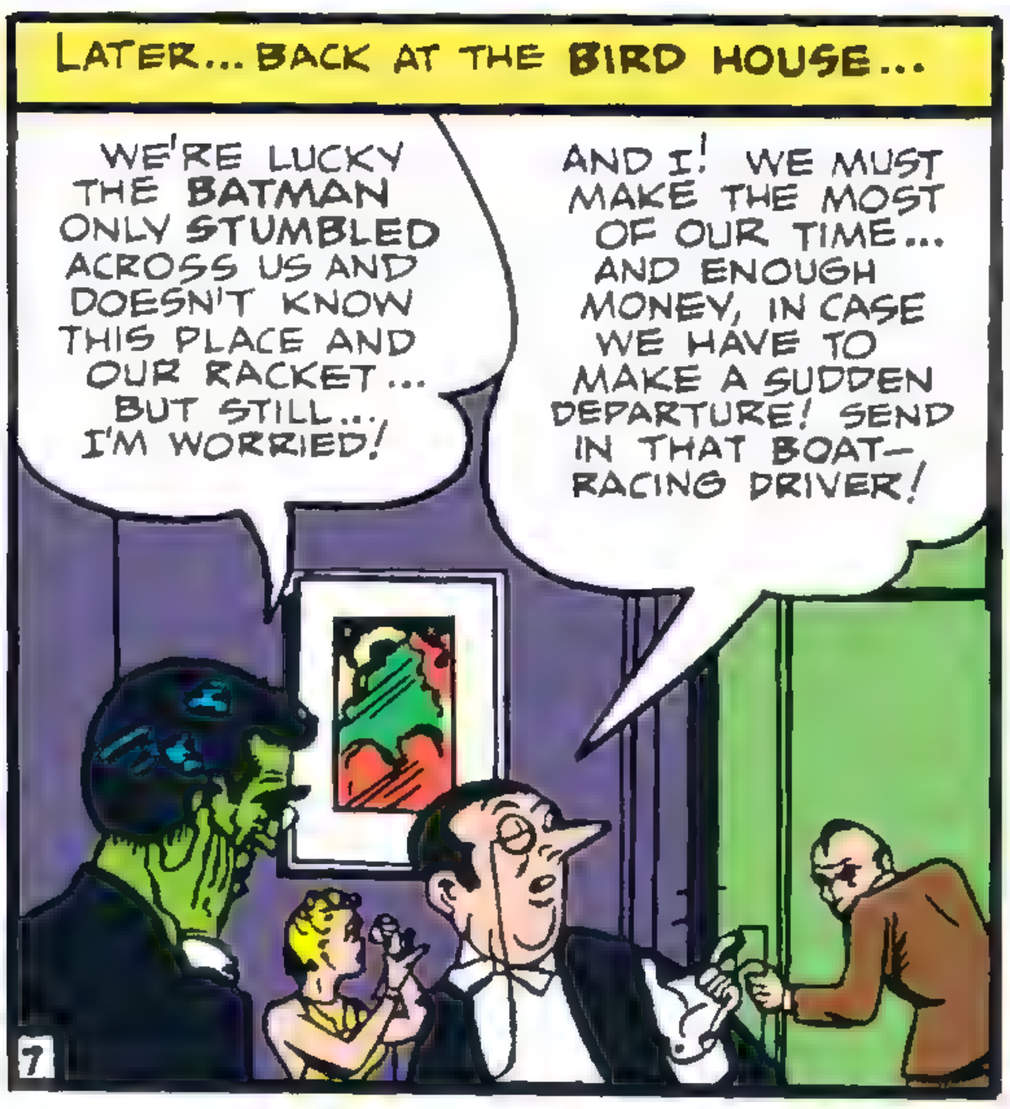
GOOD THING I DECIDED TO SAVE THIS FOR A RAINY DAY!


A FOURTH INTRUDER STEPS FROM HIDING!
THE PENGUIN!
YES, BATMAN! AND I HAVE AN UMBRELLA I'VE BEEN SAVING ...JUST FOR YOU! IT SHOOTS A SMALL EXPLOSIVE SHELL...

...THAT WILL BLAST YOU TO ...OOF!
SORRY, PENGIN, BUT THIS TIME I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU THE "BIRD!"


BOOM
BUT THE SHELL BLASTS THE BUILDING'S WATER TANK... AND A MINIATURE NIAGARA SPILLS OVER THE COMBATANTS!

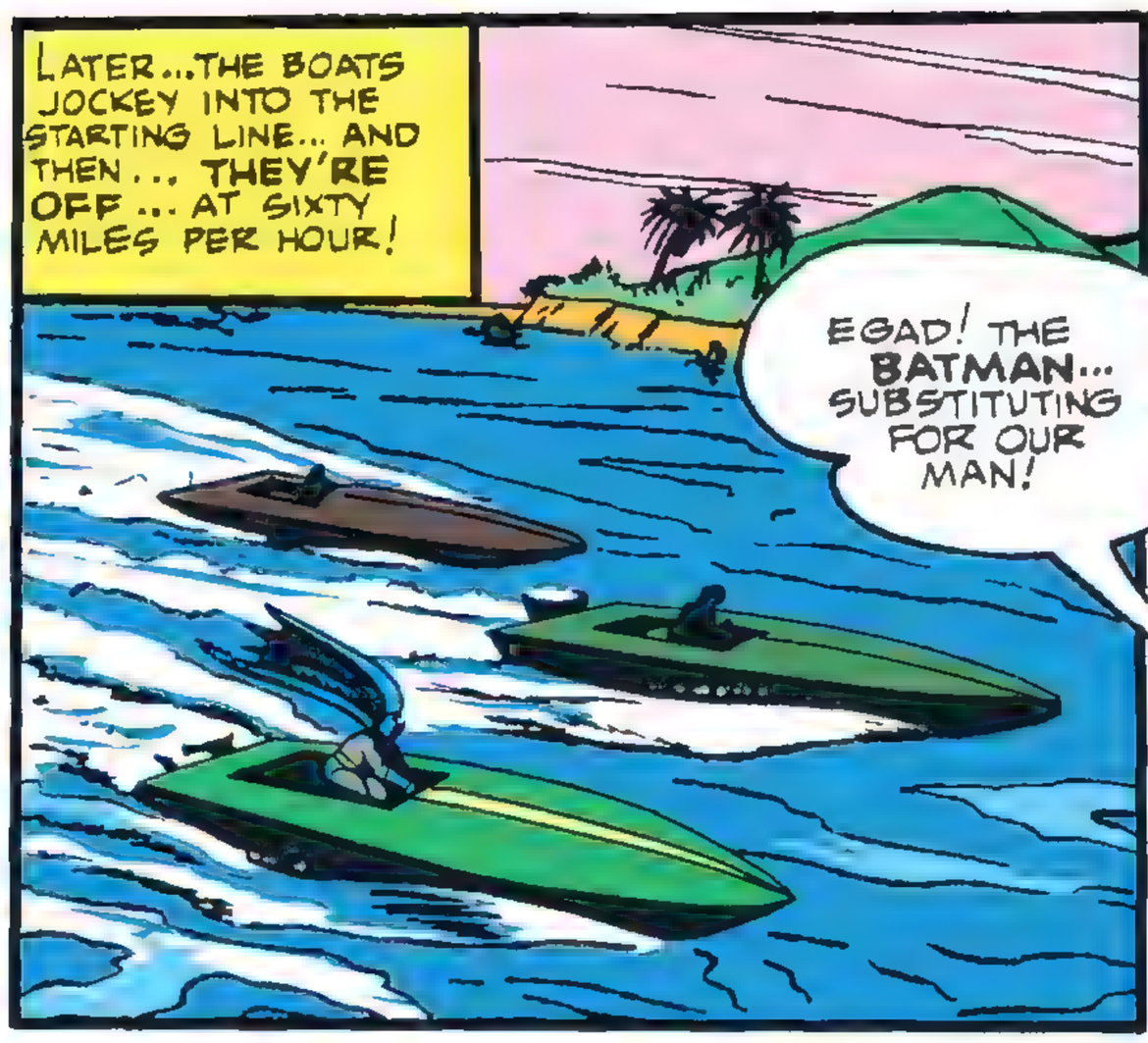

THE WATER REVIVES THE THUGS, AND IN THE CONFUSION THEY ESCAPE TO THE LONE ELEVATOR!
SHUCKS! NOW WE'LL NEVER CATCH THEM!
WHY WORRY! WE KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO THE BIRD HOUSE, DON'T WE?
SLAM!

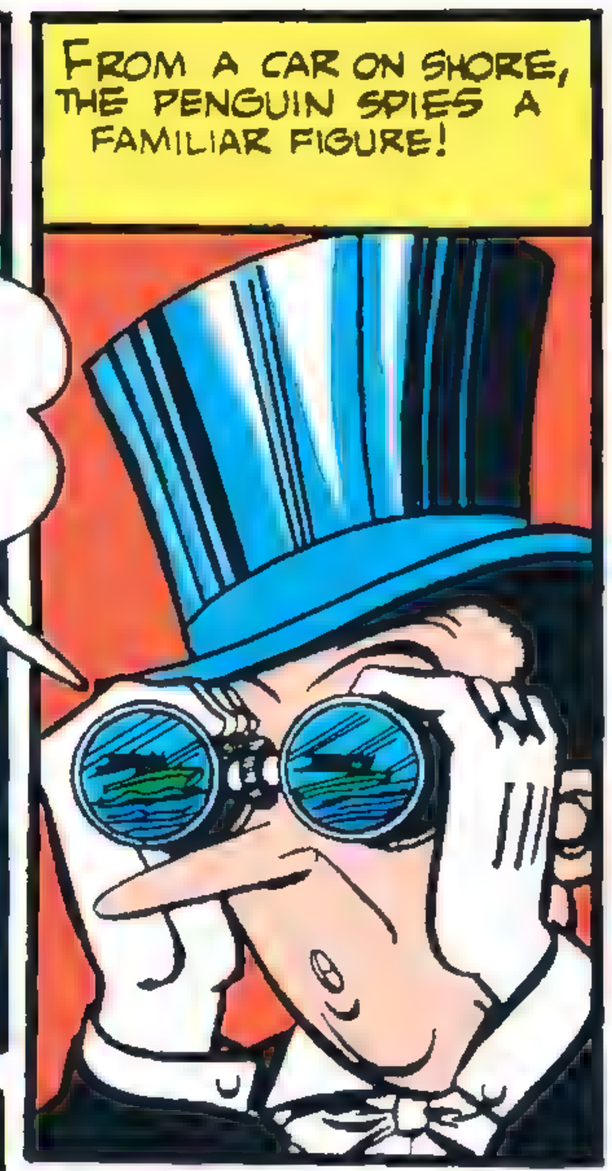

LATER... BACK AT THE BIRD HOUSE...
WE'RE LUCKY THE BATMAN ONLY STUMBLED ACROSS US AND DOESN'T KNOW THIS PLACE AND OUR RACKET... BUT STILL..., I'M WORRIED!
AND I! WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF OUR TIME... AND ENOUGH MONEY, IN CASE WE HAVE TO MAKE A SUDDEN DEPARTURE! SEND IN THAT BOAT-RACING DRIVER!
7

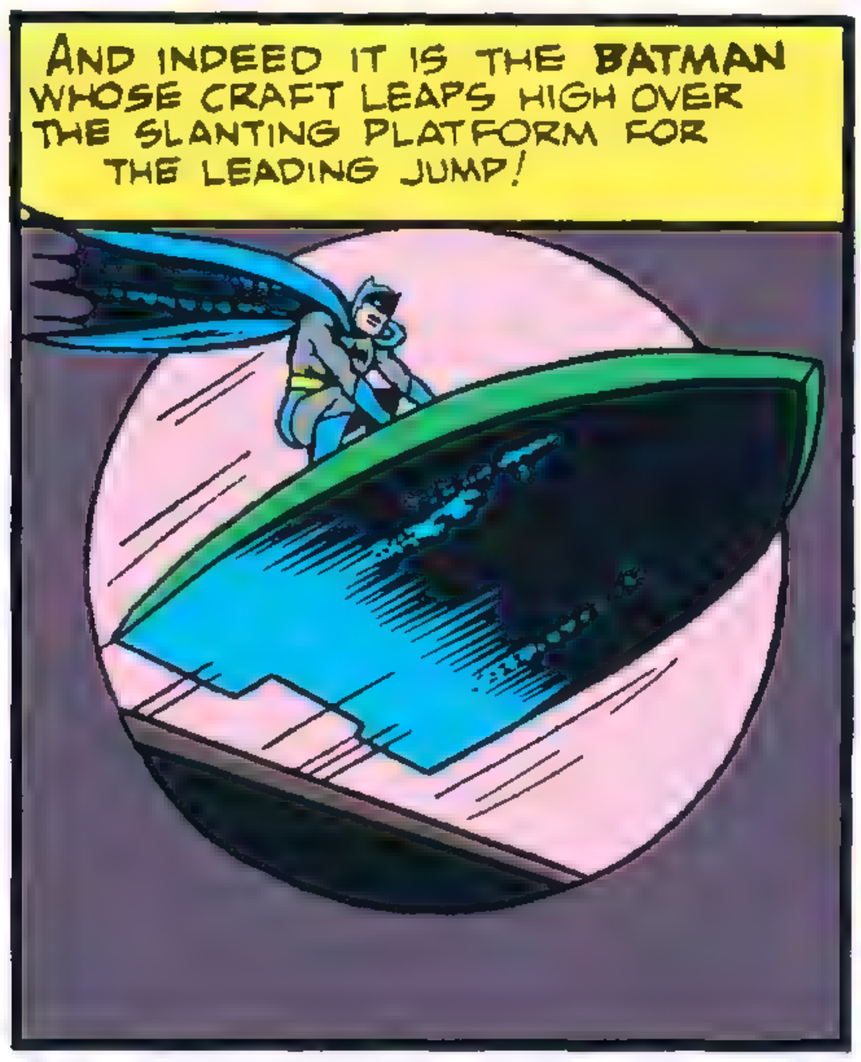
THE PENGUIN EXPLAINS...
Y-YOU WANT ME TO LOSE... THROW THE RACE TOMORROW?
YOU ARE THE FAVORITE! WE SHALL REAP NICE ODDS IN BETTING AGAINST YOU... IN RETURN WE SHALL FORGET YOUR GAMBLING DEBT!

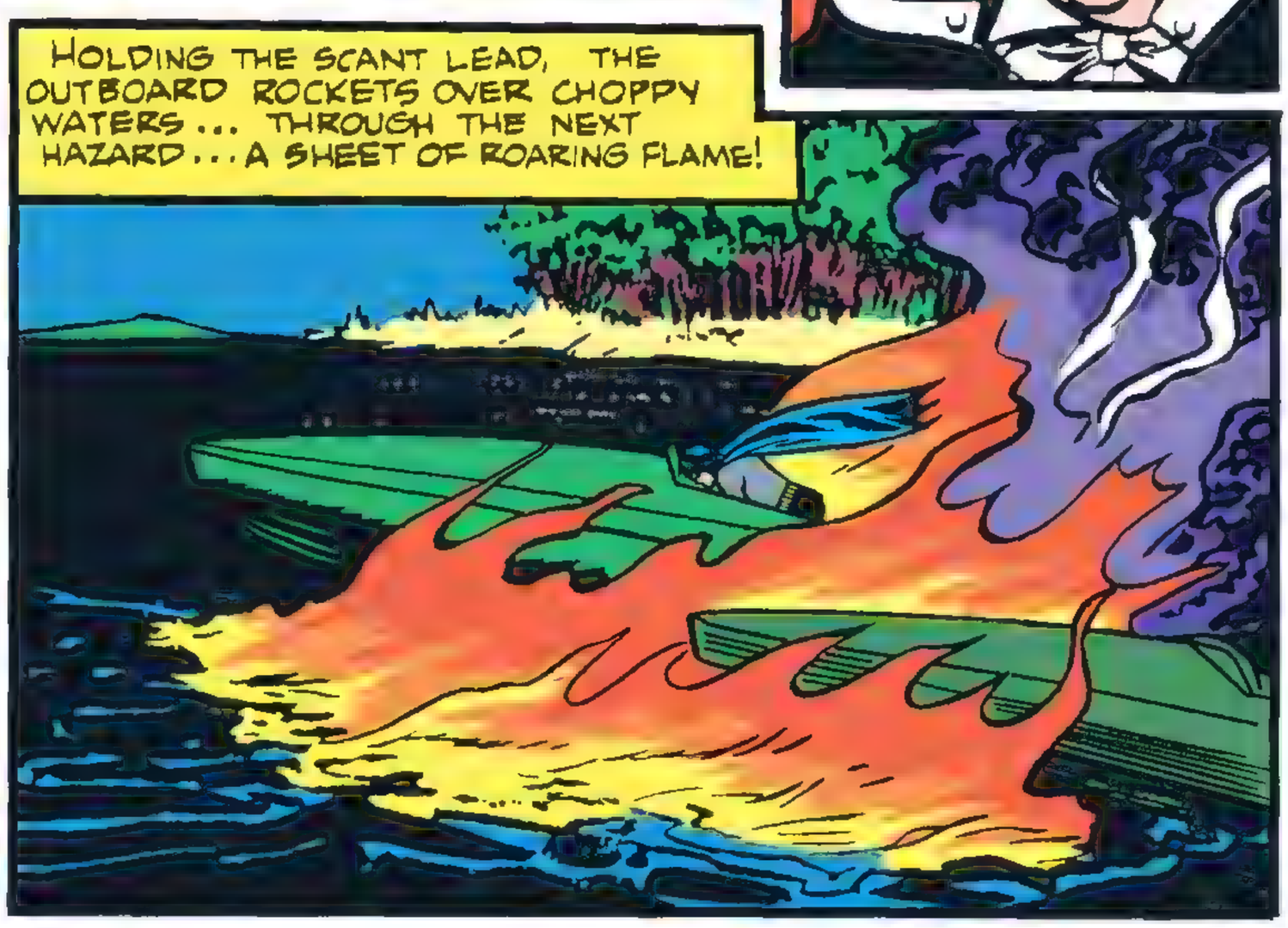
BUT...THERE ARE NO SECRETS FROM THE EARS OF THE NIGHT...THE BATMAN
THE PENGUIN SHOULDN'T COUNT HIS EGGS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED, SHOULD HE?
NO... HE SHOULDN'T!

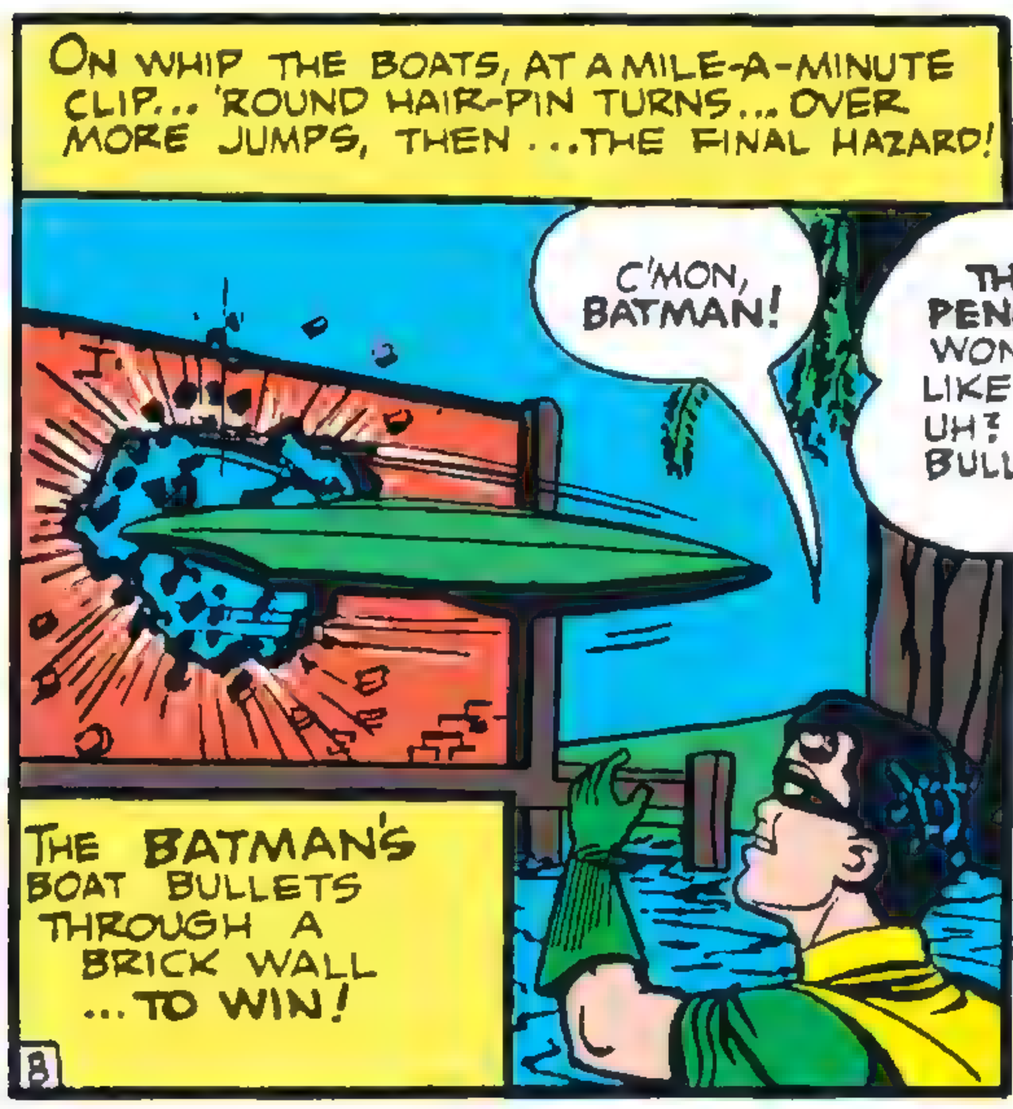
THE DAY OF THE OUTBOARD STEEPLECHASE RACE THAT A CERTAIN DRIVER IS DESTINED NEVER TO SEE!
OH-H-H!


LATER...THE BOATS JOCKEY INTO THE STARTING LINE... AND THEN... THEY'RE OFF... AT SIXTY MILES PER HOUR!
EGAD! THE BATMAN... SUBSTITUTING FOR OUR MAN!


FROM A CAR ON SHORE, THE PENGUIN SPIES A FAMILIAR FIGURE!

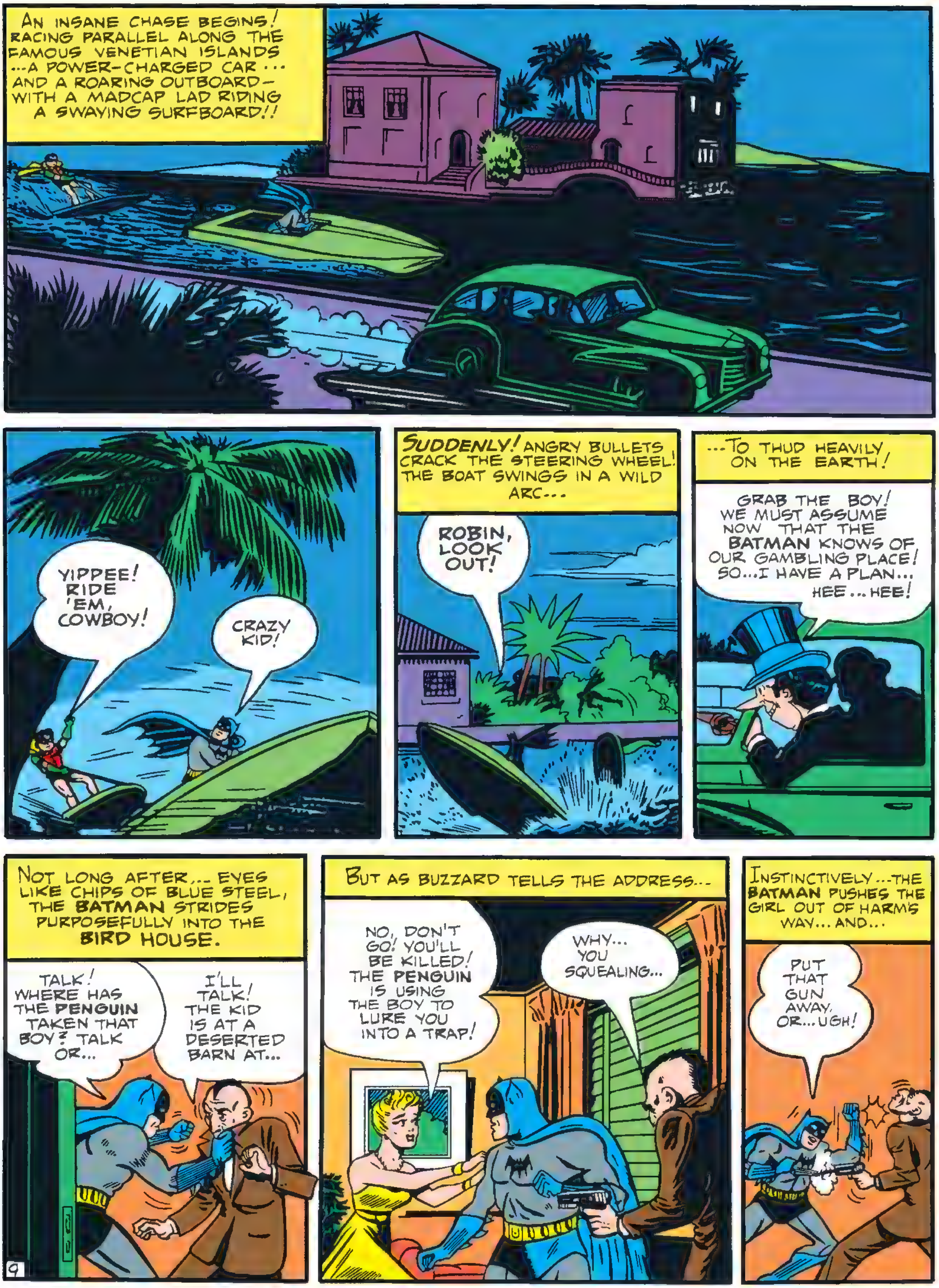

AND INDEED IT IS THE BATMAN WHOSE CRAFT LEAPS HIGH OVER THE SLANTING PLATFORM FOR THE LEADING JUMP!

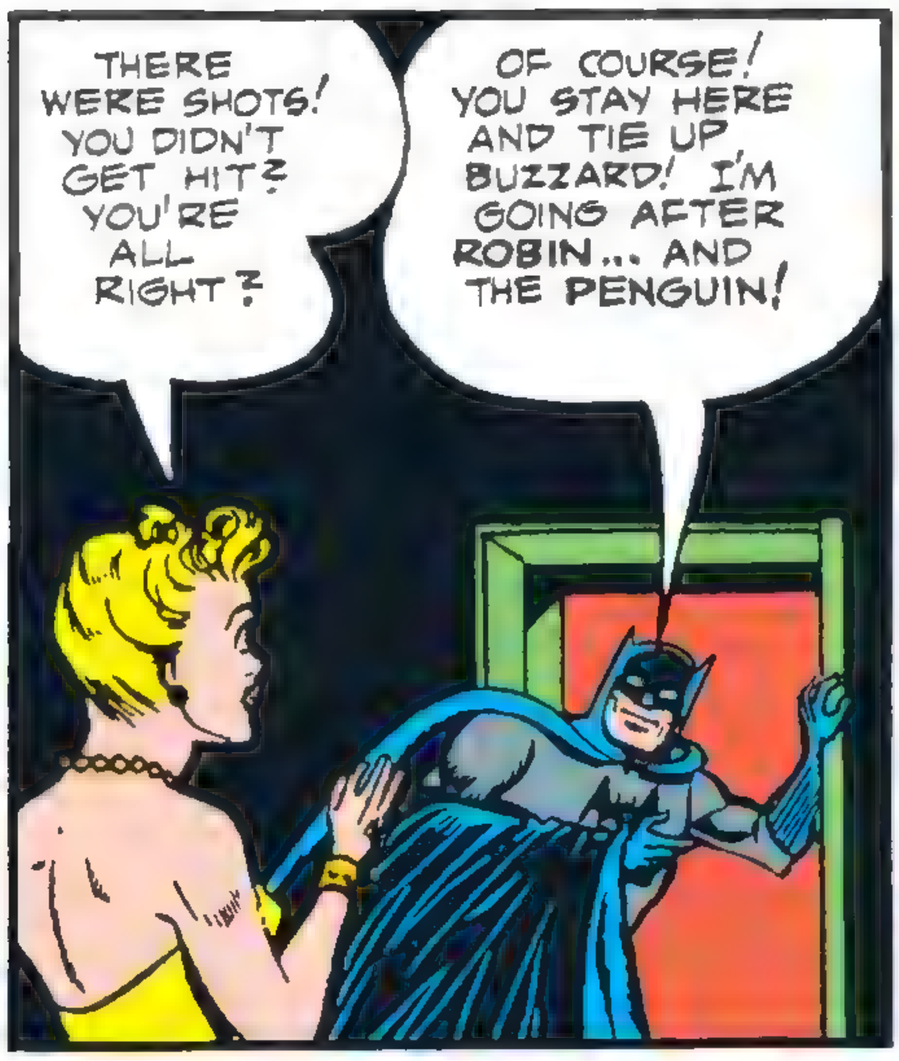

HOLDING THE SCANT LEAD, THE OUTBOARD ROCKETS OVER CHOPPY WATERS... THROUGH THE NEXT HAZARD... A SHEET OF ROARING FLAME!


ON WHIP THE BOATS, AT A MILE-A-MINUTE CLIP... 'ROUND HAIR-PIN TURNS... OVER MORE JUMPS, THEN ...THE FINAL HAZARD!
C'MON, BATMAN!
THE PENGUIN WON'T LIKE TH--- UH? A BULLET!
THE BATMAN'S BOAT BULLETS THROUGH A BRICK WALL ...TO WIN!

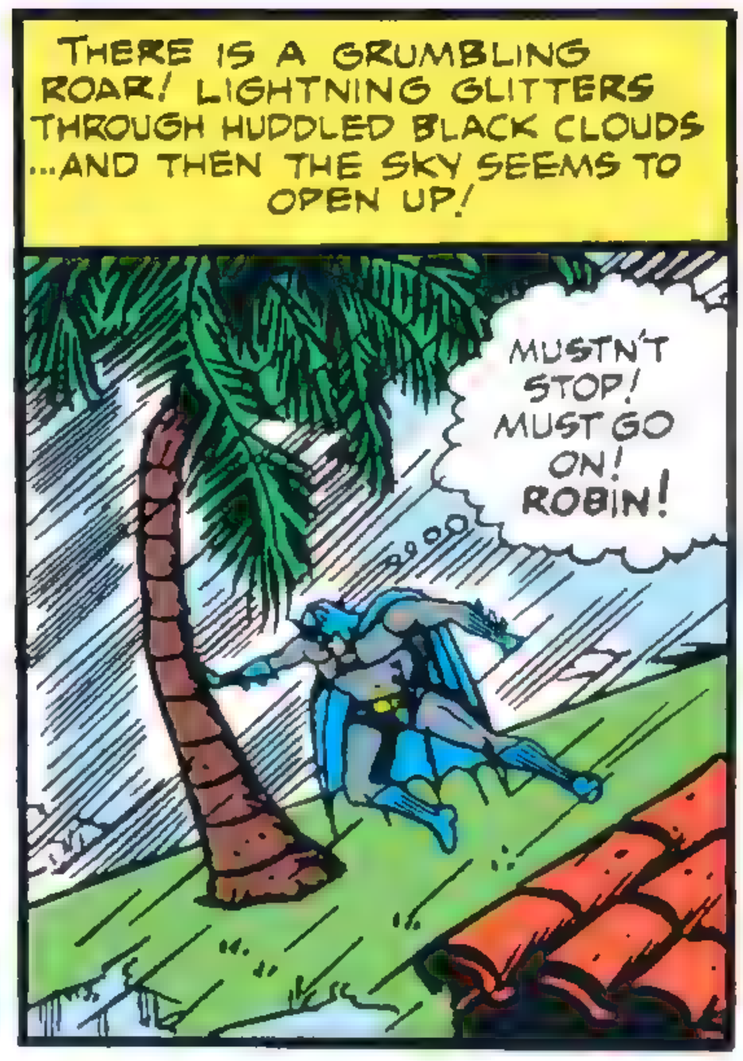
AT THE FINISH LINE... A BULLET DRILLS PAST THE BATMAN AND SMASHES INTO THE WOOD!
LOOK! IN THAT CAR...THE PENGUIN AND HIS CREW! LET'S GO AND GET 'EM!
I-N-G

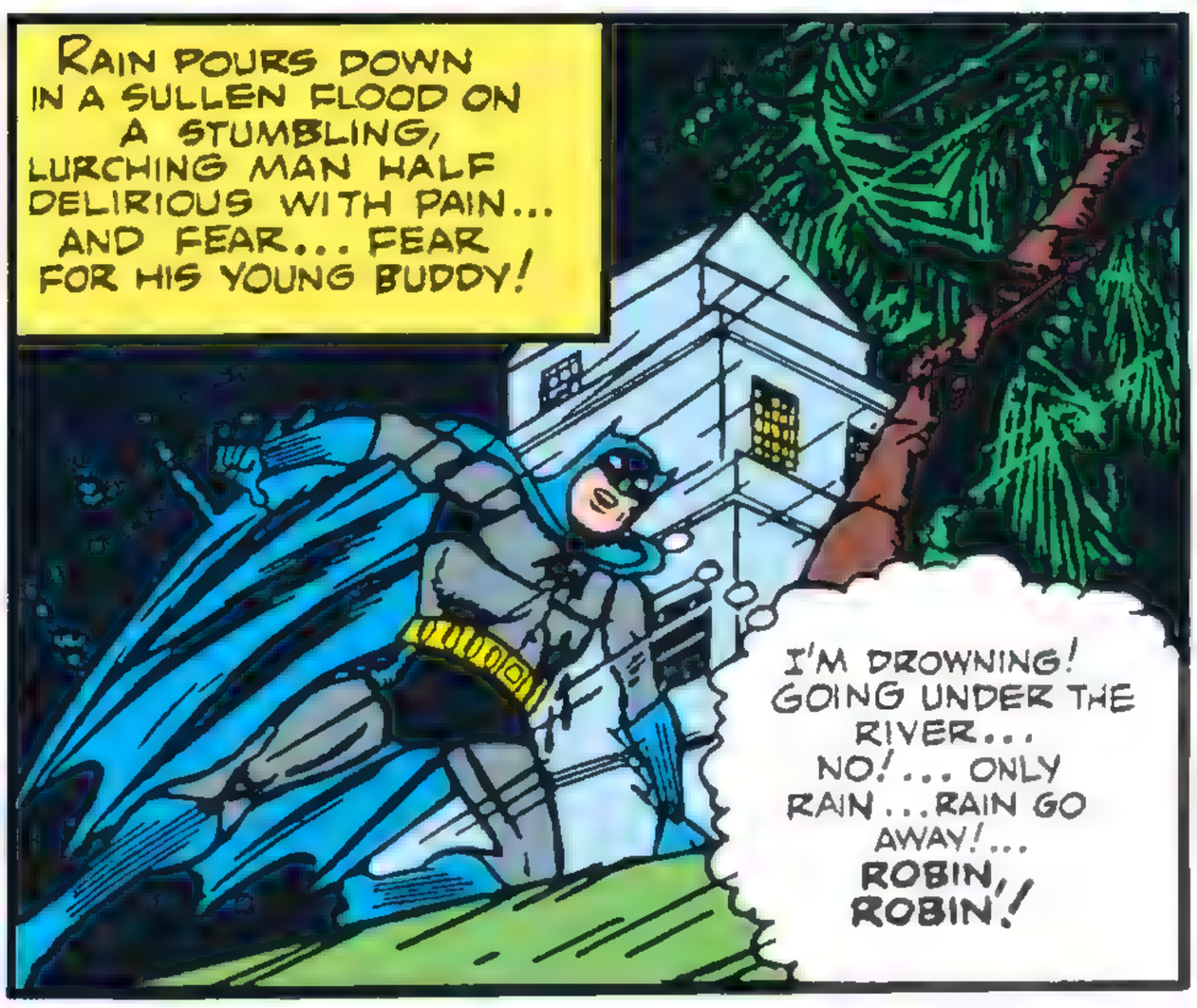
YOU'LL GET HURT! THEY'RE OUT TO KILL... AND BESIDES... ER...THE BOAT CAN ONLY CARRY ONE PERSON!
CUT THE SENTIMENT! I CAN RIDE A SURFBOARD, CAN'T I? C'MON.. WHILE WE'RE ARGUING, THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!

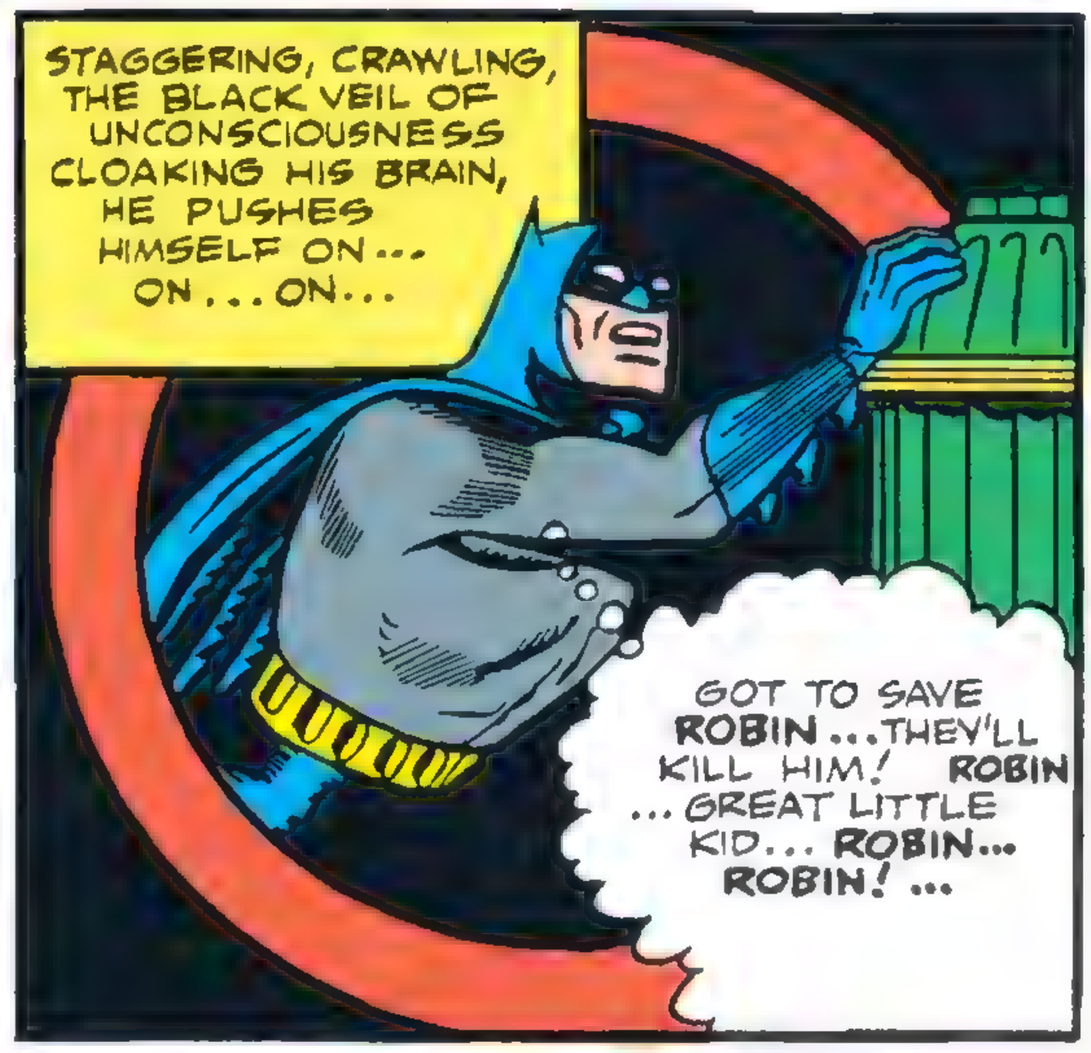

AN INSANE CHASE BEGINS! RACING PARALLEL ALONG THE FAMOUS VENETIAN ISLANDS ...A POWER-CHARGED CAR ... AND A ROARING OUTBOARD— WITH A MADCAP LAD RIDING A SWAYING SURFBOARD!!
YIPPEE! RIDE 'EM, COWBOY!
CRAZY KID!
SUDDENLY! ANGRY BULLETS CRACK THE STEERING WHEEL! THE BOAT SWINGS IN A WILD ARC...
ROBIN, LOOK OUT!
...TO THUD HEAVILY ON THE EARTH!
GRAB THE BOY! WE MUST ASSUME NOW THAT THE BATMAN KNOWS OF OUR GAMBLING PLACE! SO...I HAVE A PLAN... HEE...HEE!
NOT LONG AFTER... EYES LIKE CHIPS OF BLUE STEEL, THE BATMAN STRIDES PURPOSEFULLY INTO THE BIRD HOUSE.
TALK! WHERE HAS THE PENGUIN TAKEN THAT BOY? TALK OR...
I'LL TALK! THE KID IS AT A DESERTED BARN AT...
BUT AS BUZZARD TELLS THE ADDRESS...
NO, DON'T GO! YOU'LL BE KILLED! THE PENGUIN IS USING THE BOY TO LURE YOU INTO A TRAP!
WHY... YOU SQUEALING...
INSTINCTIVELY...THE BATMAN PUSHES THE GIRL OUT OF HARM'S WAY... AND...
PUT THAT GUN AWAY, OR...UGH!
9


THERE WERE SHOTS! YOU DIDN'T GET HIT? YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
OF COURSE! YOU STAY HERE AND TIE UP BUZZARD! I'M GOING AFTER ROBIN... AND THE PENGUIN!

BUT THE BATMAN LIED! TWO LEAD BULLETS HAVE BORED INTO HIS BODY!
I'M HURT BAD, BUT I CAN'T STOP NOW! GOT TO GET ROBIN AWAY FROM THOSE KILLERS!

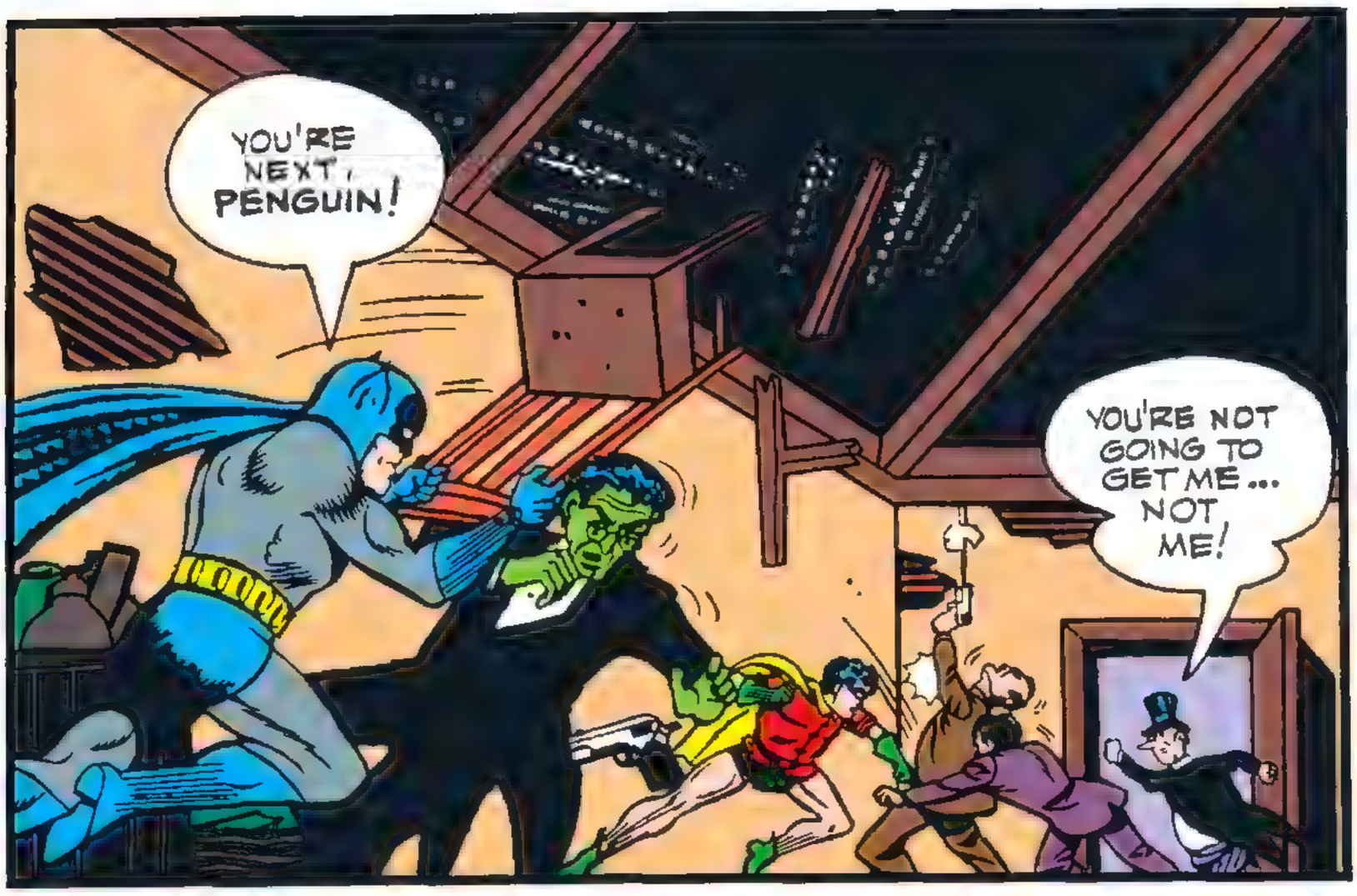

THERE IS A GRUMBLING ROAR! LIGHTNING GLITTERS THROUGH HUDDLED BLACK CLOUDS ...AND THEN THE SKY SEEMS TO OPEN UP!
MUSTN'T STOP! MUST GO ON! ROBIN!


RAIN POURS DOWN IN A SULLEN FLOOD ON A STUMBLING, LURCHING MAN HALF DELIRIOUS WITH PAIN... AND FEAR... FEAR FOR HIS YOUNG BUDDY!
I'M DROWNING! GOING UNDER THE RIVER... NO!... ONLY RAIN...RAIN GO AWAY!... ROBIN, ROBIN!

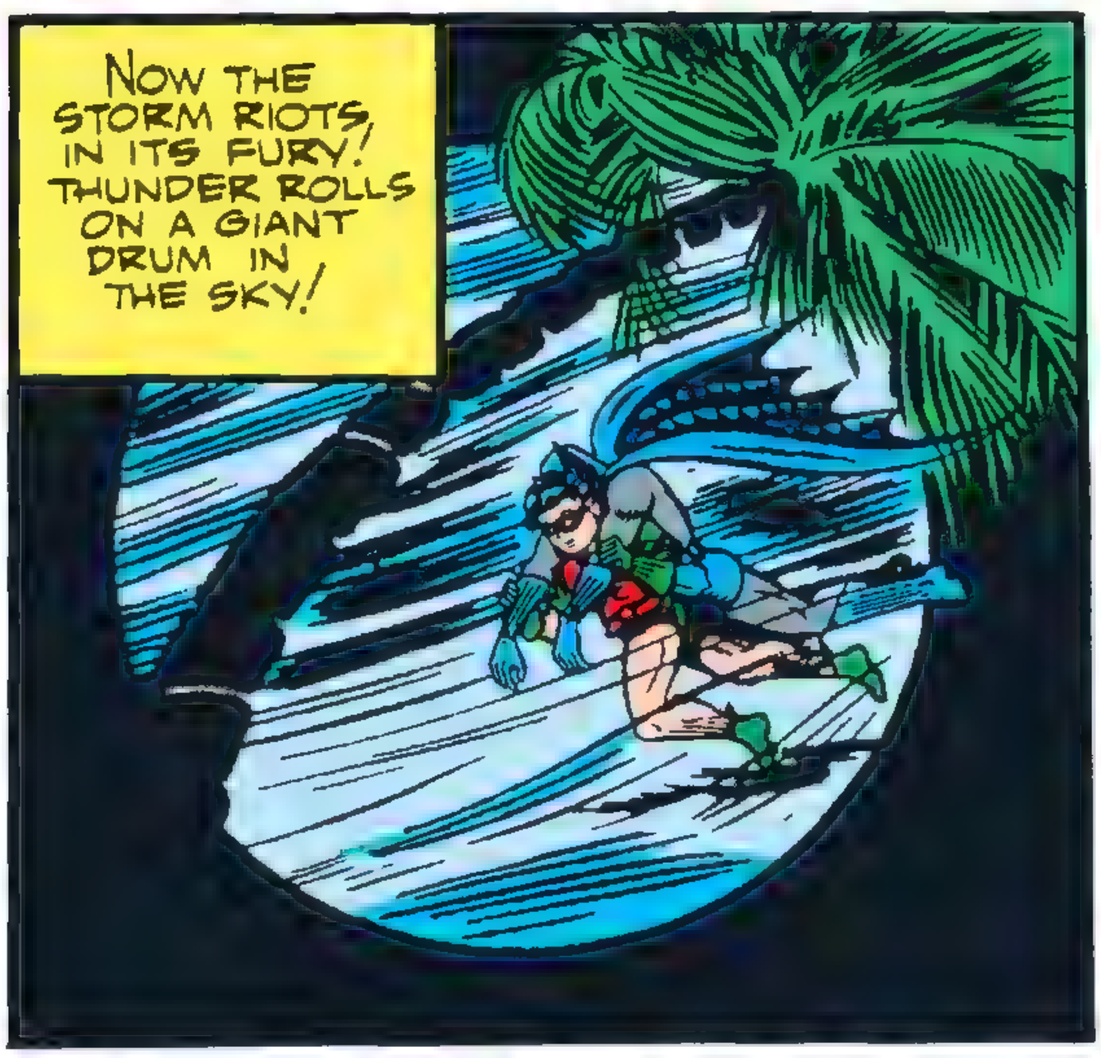

STAGGERING, CRAWLING, THE BLACK VEIL OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS CLOAKING HIS BRAIN, HE PUSHES HIMSELF ON... ON...ON...
GOT TO SAVE ROBIN...THEY'LL KILL HIM! ROBIN ...GREAT LITTLE KID... ROBIN... ROBIN! ...

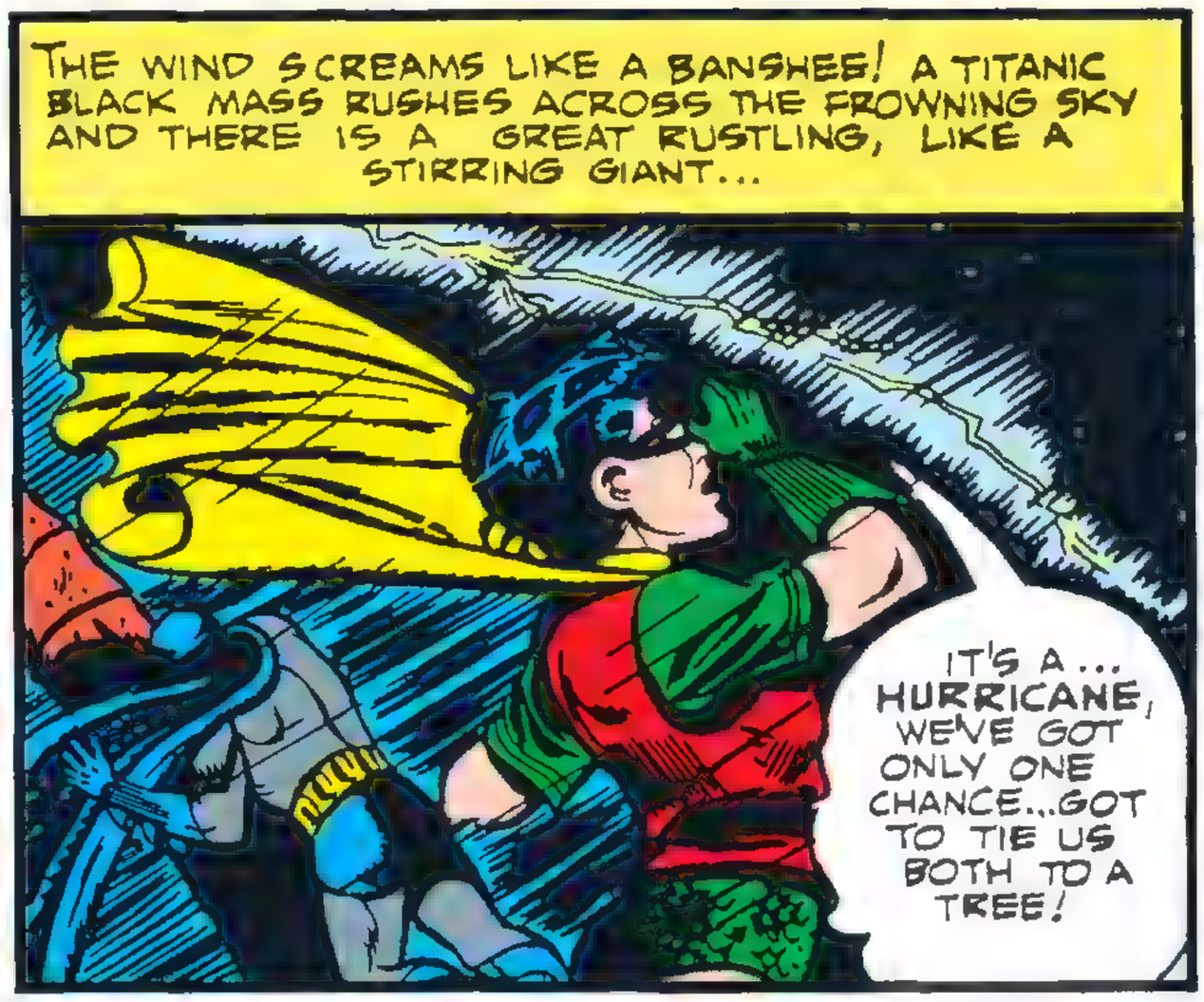
ON...ON...UNTIL...
CAN'T SEE A THING IN THIS BLASTED RAIN!
DON'T WORRY! HE'LL COME! AND WHEN HE DOES...
10

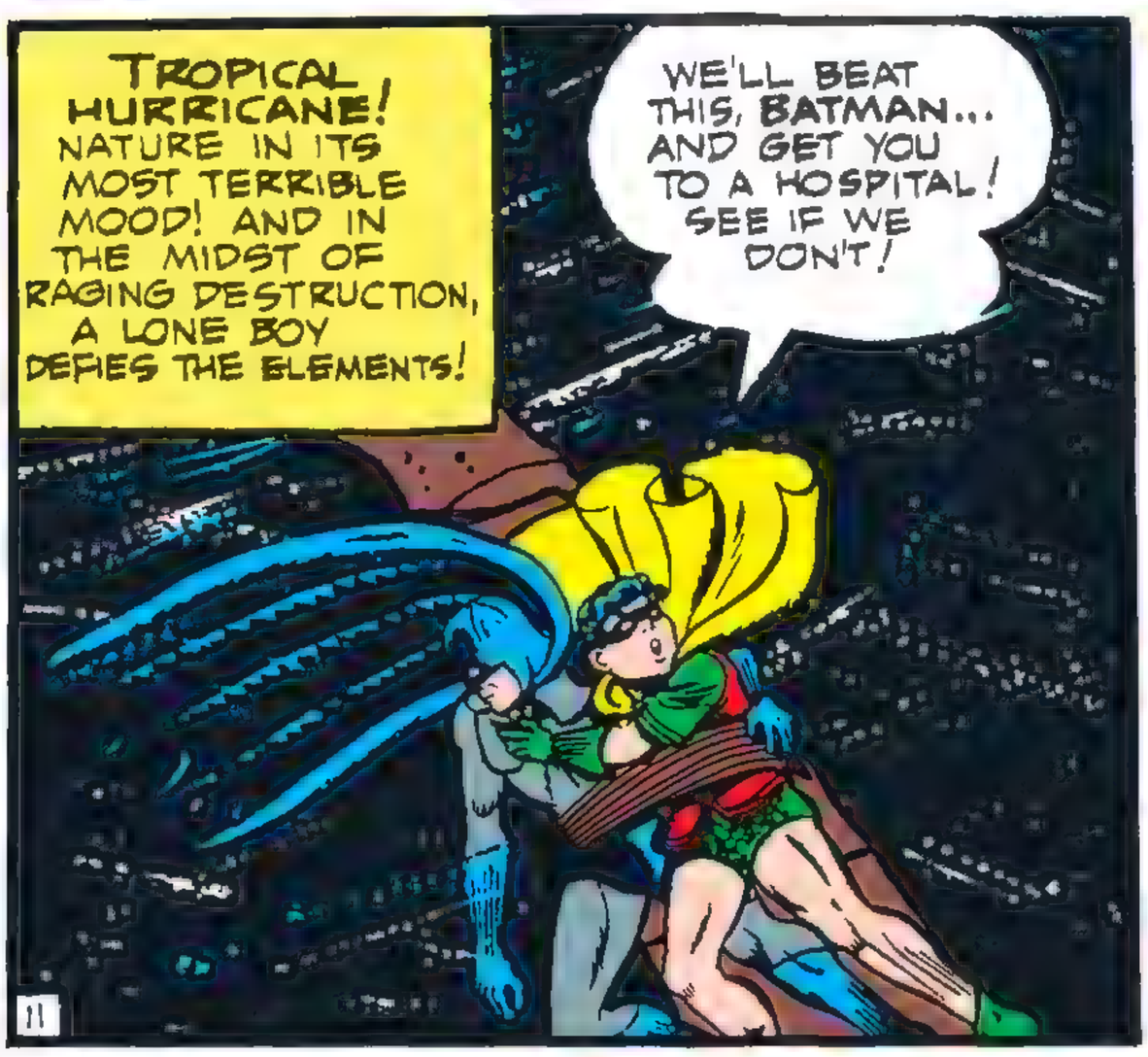
BATMAN!
YOU'LL DO WHAT?
YES... ME...OR MY GHOST!

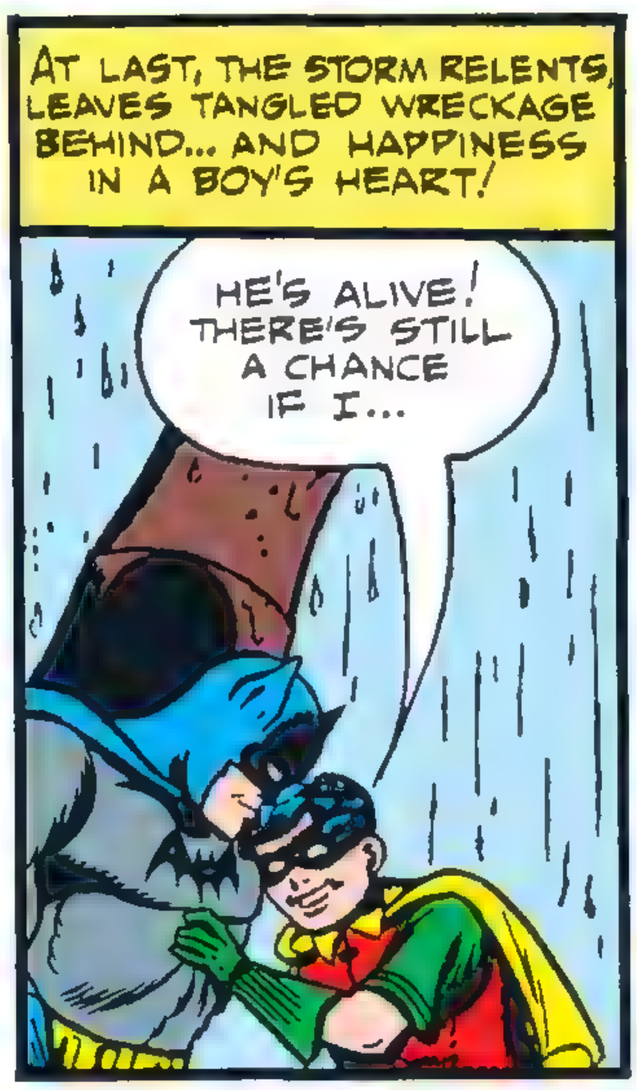

YOU'RE NEXT, PENGUIN!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME... NOT ME!

THIS LAST TAXING OF STRENGTH IS TOO MUCH...AND THE BATMAN SINKS TO THE FLOOR...
PENGUIN GOT AWAY, IN HIS CAR!...TOO BAD....TOO.. OHHHH...
YOU'VE BEEN SHOT! YOU MAY DIE! I'VE GOT TO GET YOU TO A DOCTOR!


NOW THE STORM RIOTS, IN ITS FURY! THUNDER ROLLS ON A GIANT DRUM IN THE SKY!


THE WIND SCREAMS LIKE A BANSHEE! A TITANIC BLACK MASS RUSHES ACROSS THE FROWNING SKY AND THERE IS A GREAT RUSTLING, LIKE A STIRRING GIANT...
IT'S A... HURRICANE, WE'VE GOT ONLY ONE CHANCE...GOT TO TIE US BOTH TO A TREE!

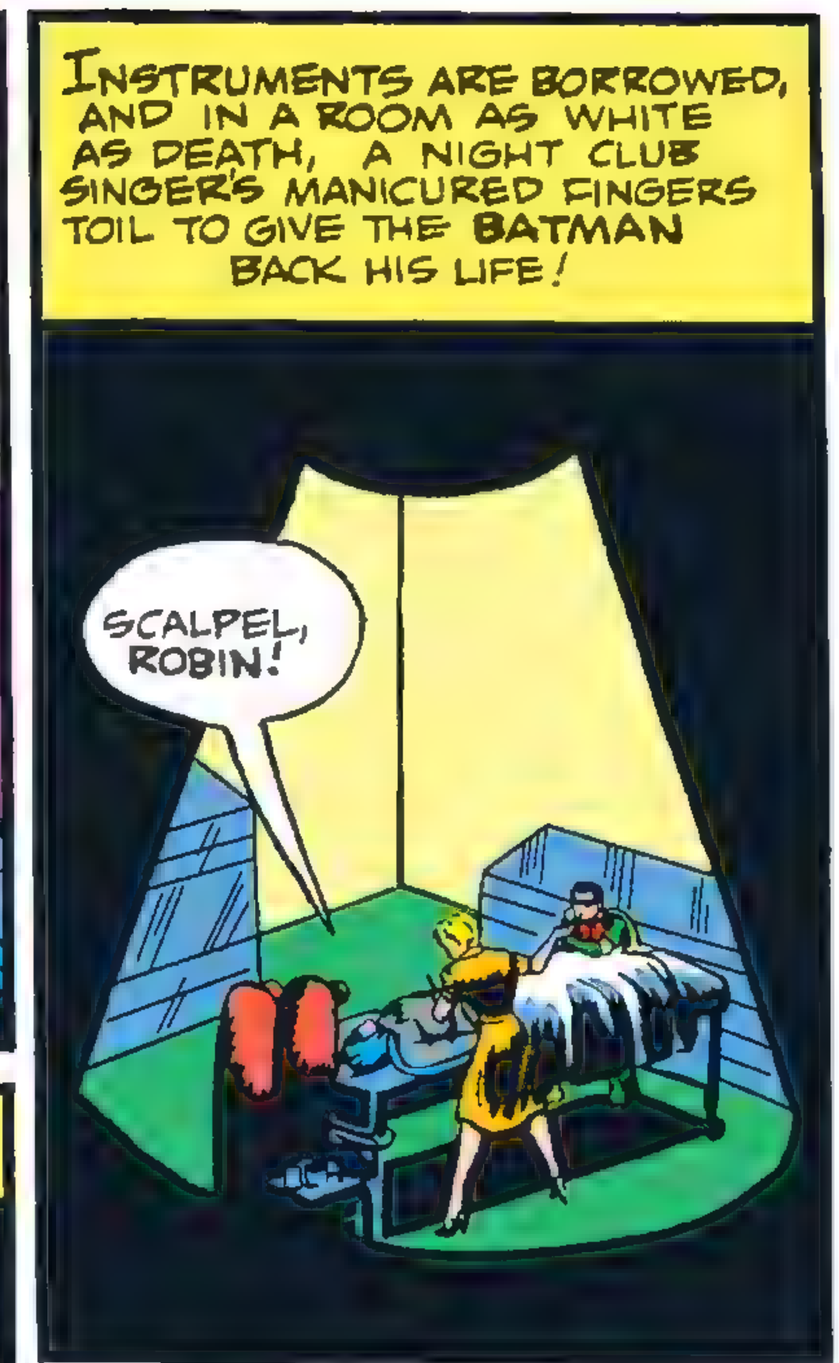

TROPICAL HURRICANE! NATURE IN ITS MOST TERRIBLE MOOD! AND IN THE MIDST OF RAGING DESTRUCTION, A LONE BOY DEFIES THE ELEMENTS!
WE'LL BEAT THIS, BATMAN... AND GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL! SEE IF WE DON'T!

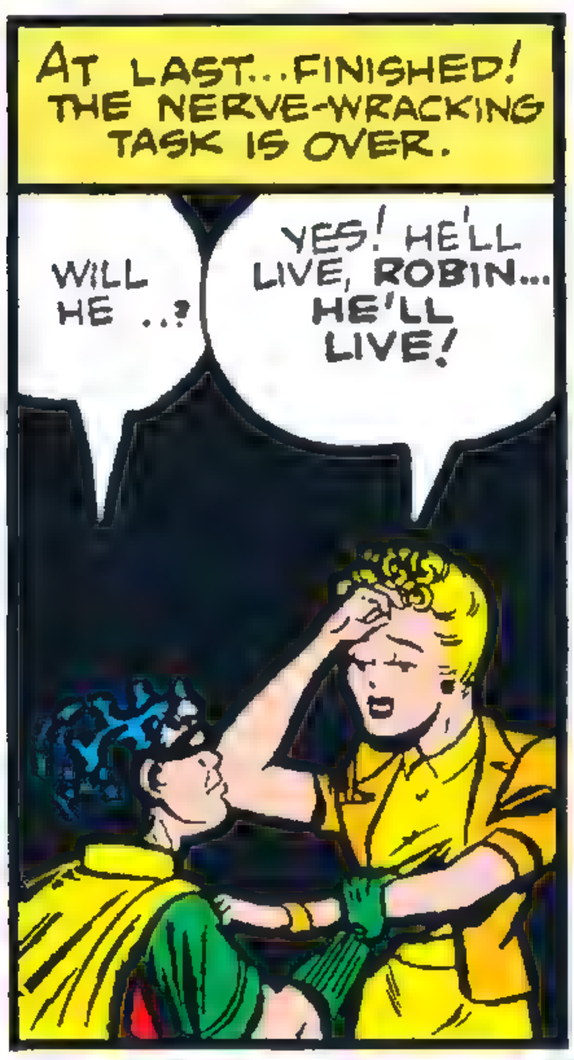

AT LAST, THE STORM RELENTS, LEAVES TANGLED WRECKAGE BEHIND... AND HAPPINESS IN A BOY'S HEART!
HE'S ALIVE! THERE'S STILL A CHANCE IF I...

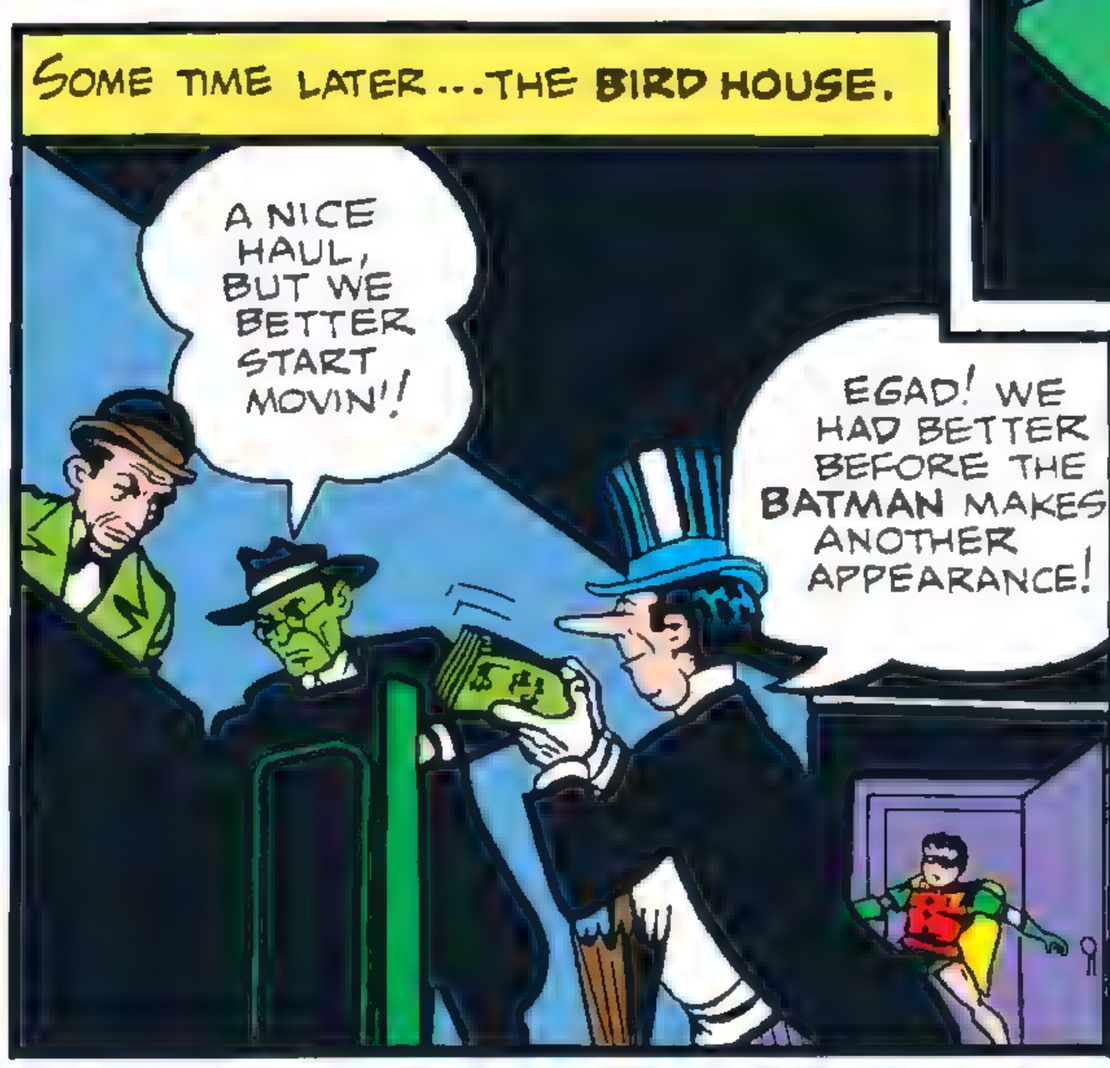
I WAS AFRAID YOU...BATMAN! HE'S HURT!
SHOT! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL! QUICK!

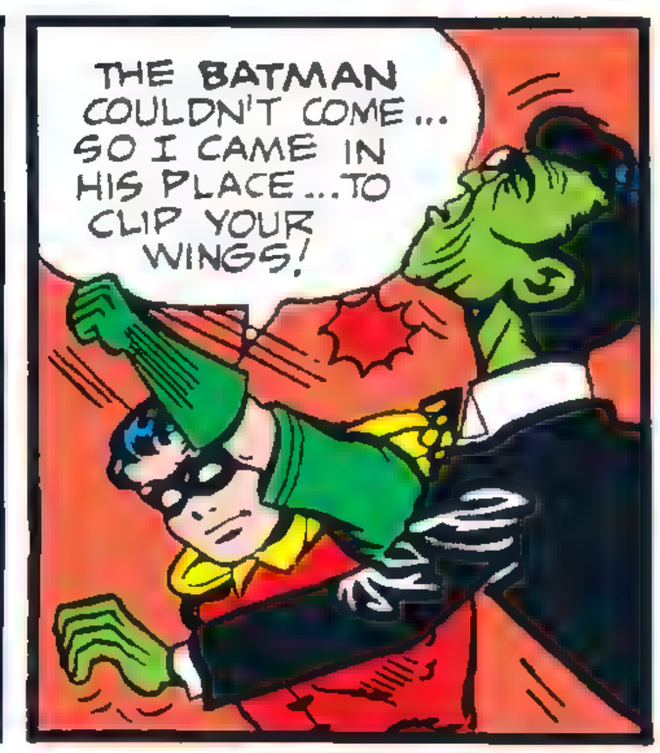
BUT AT THE HOSPITAL..
BUT WE CAN'T WAIT TILL A DOCTOR IS FREE! THIS MAN MAY DIE!
EVERY DOCTOR HERE HAS MORE SERIOUS CASES THAN HE CAN HANDLE!
THE HURRICANE CAUSED MANY CASUALTIES! WE'RE SO RUSHED!

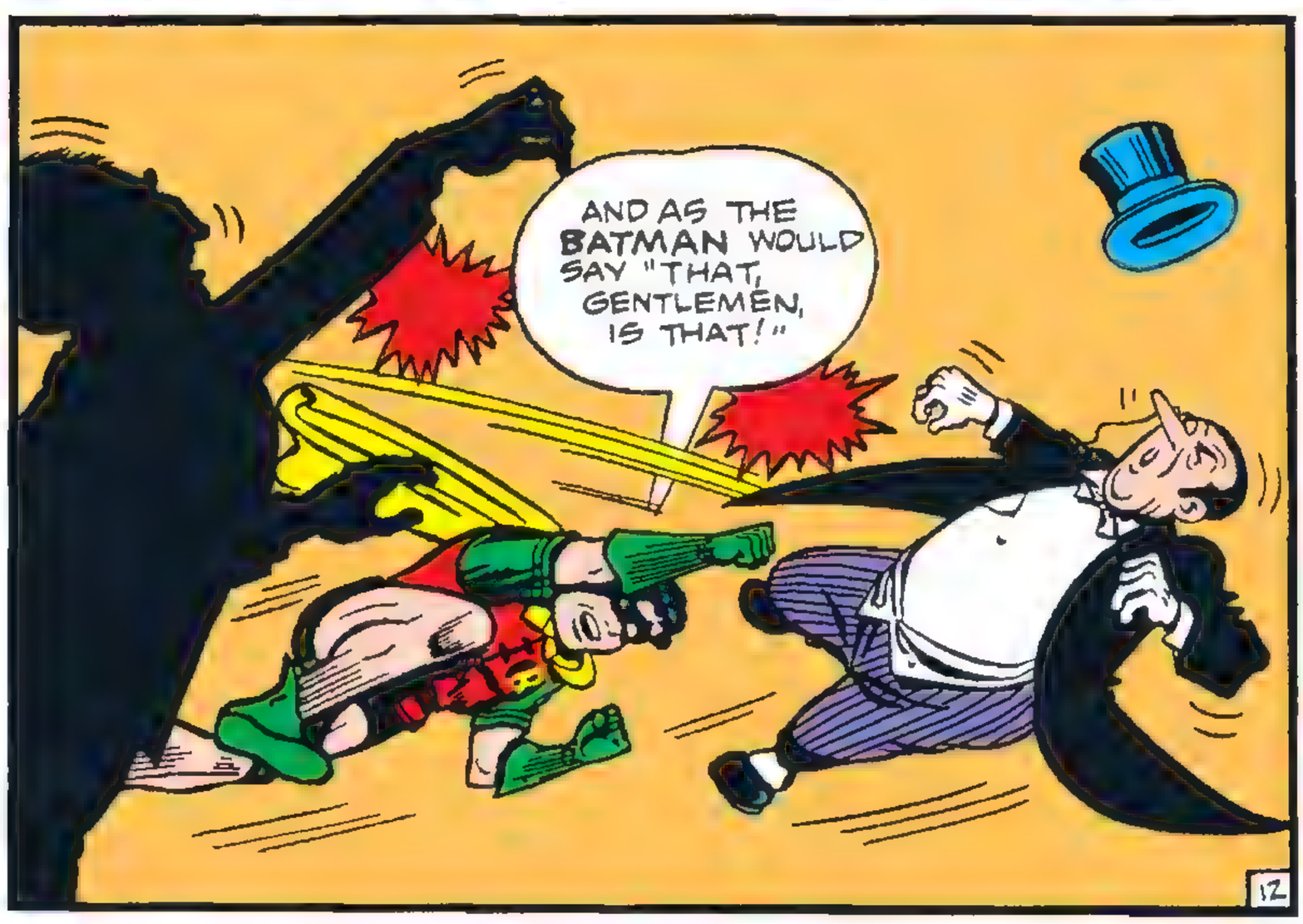
ROBIN, WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! ONCE I WAS A DOCTOR'S ASSISTANT! PERHAPS I CAN PULL HIM THROUGH! ARE YOU WILLING TO LET ME OPERATE ON YOUR FRIEND?
ANYTHING YOU DO TO SAVE BATMAN IS OKAY WITH ME! BUT SAVE HIM... PLEASE!

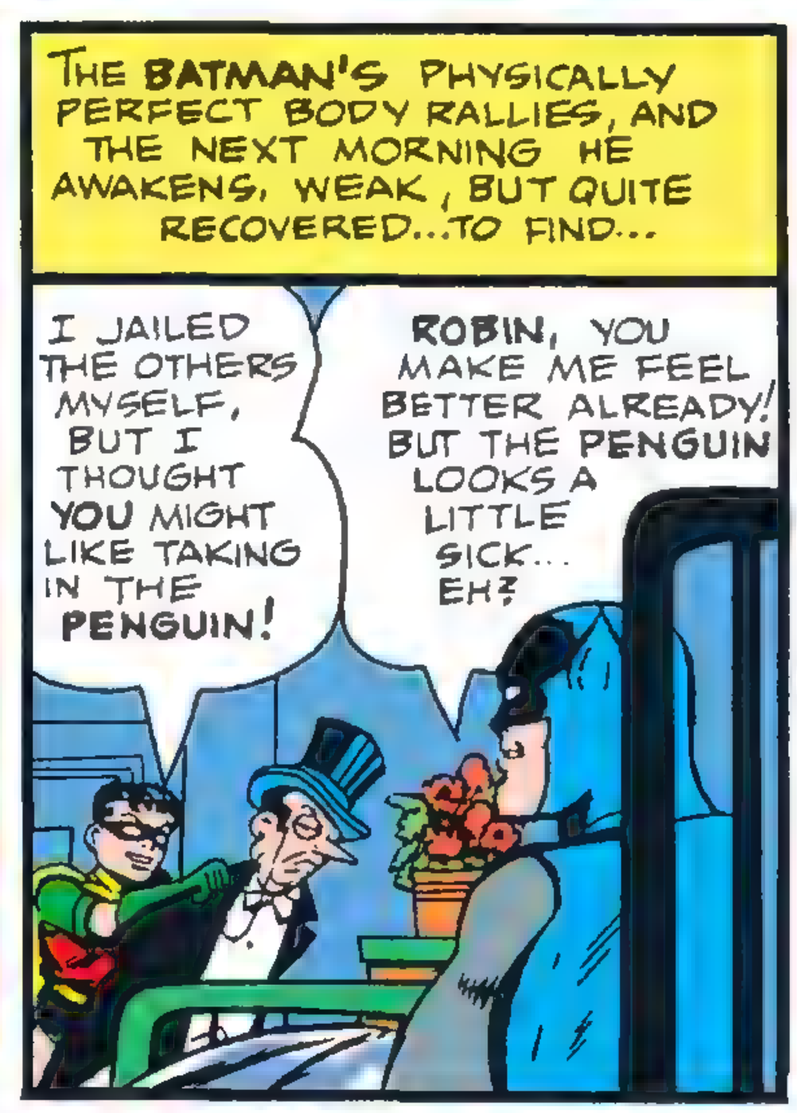

INSTRUMENTS ARE BORROWED, AND IN A ROOM AS WHITE AS DEATH, A NIGHT CLUB SINGER'S MANICURED FINGERS TOIL TO GIVE THE BATMAN BACK HIS LIFE!
SCALPEL, ROBIN!


AT LAST...FINISHED! THE NERVE-WRACKING TASK IS OVER.
WILL HE ..?
YES! HE'LL LIVE, ROBIN... HE'LL LIVE!


SOME TIME LATER...THE BIRD HOUSE.
A NICE HAUL, BUT WE BETTER START MOVIN'!
EGAD! WE HAD BETTER BEFORE THE BATMAN MAKES ANOTHER APPEARANCE!

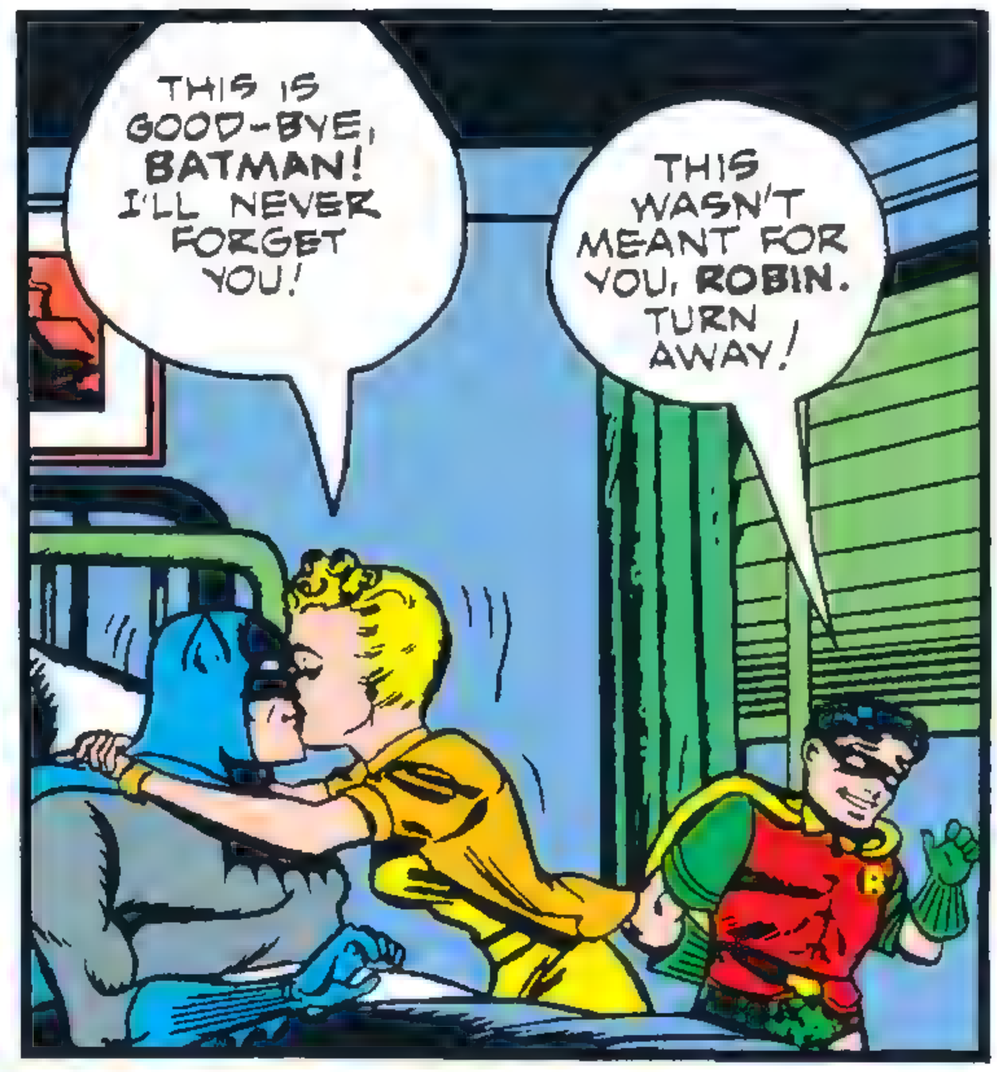

THE BATMAN COULDN'T COME... SO I CAME IN HIS PLACE...TO CLIP YOUR WINGS!

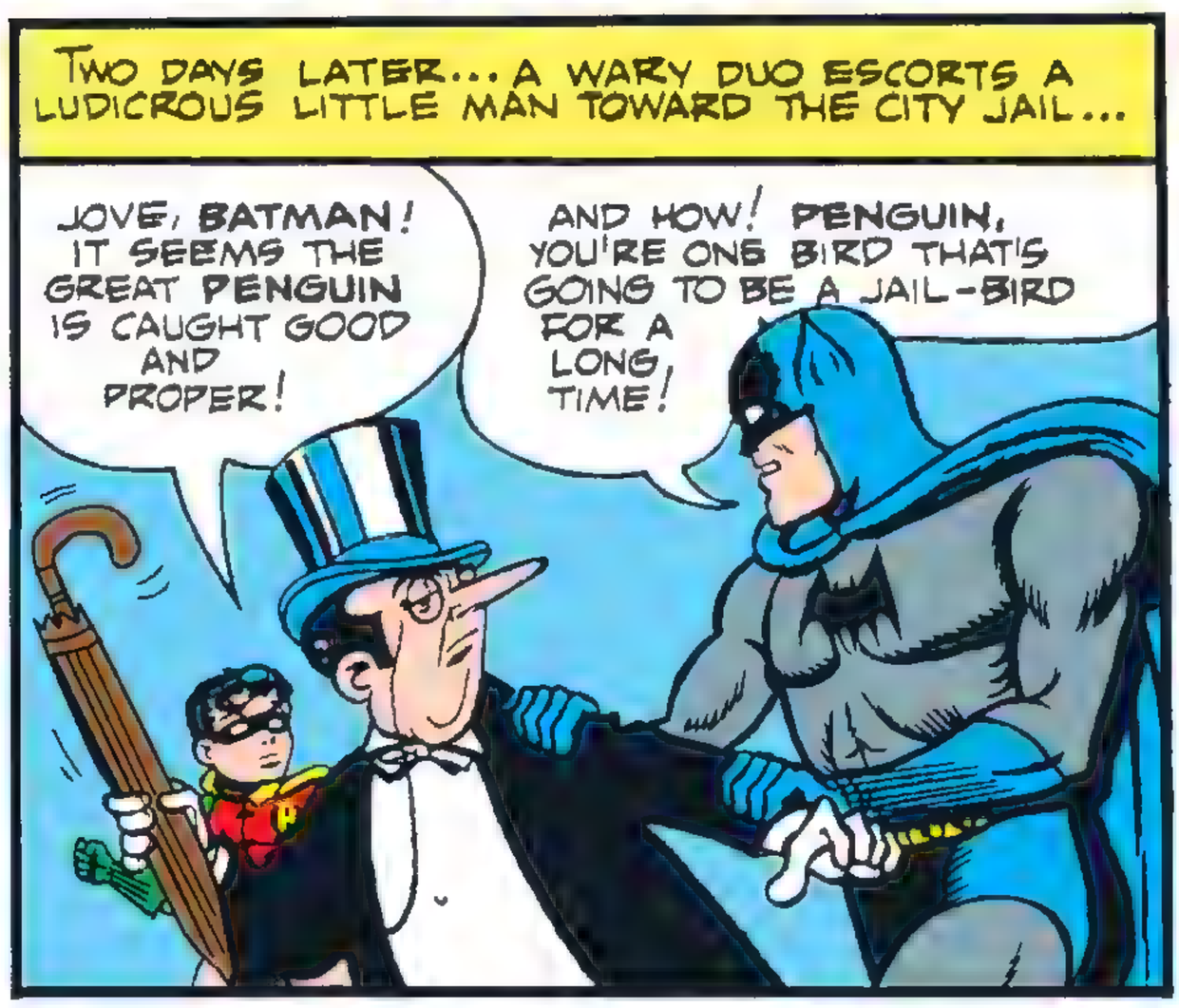

AND AS THE BATMAN WOULD SAY "THAT, GENTLEMEN, IS THAT!"
12

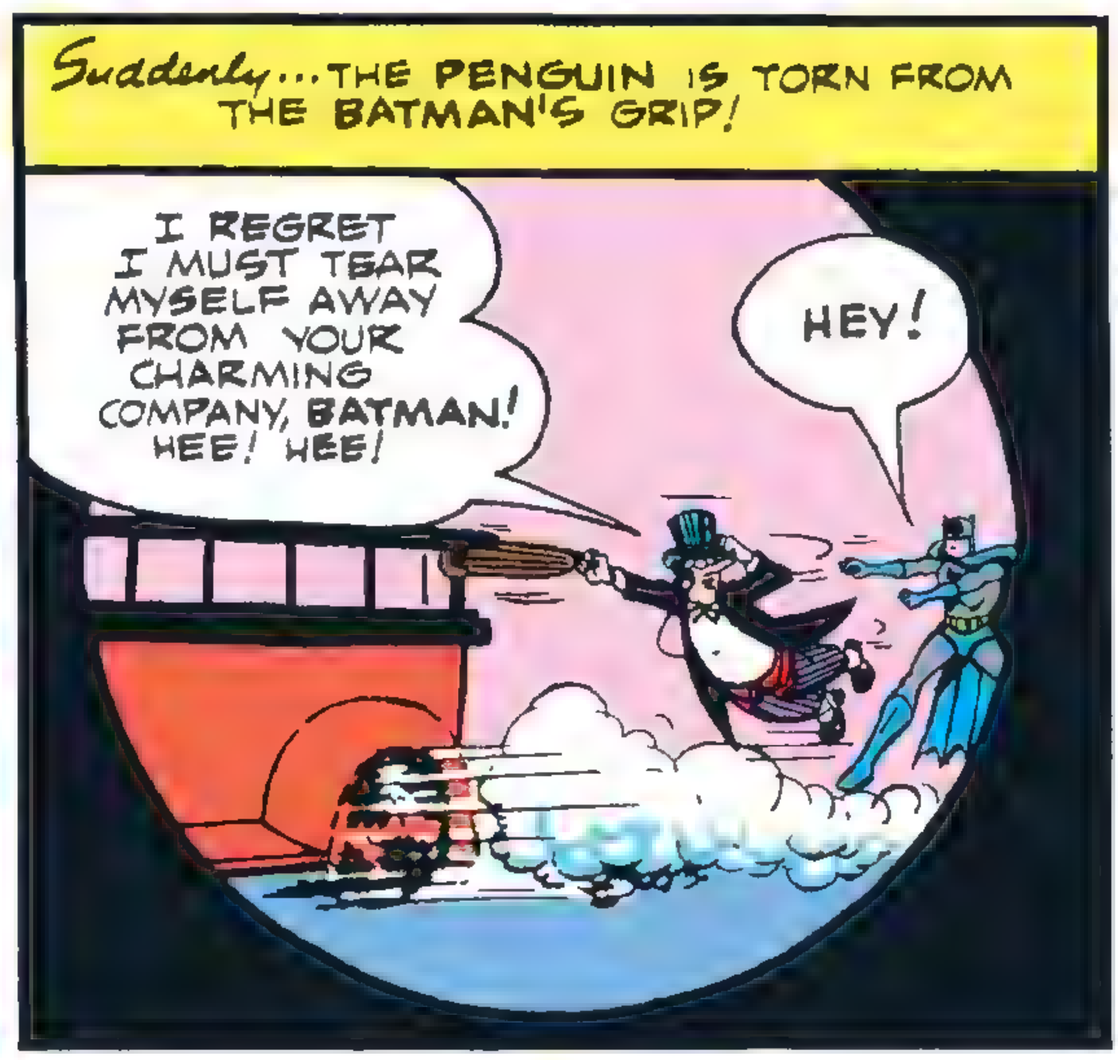

THE BATMAN'S PHYSICALLY PERFECT BODY RALLIES, AND THE NEXT MORNING HE AWAKENS, WEAK, BUT QUITE RECOVERED...TO FIND...
I JAILED THE OTHERS MYSELF, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TAKING IN THE PENGUIN!
ROBIN, YOU MAKE ME FEEL BETTER ALREADY! BUT THE PENGUIN LOOKS A LITTLE SICK... EH?

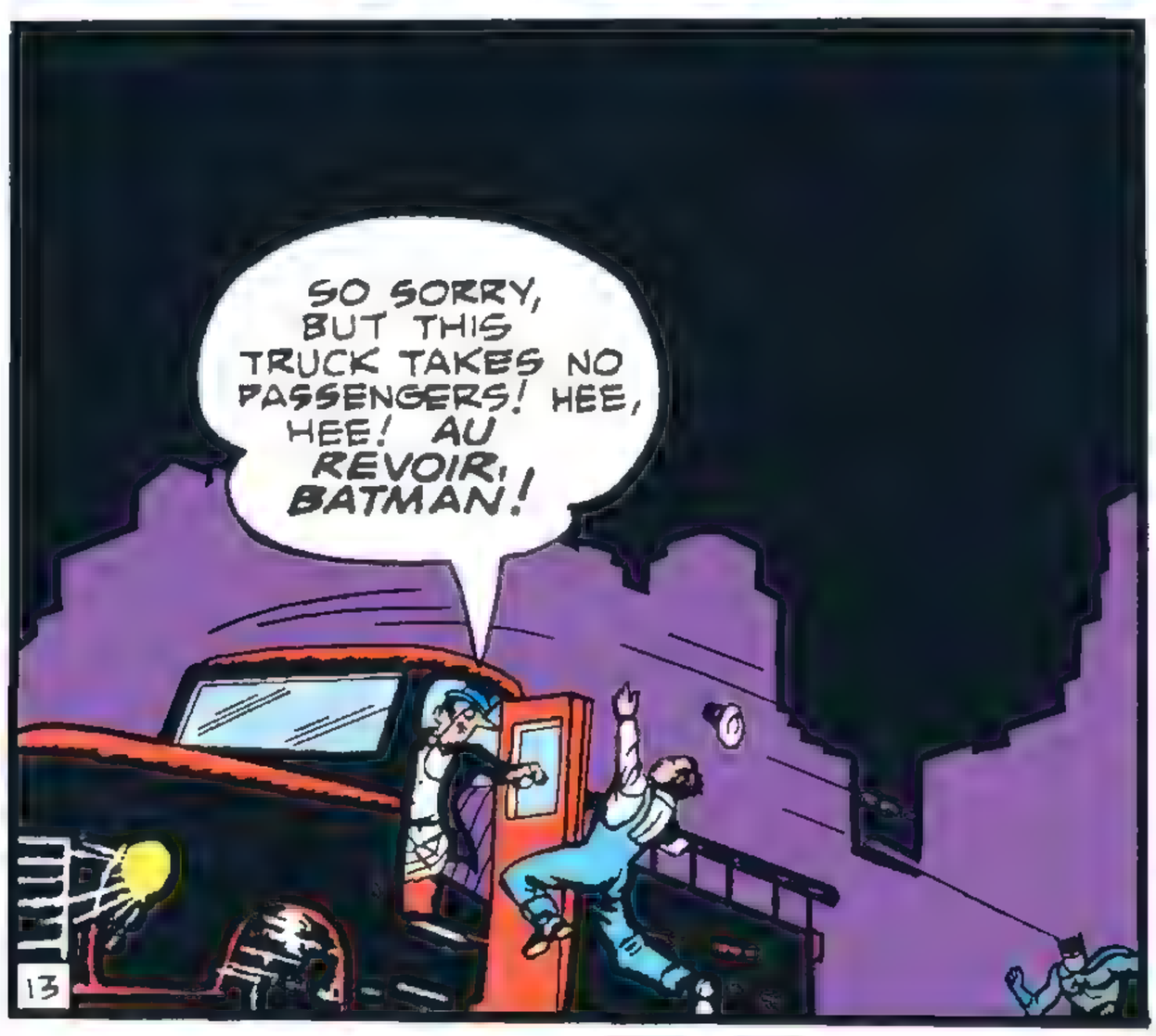
CANARY, I'LL BE GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL MY LIFE! BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR LIFE? ARE YOU GOING BACK TO THE RACKETS AGAIN?
NO, THAT'S ALL FINISHED! I'M GOING TO BECOME A RED CROSS NURSE! YOU KNOW... NOT SO LONG AGO...

ANOTHER WOMAN BECAME A NURSE, AND SHE HAD A BIRD'S NAME, TOO... NIGHTINGALE - FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE!

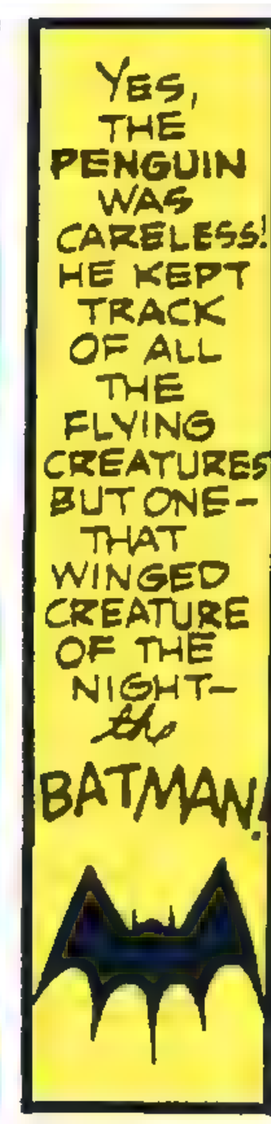

THIS IS GOOD-BYE, BATMAN! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!
THIS WASN'T MEANT FOR YOU, ROBIN. TURN AWAY!


TWO DAYS LATER... A WARY DUO ESCORTS A LUDICROUS LITTLE MAN TOWARD THE CITY JAIL...
JOVE, BATMAN! IT SEEMS THE GREAT PENGUIN IS CAUGHT GOOD AND PROPER!
AND HOW! PENGUIN, YOU'RE ONE BIRD THAT'S GOING TO BE A JAIL-BIRD FOR A LONG TIME!


Suddenly... THE PENGUIN IS TORN FROM THE BATMAN'S GRIP!
I REGRET I MUST TEAR MYSELF AWAY FROM YOUR CHARMING COMPANY, BATMAN! HEE! HEE!
HEY!


SO SORRY, BUT THIS TRUCK TAKES NO PASSENGERS! HEE, HEE! AU REVOIR, BATMAN!
13

THAT TRICKY LITTLE BIRD BEAT US AGAIN! HE CERTAINLY COOKS UP A GOOD STUNT!
NOT ALL THE TIME! HIS BIRD HOUSE SCHEME LAID A BAD EGG! HE GOT TOO CARELESS THERE!


YES, THE PENGUIN WAS CARELESS! HE KEPT TRACK OF ALL THE FLYING CREATURES BUT ONE - THAT WINGED CREATURE OF THE NIGHT - BATMAN!

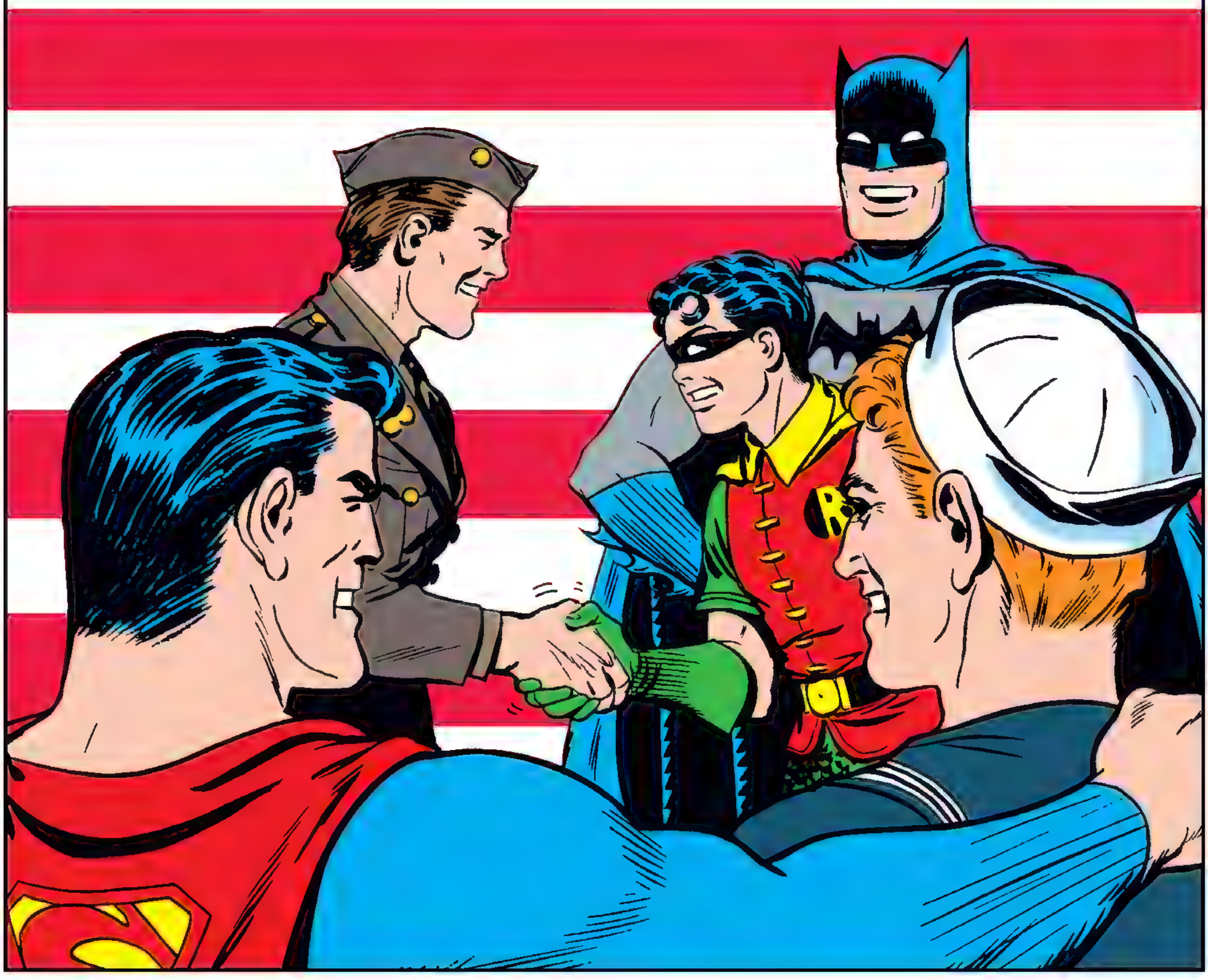
OH, YEAH! WELL, WHAT ABOUT ME? I'M A BIRD, TOO! YOU PEOPLE SEEM TO FORGET THAT I'M A ROBIN!

No. 6 SUMMER ISSUE

A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

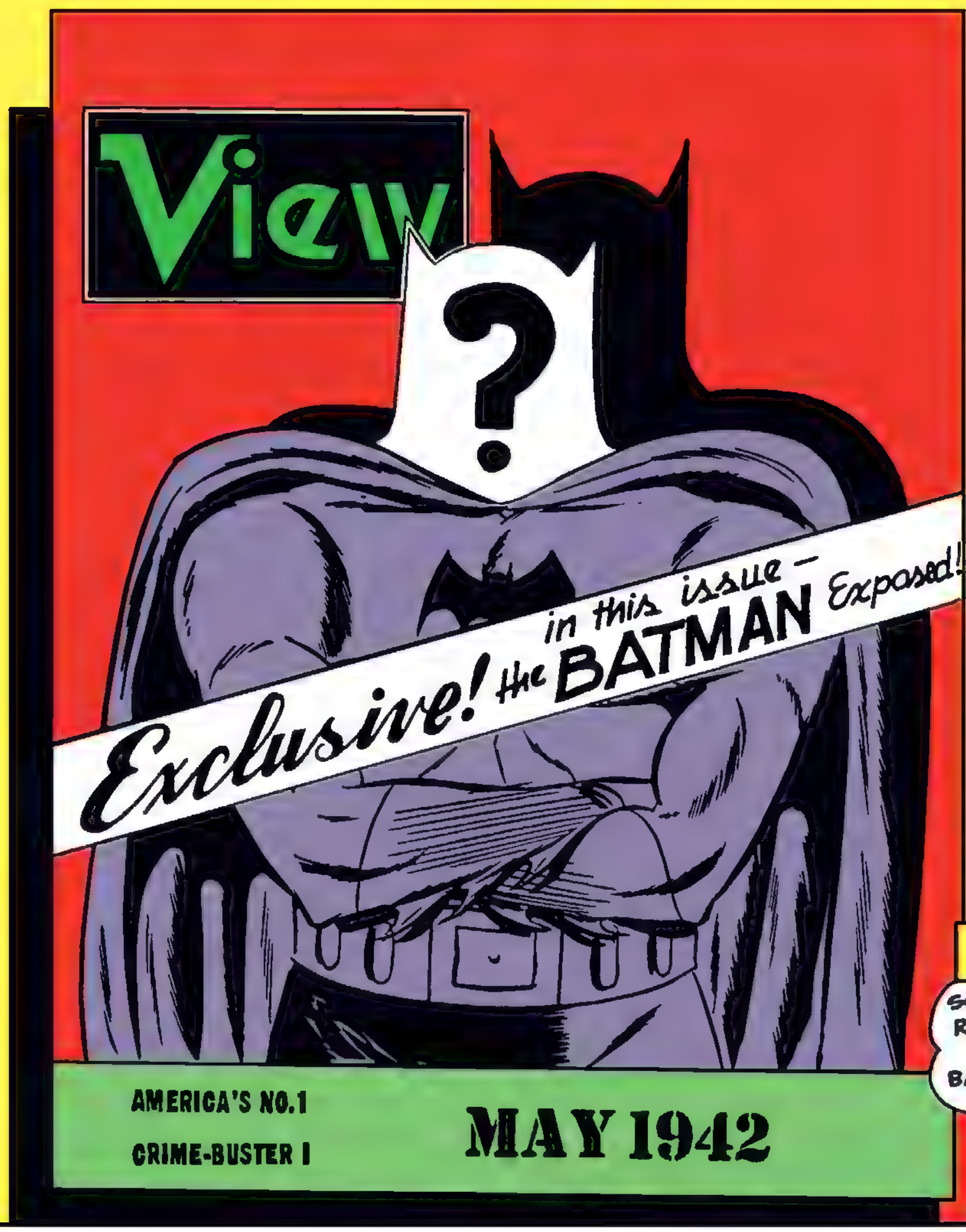
96 PAGES



BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

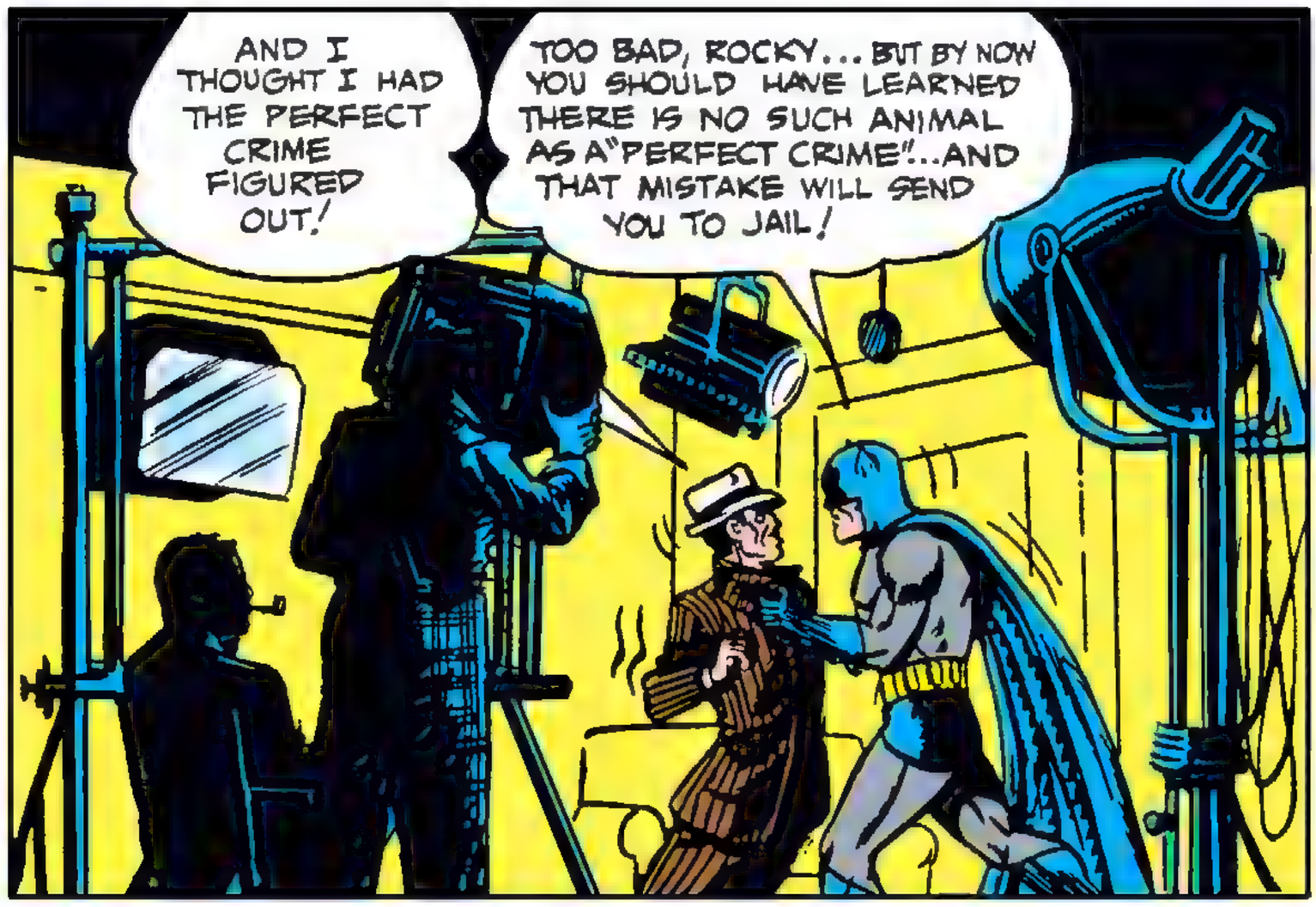
BOB KANE



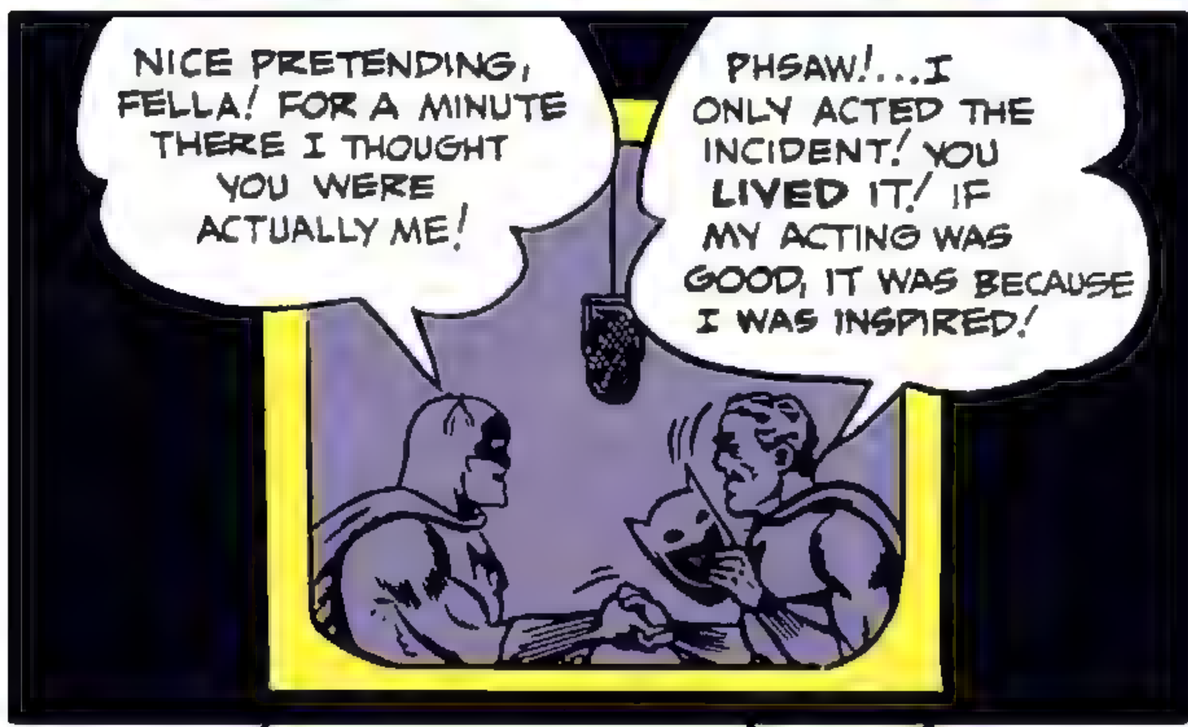
SCOOP SCANLON WAS A NICE GUY, BUT HE WAS A NEWSHAWK. THEY SAID HE HAD INK IN HIS VEINS INSTEAD OF BLOOD. NOW SCOOP HAD NOTHING AGAINST THE **BATMAN**. HE ADMIRED THE FAMOUS CRIME-BUSTER. BUT SCOOP WAS A REPORTER, FIRST AND LAST. SO SCOOP DECIDED TO GET THE SCOOP OF HIS CAREER, OR SOMEBODY'S CAREER. HE WAS GOING TO TRACK DOWN THE **BATMAN'S** IDENTITY, EXPOSE HIM TO THE WORLD! BUT WHEN SCOOP PUT OUT HIS HAND TO UNMASK THE **BATMAN**... HE GOT HIS FINGERS BURNED- BECAUSE HE TRIED TO PROBE...

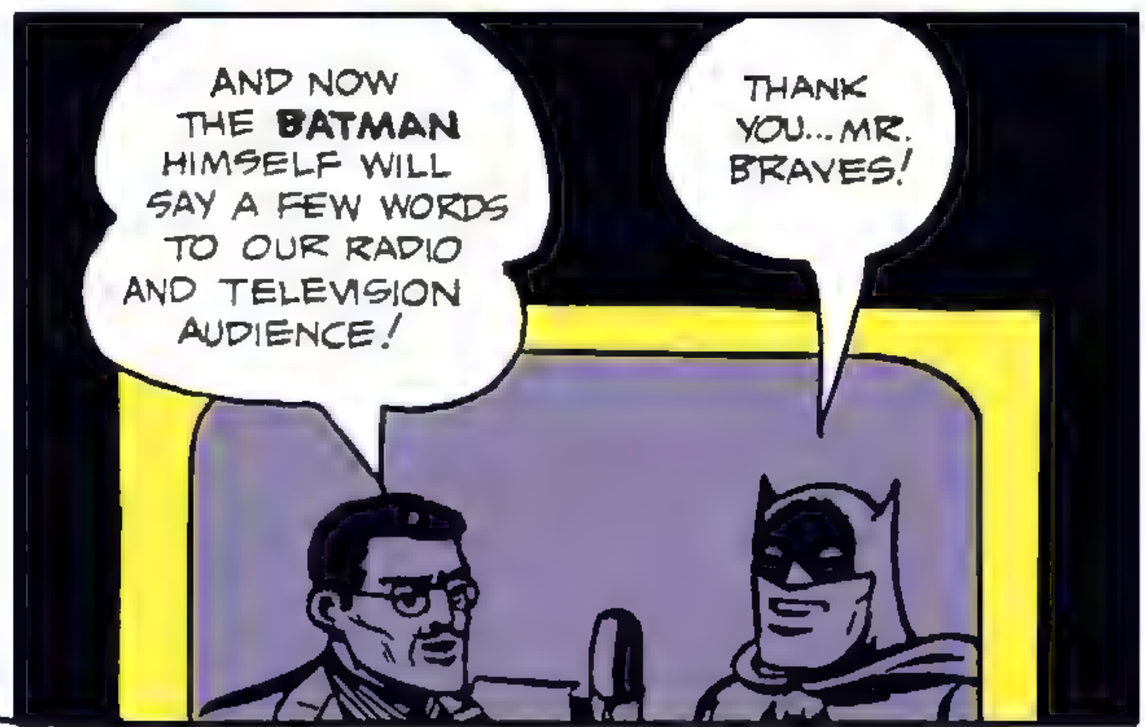
"THE SECRET OF BRUCE WAYNE!"

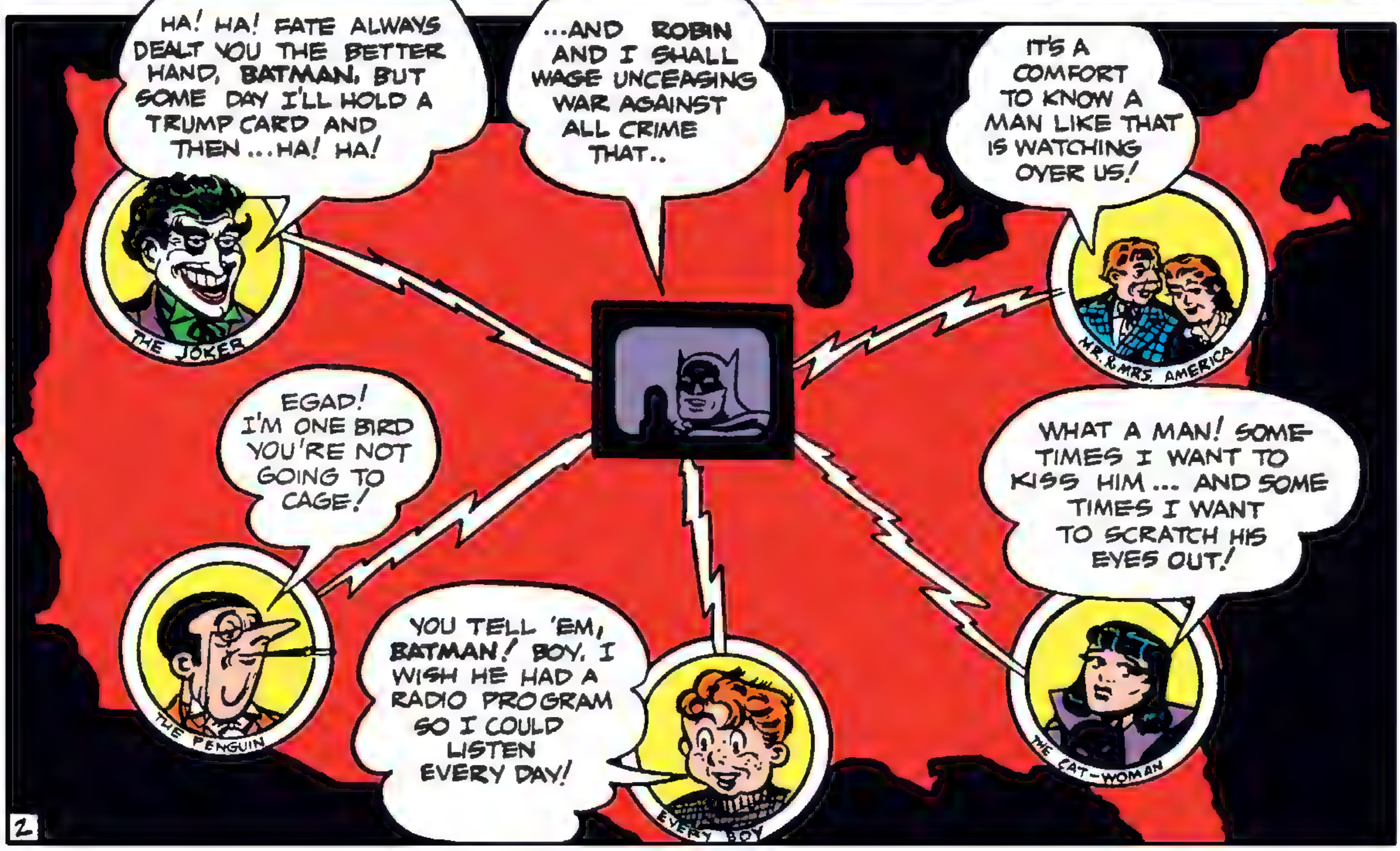
STRANGE ACTION... IN A STRANGE ROOM...

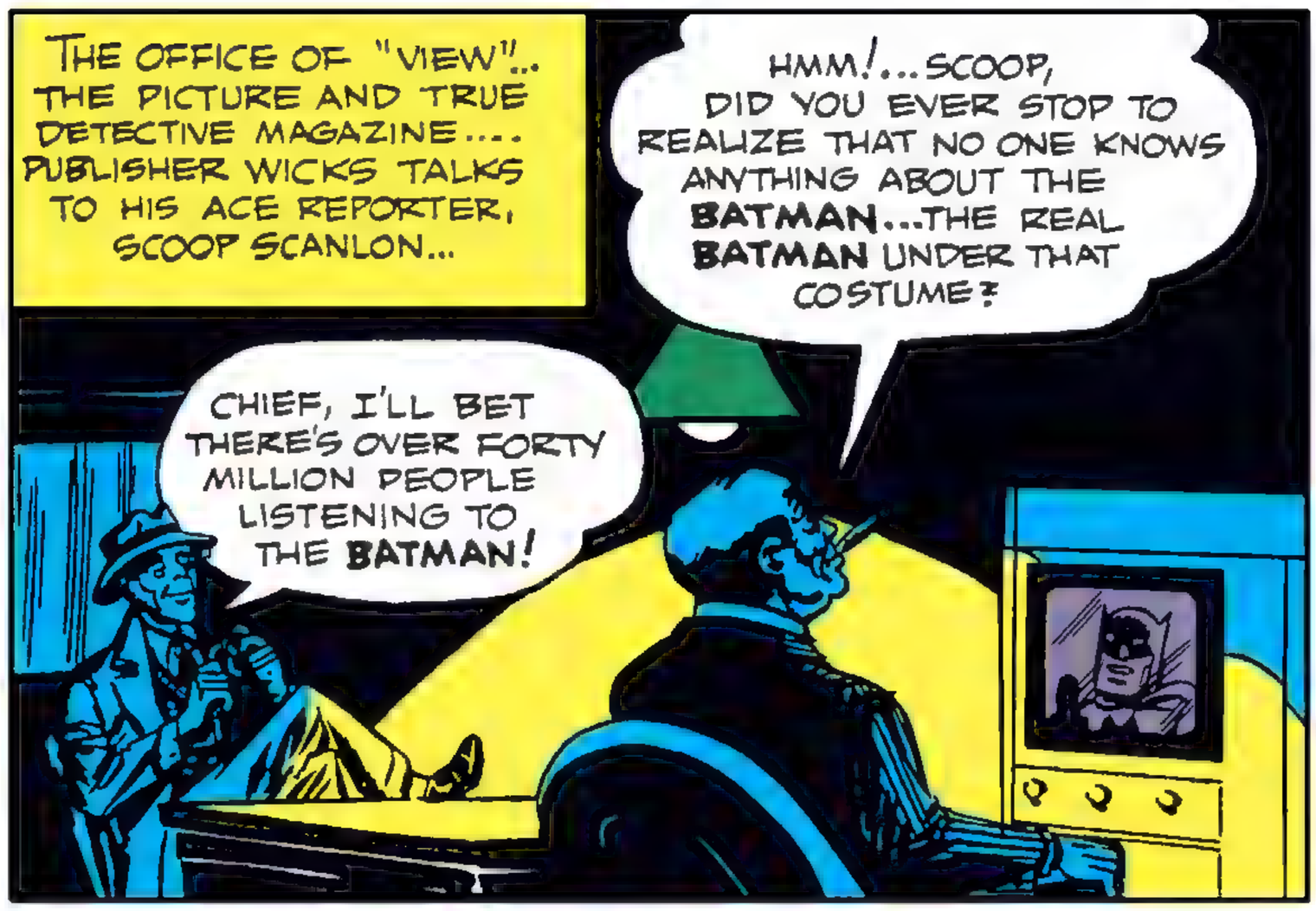

AND I THOUGHT I HAD THE PERFECT CRIME FIGURED OUT!
TOO BAD, ROCKY... BUT BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THERE IS NO SUCH ANIMAL AS A "PERFECT CRIME"...AND THAT MISTAKE WILL SEND YOU TO JAIL!

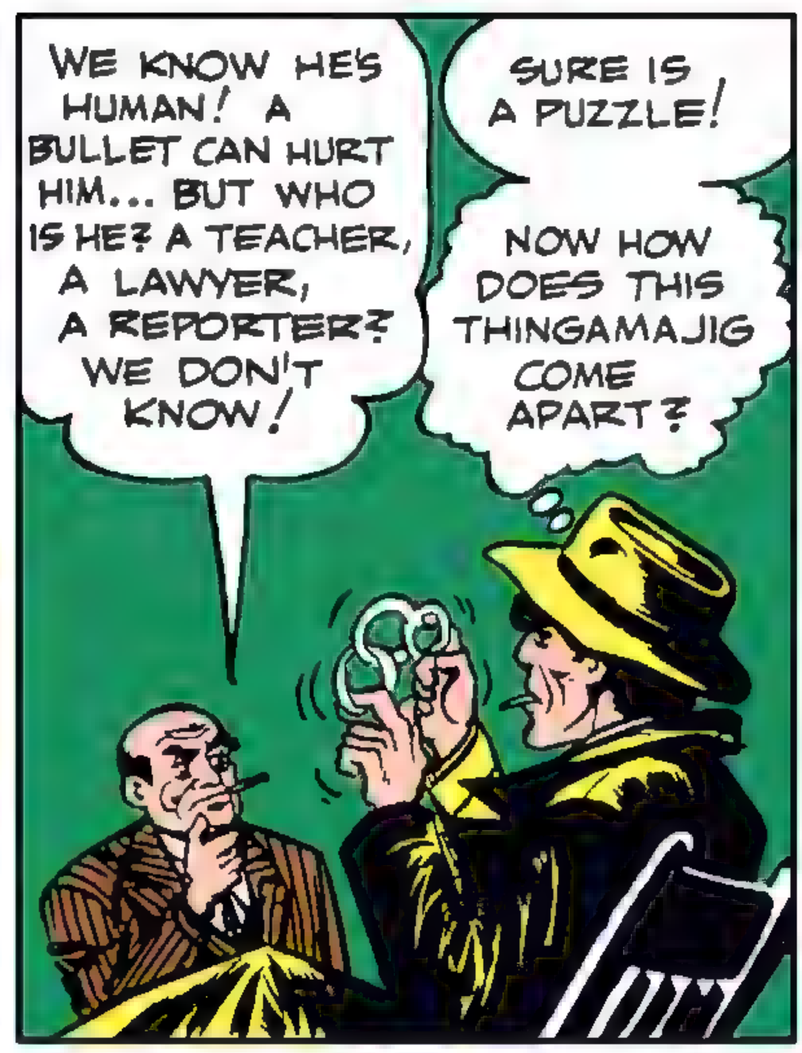
ONCE AGAIN "RACKET-SMASHERS" HAS DRAMATIZED THE TRUE TALE OF AN ALMOST "PERFECT CRIME"... AND HERE IN OUR STUDIO WE HAVE AS SPECIAL GUEST THE RACKET-SMASHER WHO BROKE THAT CASE... THE BATMAN- IN PERSON!

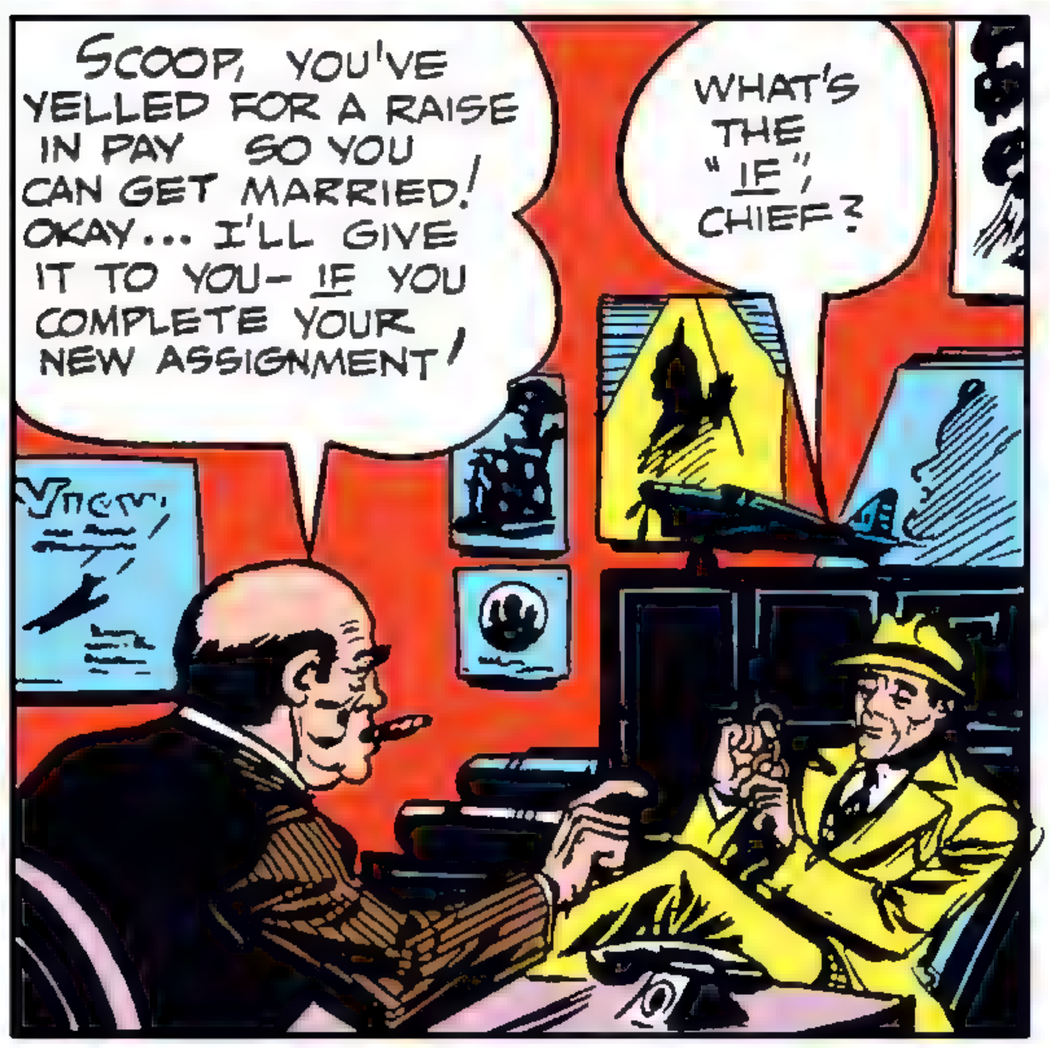

NICE PRETENDING, FELLA! FOR A MINUTE THERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE ACTUALLY ME!
PHSAW!...I ONLY ACTED THE INCIDENT! YOU LIVED IT! IF MY ACTING WAS GOOD, IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS INSPIRED!


AND NOW THE BATMAN HIMSELF WILL SAY A FEW WORDS TO OUR RADIO AND TELEVISION AUDIENCE!
THANK YOU...MR. BRAVES!


HA! HA! FATE ALWAYS DEALT YOU THE BETTER HAND, BATMAN, BUT SOME DAY I'LL HOLD A TRUMP CARD AND THEN...HA! HA!
THE JOKER
...AND ROBIN AND I SHALL WAGE UNCEASING WAR AGAINST ALL CRIME THAT..
IT'S A COMFORT TO KNOW A MAN LIKE THAT IS WATCHING OVER US!
MR. & MRS. AMERICA
EGAD! I'M ONE BIRD YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CAGE!
THE PENGUIN
YOU TELL 'EM, BATMAN! BOY, I WISH HE HAD A RADIO PROGRAM SO I COULD LISTEN EVERY DAY!
EVERY BOY
WHAT A MAN! SOME TIMES I WANT TO KISS HIM... AND SOME TIMES I WANT TO SCRATCH HIS EYES OUT!
THE CAT-WOMAN
2

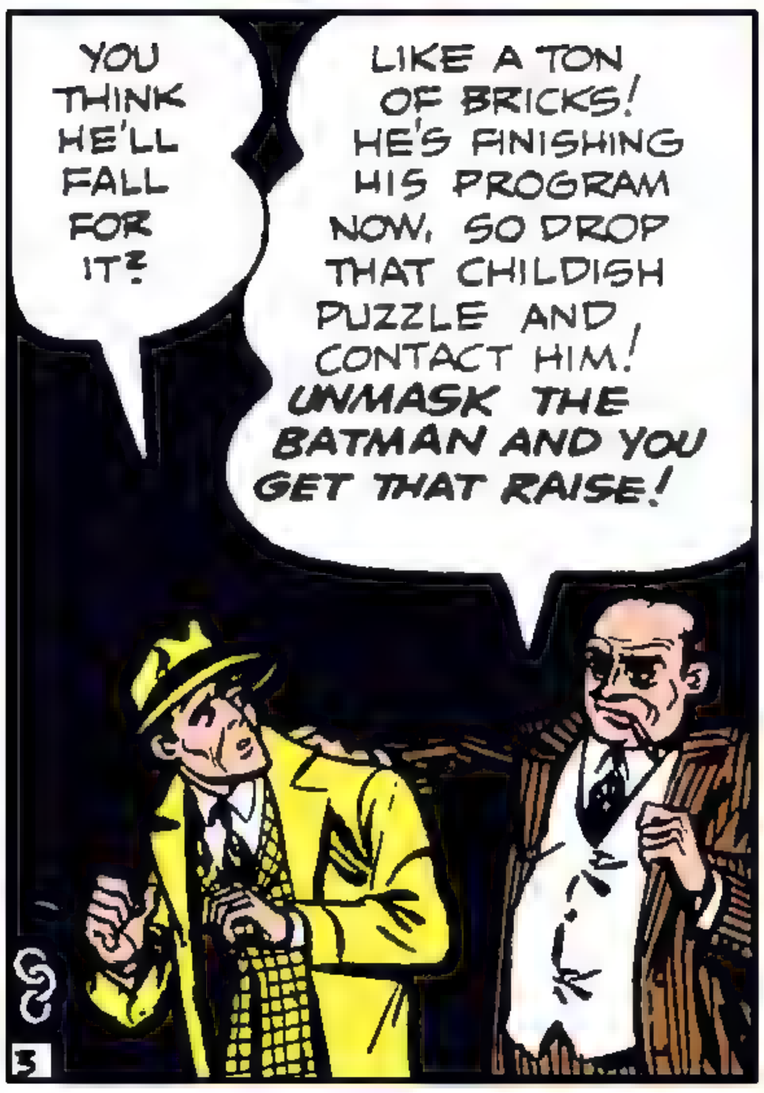

THE OFFICE OF "VIEW"... THE PICTURE AND TRUE DETECTIVE MAGAZINE.... PUBLISHER WICKS TALKS TO HIS ACE REPORTER, SCOOP SCANLON...
HMM!...SCOOP, DID YOU EVER STOP TO REALIZE THAT NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE BATMAN...THE REAL BATMAN UNDER THAT COSTUME?
CHIEF, I'LL BET THERE'S OVER FORTY MILLION PEOPLE LISTENING TO THE BATMAN!

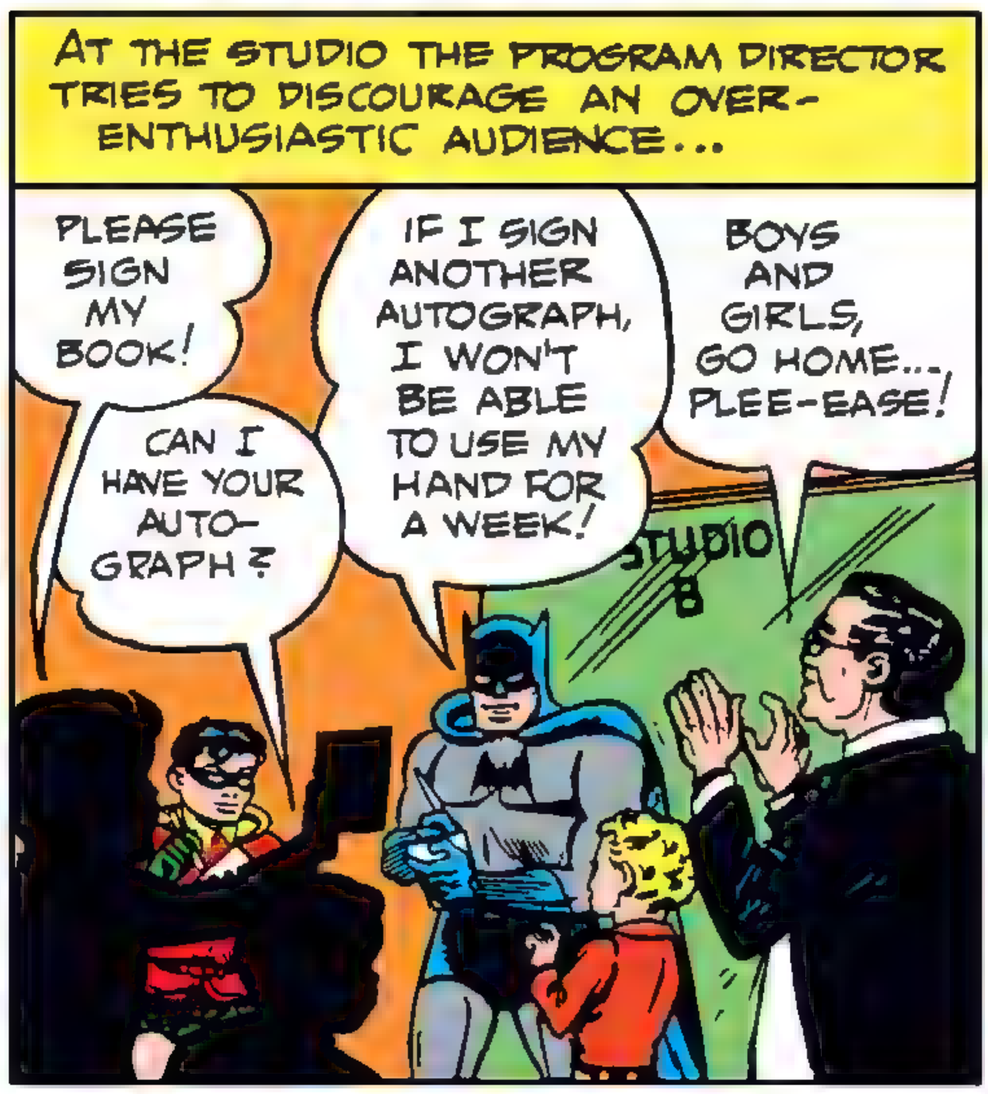

WE KNOW HE'S HUMAN! A BULLET CAN HURT HIM... BUT WHO IS HE? A TEACHER, A LAWYER, A REPORTER? WE DON'T KNOW!
SURE IS A PUZZLE!
NOW HOW DOES THIS THINGAMAJIG COME APART?


SCOOP, YOU'VE YELLED FOR A RAISE IN PAY SO YOU CAN GET MARRIED! OKAY... I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU- IF YOU COMPLETE YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT!
WHAT'S THE "IF", CHIEF?

...IF YOU FIND OUT THE BATMAN'S IDENTITY—UNMASK THE BATMAN!
HUH?

OUR CIRCULATION HAS FALLEN DOWN... BUT AN EXCLUSIVE PICTURE STORY, EXPOSING THE BATMAN, WOULD SEND IT SKY-HIGH! NOW LISTEN... BZZ...BZZ...

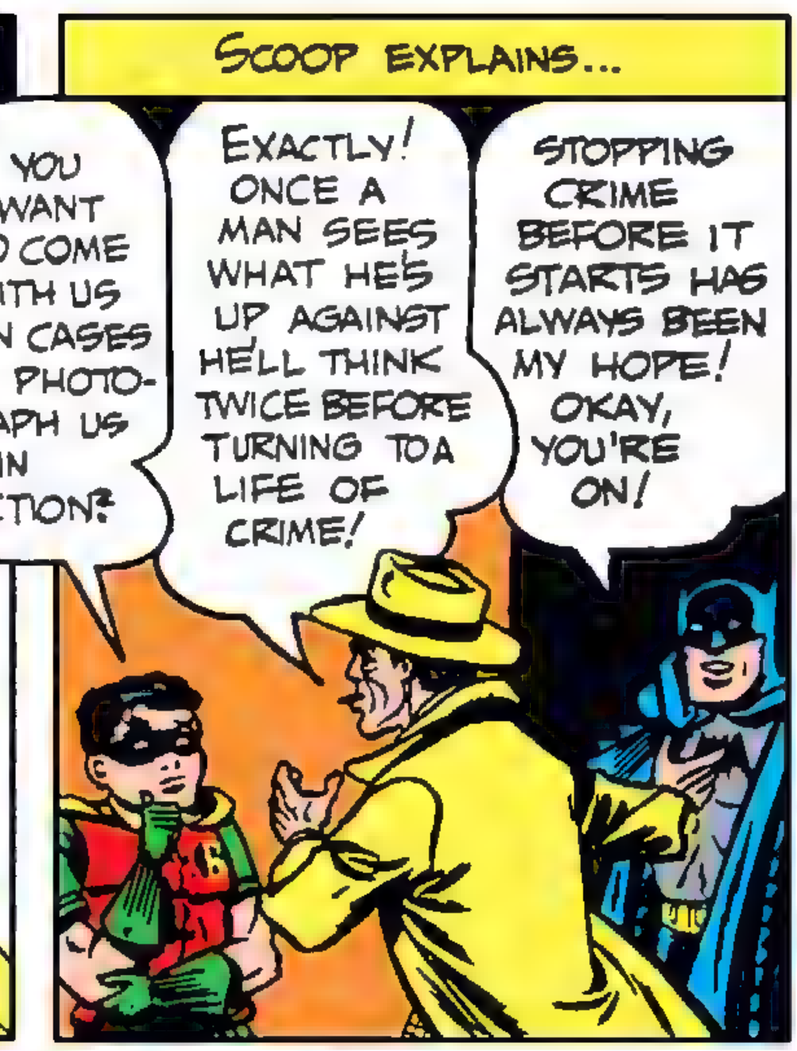

YOU THINK HE'LL FALL FOR IT?
LIKE A TON OF BRICKS! HE'S FINISHING HIS PROGRAM NOW, SO DROP THAT CHILDISH PUZZLE AND CONTACT HIM! UNMASK THE BATMAN AND YOU GET THAT RAISE!


AT THE STUDIO THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR TRIES TO DISCOURAGE AN OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE...
PLEASE SIGN MY BOOK!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
IF I SIGN ANOTHER AUTOGRAPH, I WON'T BE ABLE TO USE MY HAND FOR A WEEK!
BOYS AND GIRLS, GO HOME..., PLEE-EASE!
STUDIO 8

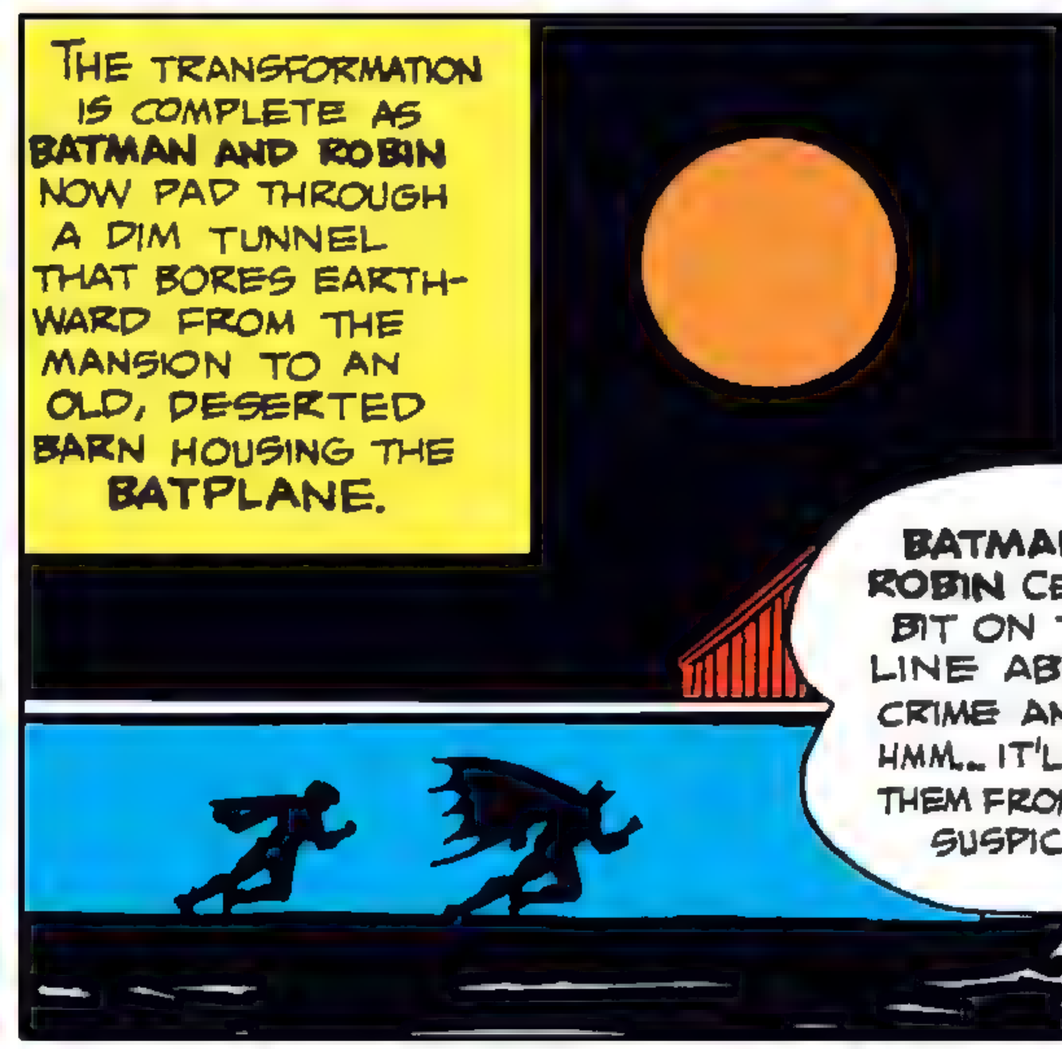
WHEN THE RELUCTANT CROWD LEAVES...
AHEM! MR. RAND, HAVE...HAVE YOU FOUND A SPOT FOR ME, YET?
OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN, LORING- NO-O-O... SORRY, BUT EVERY PROGRAM IS FILLED! MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME!

LORING...MARK LORING! I SAW HIM ONCE ON THE STAGE WHEN I WAS A BOY! HE WAS A GREAT ACTOR...THE GREATEST!
SINCE HE SLIPPED HE'S BEEN TRYING TO COME BACK BY TELEVISION, BUT WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON HIM!... HIS REPUTATION FOR DRINK AND ALL!

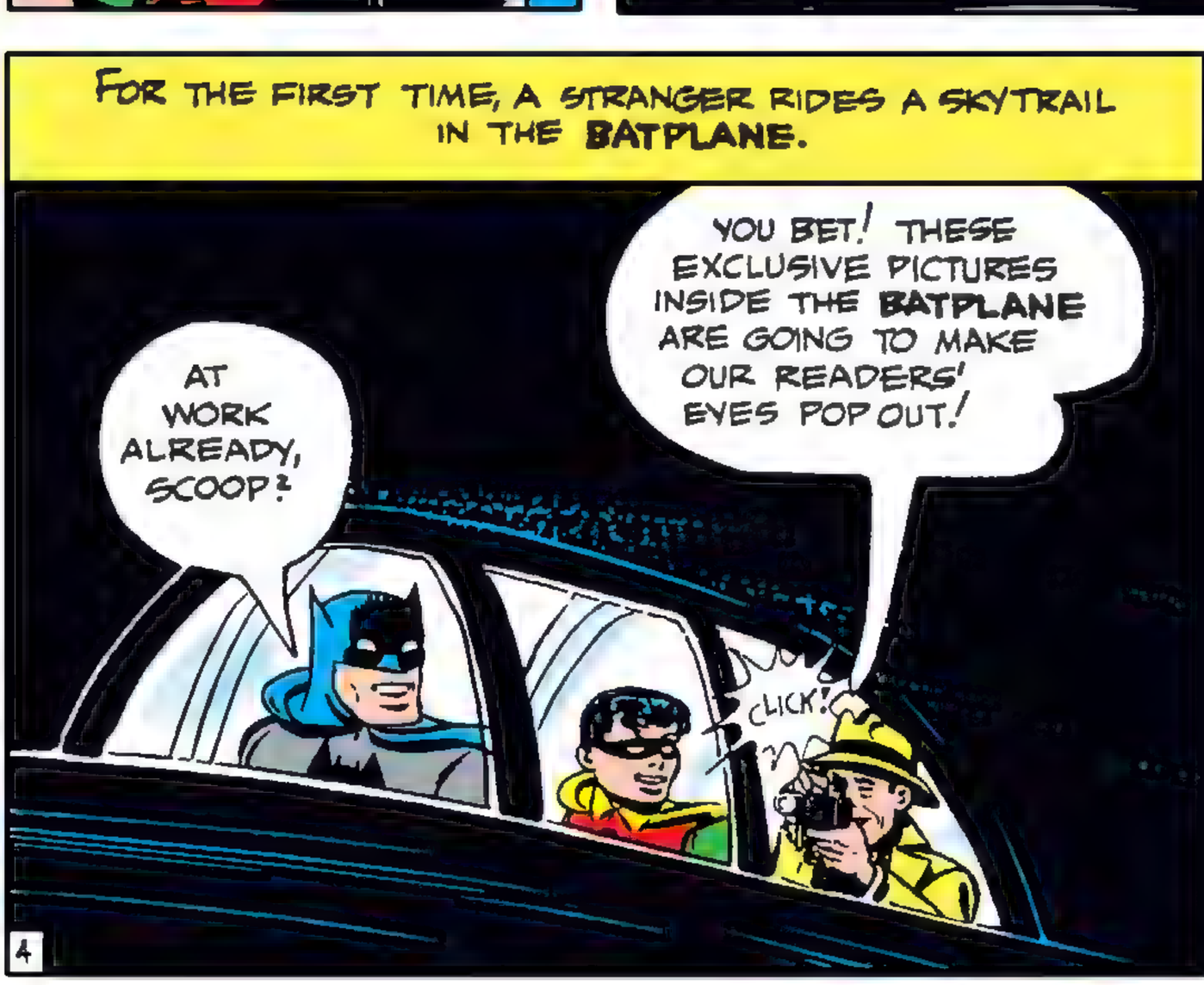
BATMAN, I'M SCOOP SCANLON OF "VIEW" MAGAZINE! MY PUBLISHER WOULD LIKE TO RUN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ABOUT YOU!
YOU WANT TO COME WITH US ON CASES AND PHOTOGRAPH US IN ACTION?

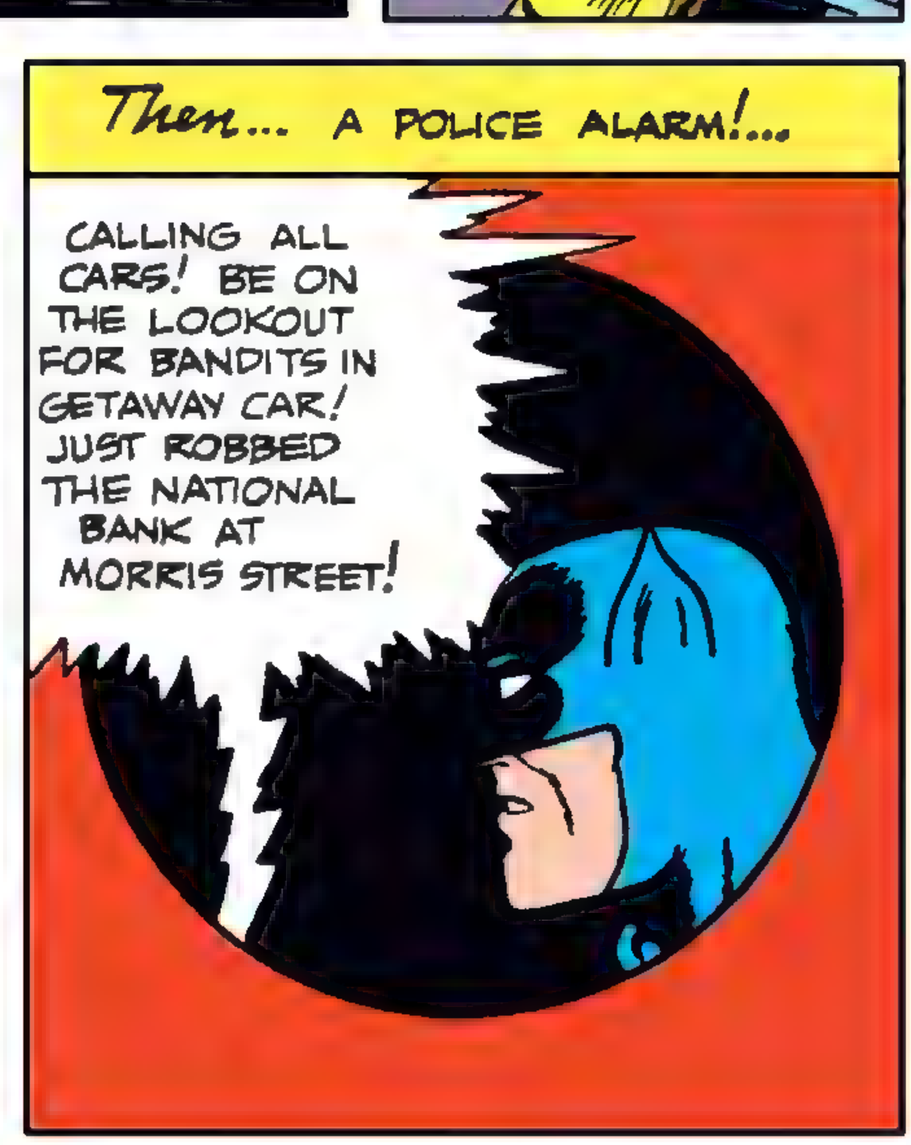

SCOOP EXPLAINS...
EXACTLY! ONCE A MAN SEES WHAT HE'S UP AGAINST HE'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE TURNING TO A LIFE OF CRIME!
STOPPING CRIME BEFORE IT STARTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY HOPE! OKAY, YOU'RE ON!

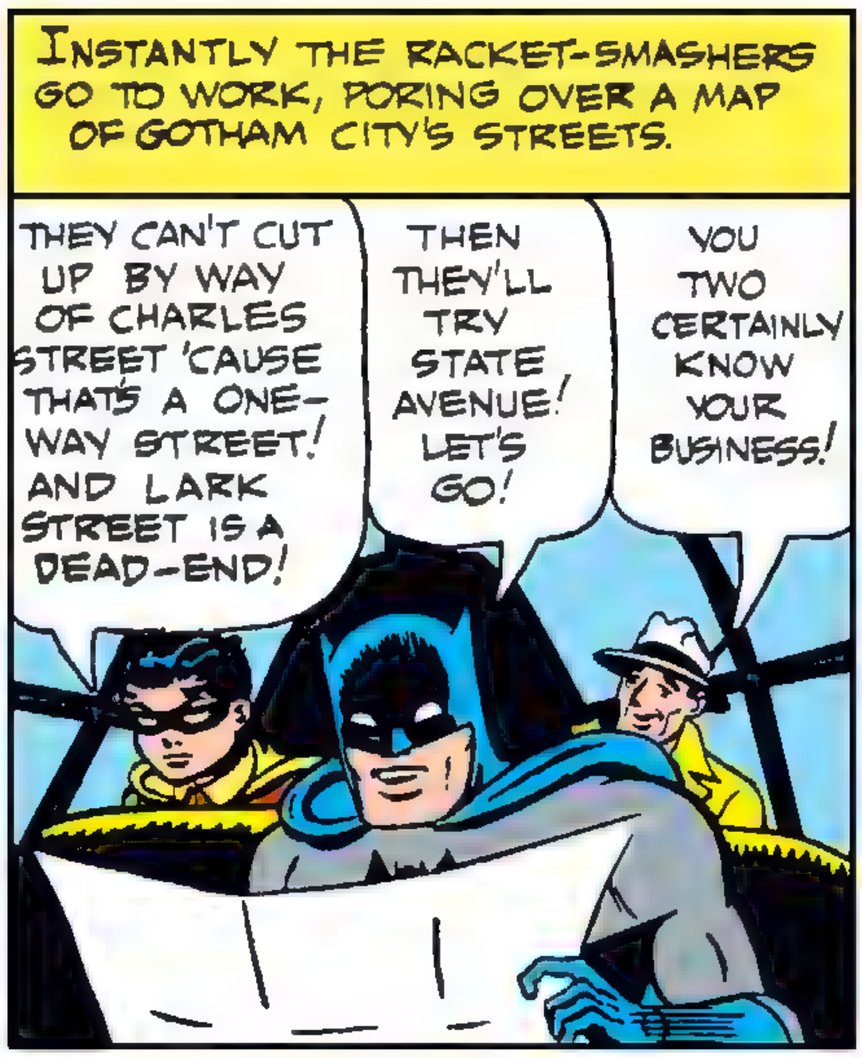
NEXT NIGHT... AT HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY, LAYS OUT QUEER GARB FOR HIMSELF AND HIS WARD DICK GRAYSON...
WE'RE PICKING UP SCOOP AT THE WATERFRONT, EH?
YES, AND TIME'S A-WASTIN', SO STEP ON IT!

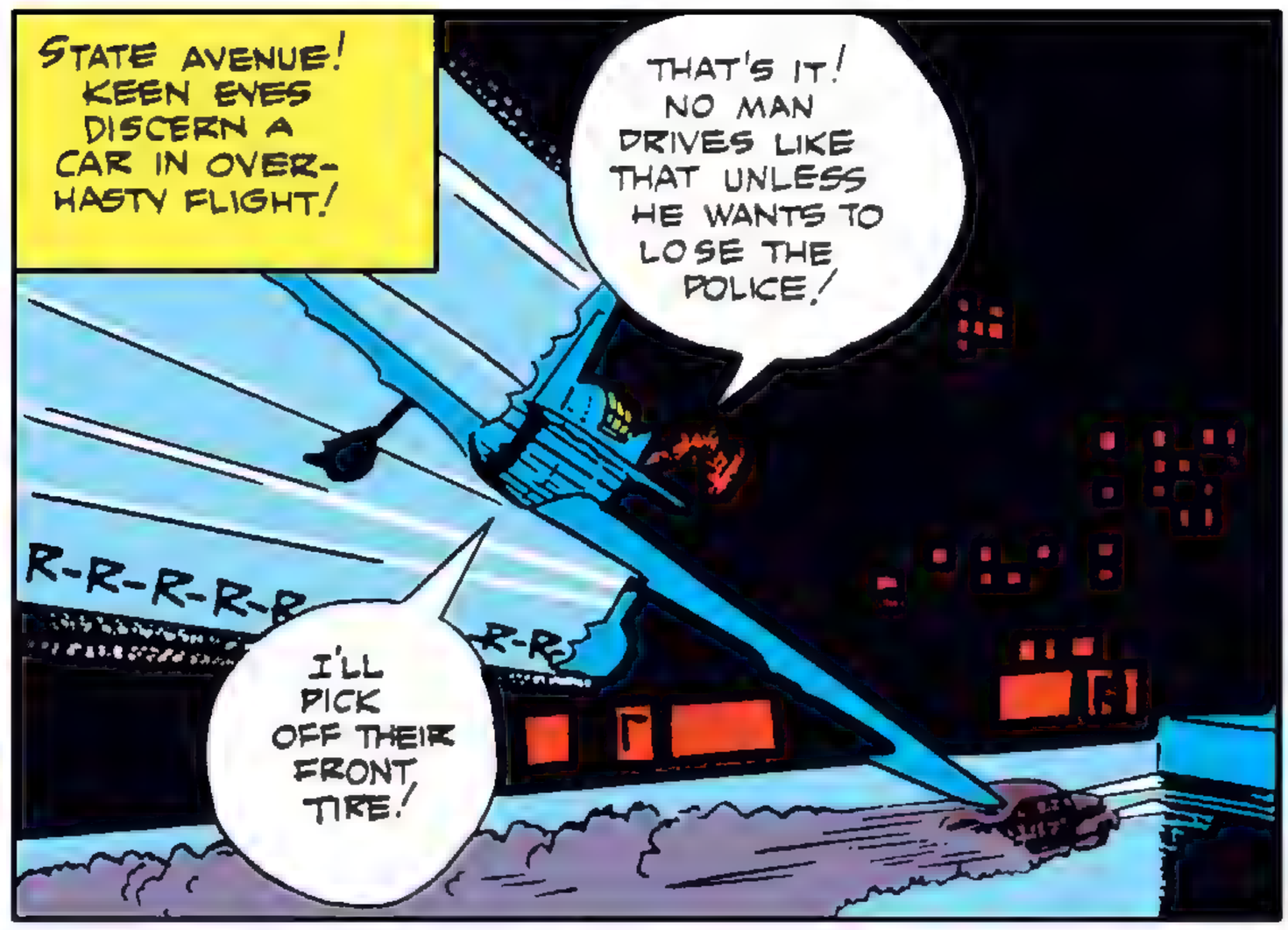

THE TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE AS BATMAN AND ROBIN NOW PAD THROUGH A DIM TUNNEL THAT BORES EARTHWARD FROM THE MANSION TO AN OLD, DESERTED BARN HOUSING THE BATPLANE.
BATMAN AND ROBIN CERTAINLY BIT ON THAT LINE ABOUT THE CRIME ANGLE HMM... IT'LL STOP THEM FROM GETTING SUSPICIOUS!

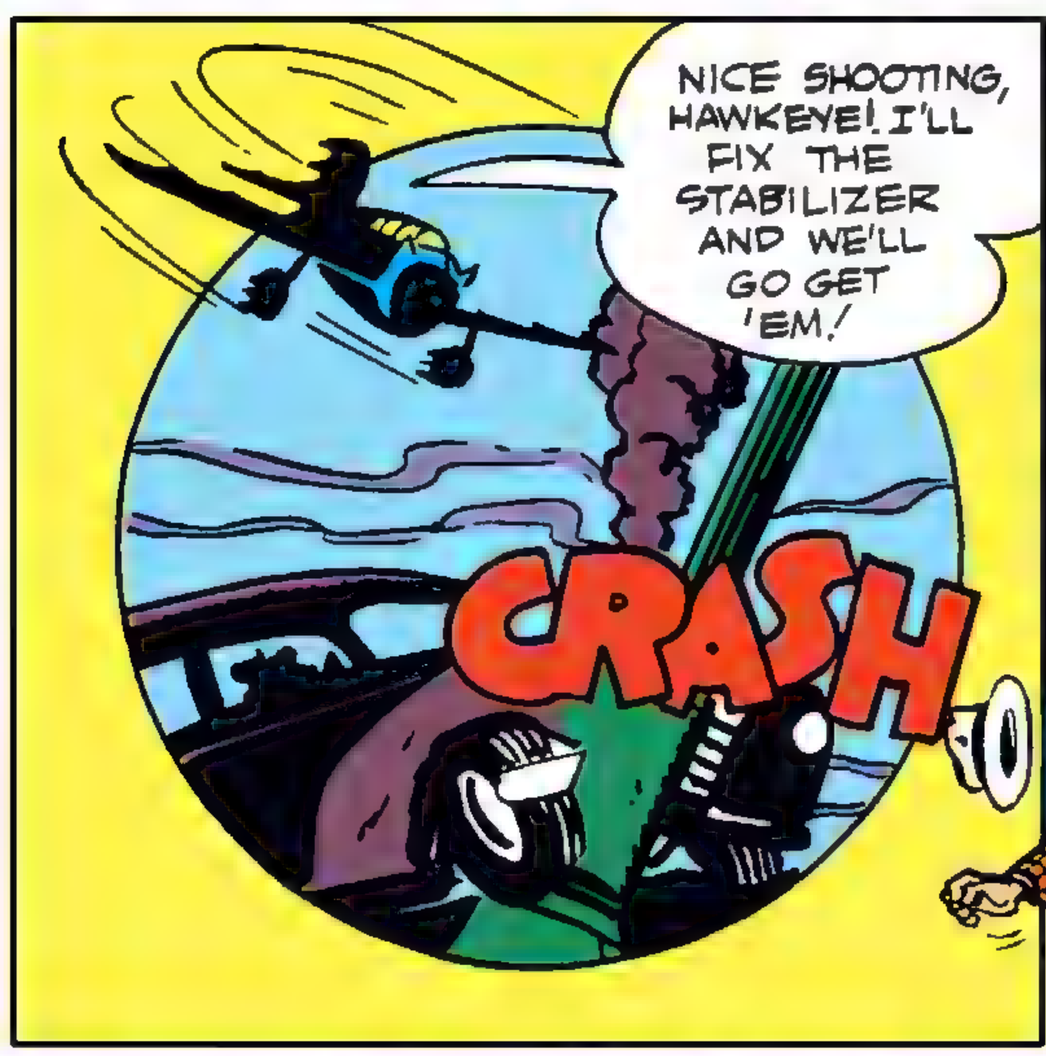
LATER... A WEIRD CRAFT FLITS PHANTOMLIKE THROUGH THE NIGHT... THE BATPLANE...

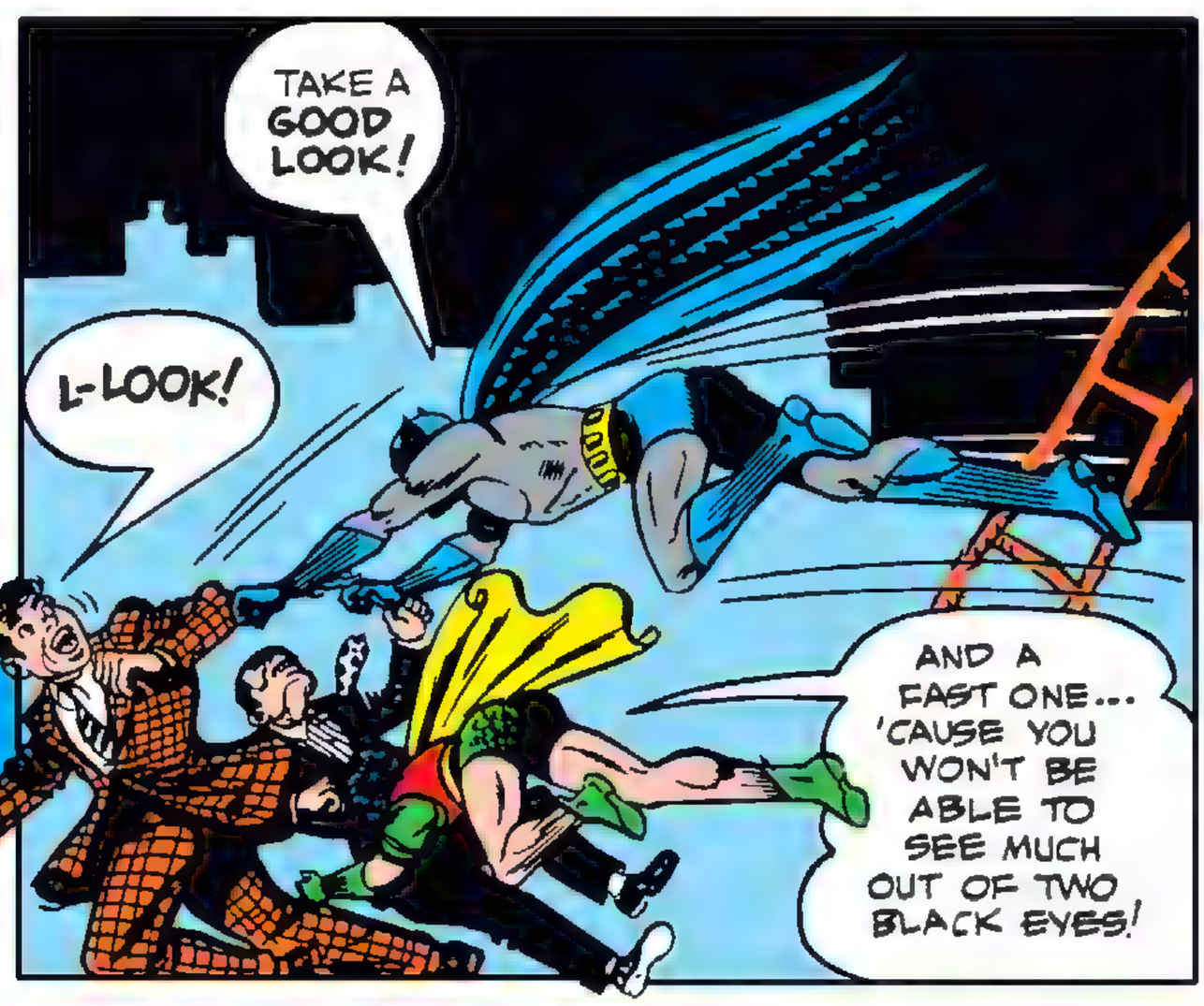

FOR THE FIRST TIME, A STRANGER RIDES A SKYTRAIL IN THE BATPLANE.
AT WORK ALREADY, SCOOP?
YOU BET! THESE EXCLUSIVE PICTURES INSIDE THE BATPLANE ARE GOING TO MAKE OUR READERS' EYES POP OUT!
CLICK!
4


Then... A POLICE ALARM!...
CALLING ALL CARS! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BANDITS IN GETAWAY CAR! JUST ROBBED THE NATIONAL BANK AT MORRIS STREET!

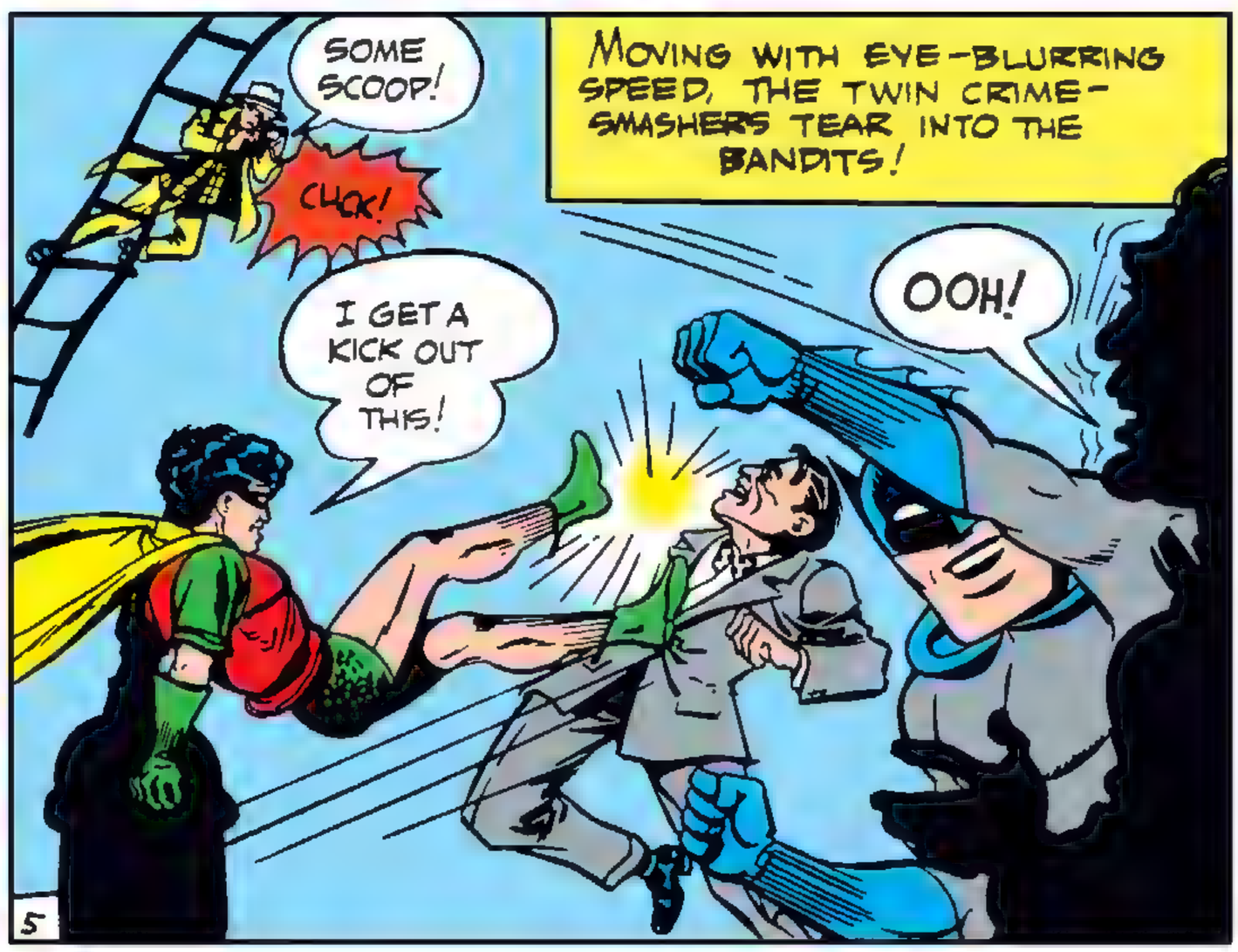

INSTANTLY THE RACKET-SMASHERS GO TO WORK, PORING OVER A MAP OF GOTHAM CITY'S STREETS.
THEY CAN'T CUT UP BY WAY OF CHARLES STREET 'CAUSE THAT'S A ONE-WAY STREET! AND LARK STREET IS A DEAD-END!
THEN THEY'LL TRY STATE AVENUE! LET'S GO!
YOU TWO CERTAINLY KNOW YOUR BUSINESS!


STATE AVENUE! KEEN EYES DISCERN A CAR IN OVER-HASTY FLIGHT!
THAT'S IT! NO MAN DRIVES LIKE THAT UNLESS HE WANTS TO LOSE THE POLICE!
R-R-R-R-R
R-R
I'LL PICK OFF THEIR FRONT TIRE!

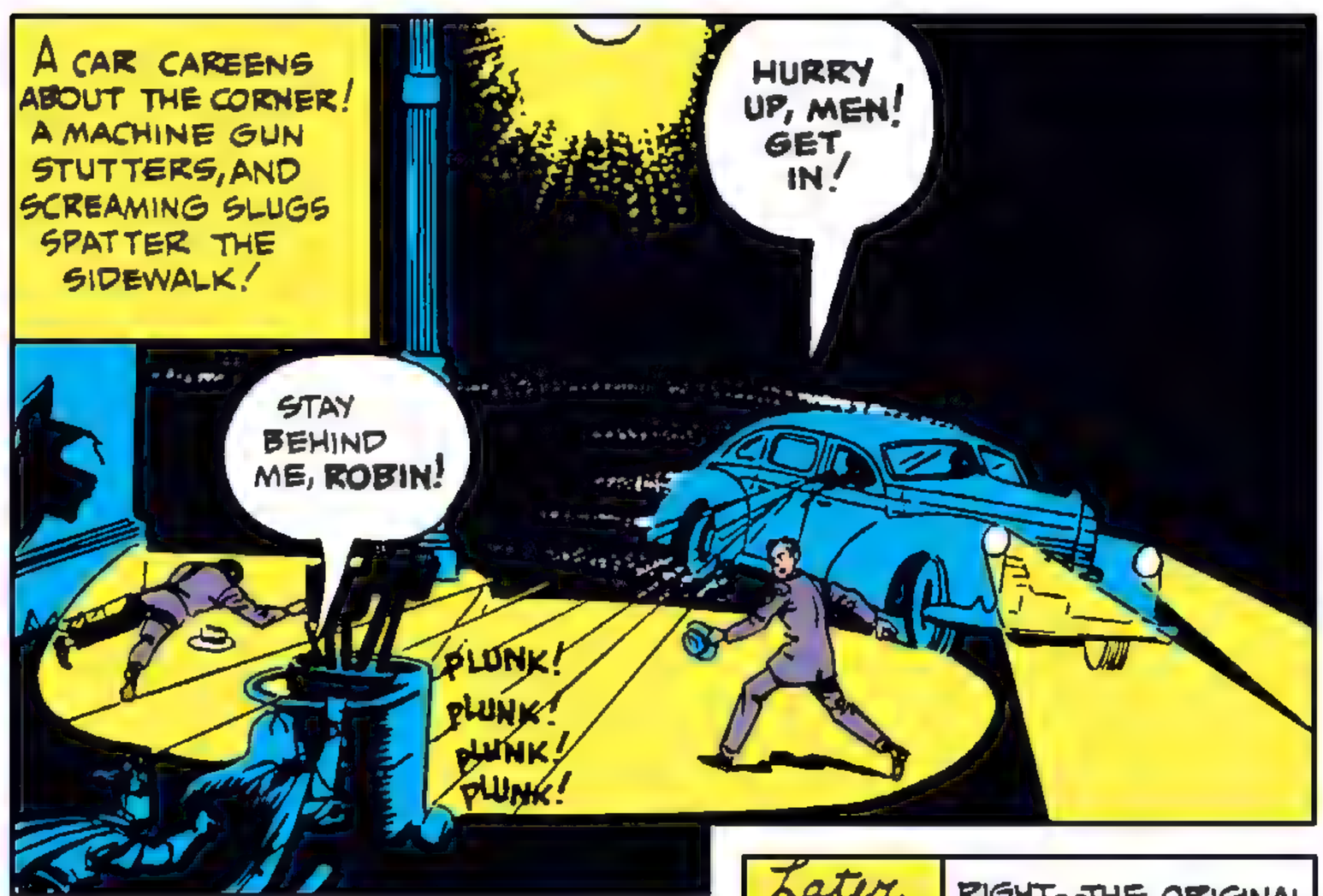

NICE SHOOTING, HAWKEYE! I'LL FIX THE STABILIZER AND WE'LL GO GET 'EM!
CRASH


TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
L-LOOK!
AND A FAST ONE... 'CAUSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE MUCH OUT OF TWO BLACK EYES!

HERE! DON'T CROWD EACH OTHER! I CAN ACCOMMODATE BOTH OF YOU!


SOME SCOOP!
CLICK!
MOVING WITH EYE-BLURRING SPEED, THE TWIN CRIME-SMASHERS TEAR INTO THE BANDITS!
I GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!
OOH!
5

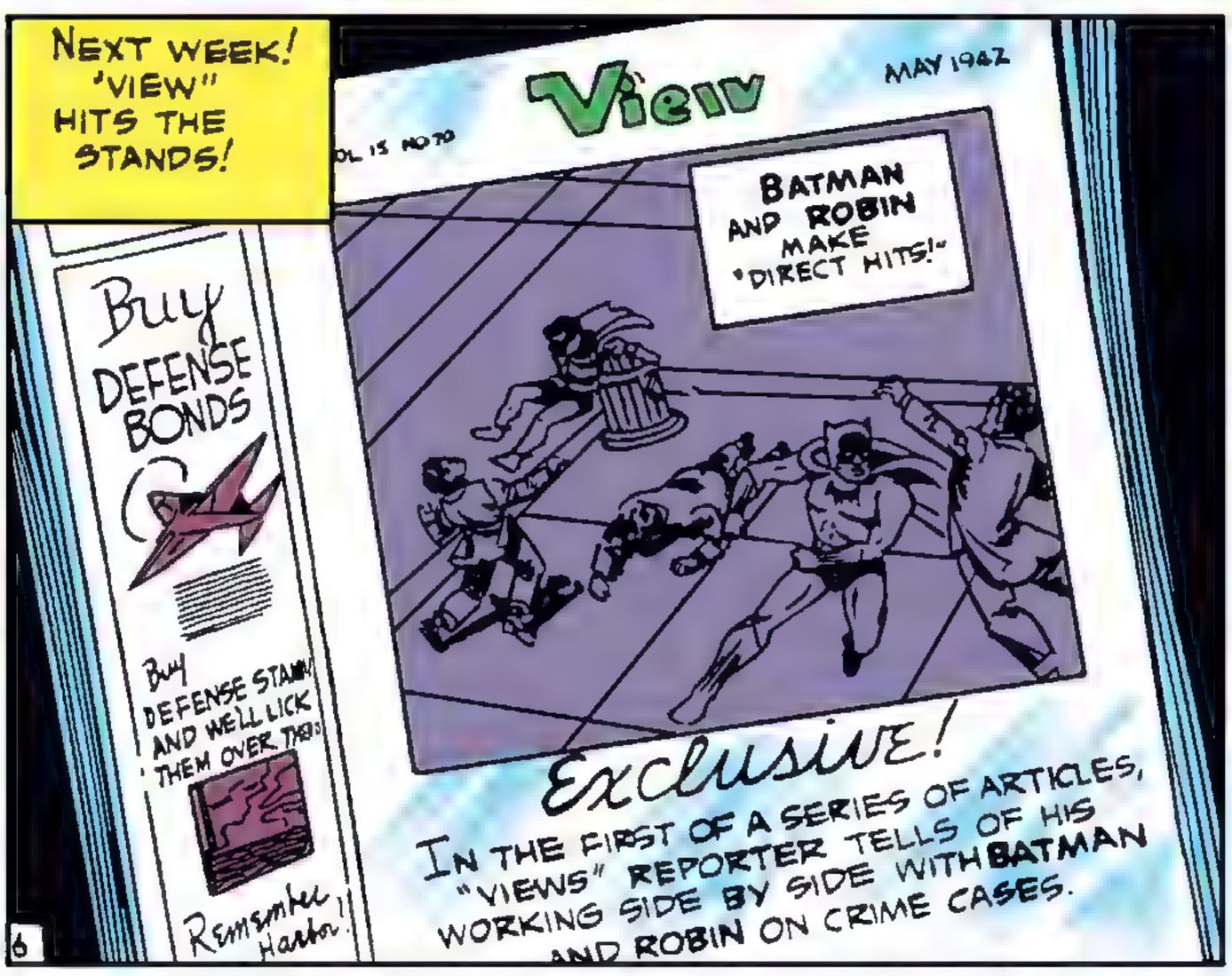
WITHOUT WARNING...BATMAN SLAMS ROBIN TO THE GROUND!
HUG THE SIDE-WALK!
HEY...


A CAR CAREENS ABOUT THE CORNER! A MACHINE GUN STUTTERS, AND SCREAMING SLUGS SPATTER THE SIDEWALK!
HURRY UP, MEN! GET IN!
STAY BEHIND ME, ROBIN!
PLUNK! PLUNK! PLUNK!

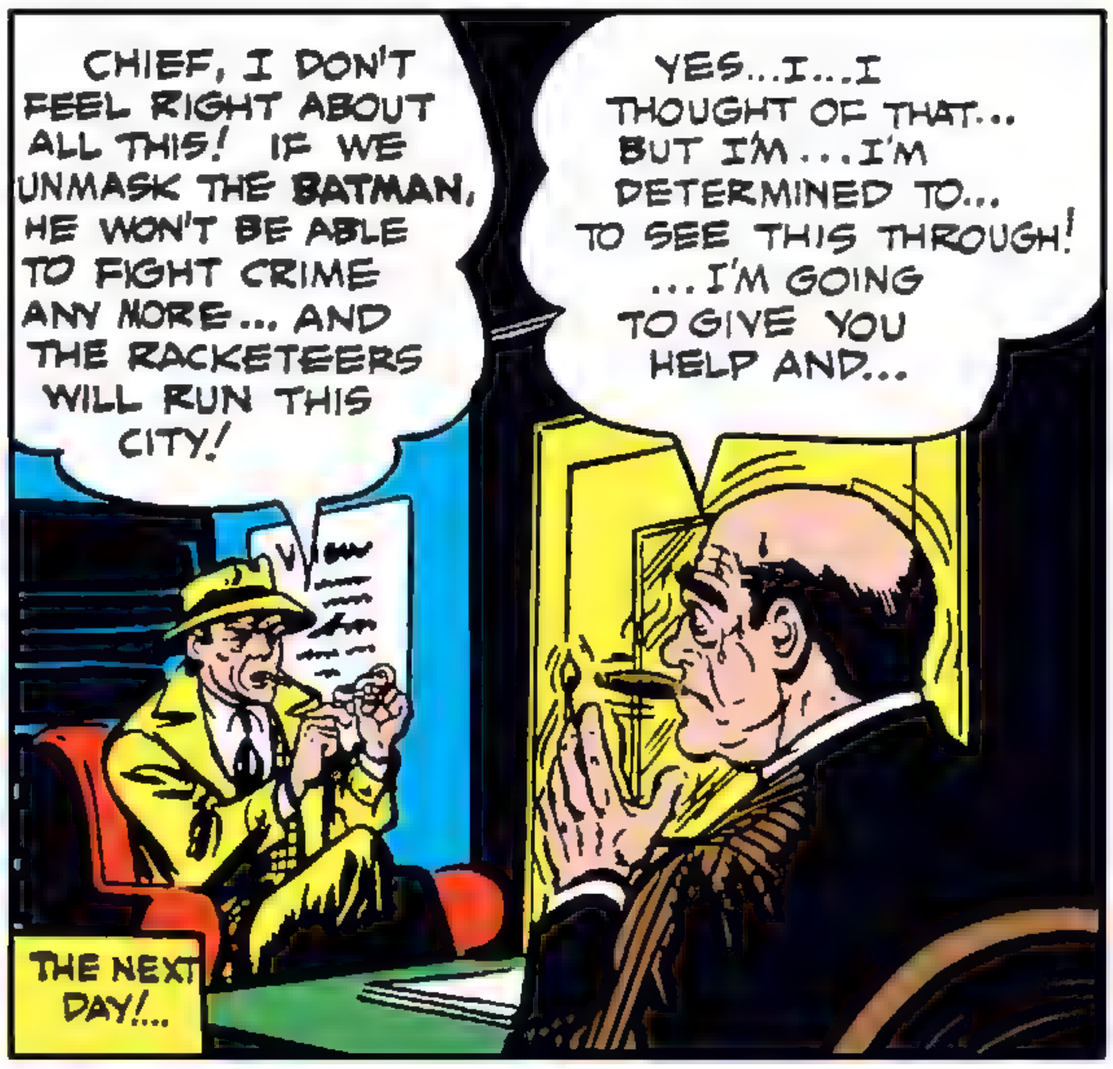
THE GETAWAY IS SUCCESSFUL!
NO USE FOLLOWING! THAT CAR WILL SOON HIT HEAVY TRAFFIC AND WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SPOT IT!
PRETTY CLEVER, USING A SECOND CAR TO COVER THEIR GETAWAY! THEY CERTAINLY WORK ACCORDING TO PLAN!
PLAN? HMM... C'MON, LET'S GET TO THAT BANK!
STORE

AT THE LOOTED BANK...
THAT'S RIGHT! THEY CUT THE WIRES ON THE TIME-LOCK! IT WAS ONLY BY ACCIDENT THAT I SPOTTED THEM!
THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PERFECT CRIME, EXCEPT FOR THAT LITTLE HITCH! WE-ELL!

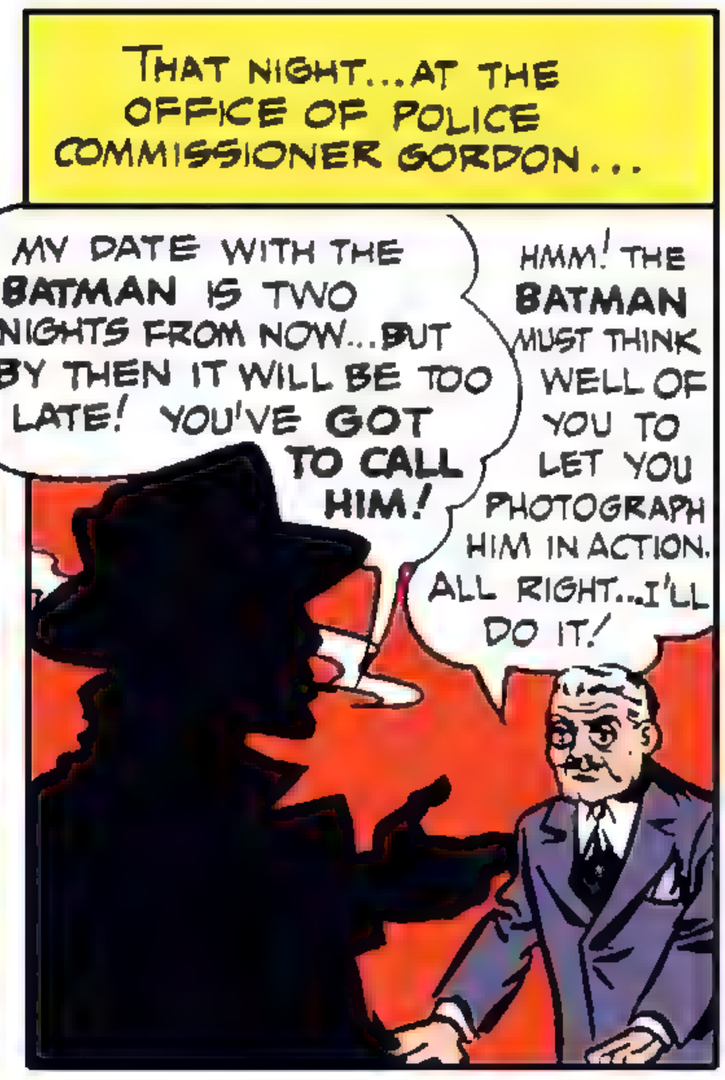
Later...
YOU THINK THAT ROBBERY WAS COMMITTED JUST LIKE THE ONE DRAMA-TIZED ON THE RADIO PROGRAM?
RIGHT--THE ORIGINAL ROBBERS FORGOT ABOUT THE TIME-LOCK. BUT THESE BOYS WERE WISE BECAUSE OF THE BROADCAST! THEY PULLED A PERFECT CRIME! YET...PERHAPS IT WAS A COINCI-DENCE!


NEXT WEEK! "VIEW" HITS THE STANDS!
View
MAY 1942
BATMAN AND ROBIN MAKE "DIRECT HITS!"
Buy DEFENSE BONDS
Buy DEFENSE STAMPS AND WE'LL LICK THEM OVER THERE!
Remember Pearl Harbor!
Exclusive!
IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES, "VIEWS" REPORTER TELLS OF HIS WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN ON CRIME CASES.

THE SAME NIGHT, A DARK FIGURE LOOMS MENACINGLY IN THE DOORWAY OF PUBLISHER WICKS' PRIVATE OFFICE!
I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY...ALL I WANT IS CONVERSATION!
A BURGLAR! I...I'LL GIVE YOU MY MONEY! DON'T SHOOT!


CHIEF, I DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT ALL THIS! IF WE UNMASK THE BATMAN, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT CRIME ANY MORE... AND THE RACKETEERS WILL RUN THIS CITY!
YES...I...I THOUGHT OF THAT... BUT I'M...I'M DETERMINED TO... TO SEE THIS THROUGH! ...I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU HELP AND...
THE NEXT DAY!...

LATER...A PUZZLED SCOOP LEAVES...
'HMPH! CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW THE BOSS SO NERVOUS!


THAT NIGHT...AT THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
MY DATE WITH THE BATMAN IS TWO NIGHTS FROM NOW...BUT BY THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE! YOU'VE GOT TO CALL HIM!
HMM! THE BATMAN MUST THINK WELL OF YOU TO LET YOU PHOTOGRAPH HIM IN ACTION. ALL RIGHT...I'LL DO IT!

PRESENTLY...A MILE-LONG FINGER OF LIGHT ETCHES AN EERIE SYMBOL AGAINST THE SKY!
LOOK! A BAT!
THAT LIGHT COMES FROM THE POLICE STATION ROOF! THAT'S HOW THEY CALL THE BATMAN!

NOT LONG AFTER...A CAPED SHAPE ANSWERS THE SUMMONS FROM THE SKIES!
DID SOMEONE CALL FOR ME?
BATMAN! THANK HEAVENS YOU'VE COME! I'M IN TROUBLE AND NEED YOUR HELP!

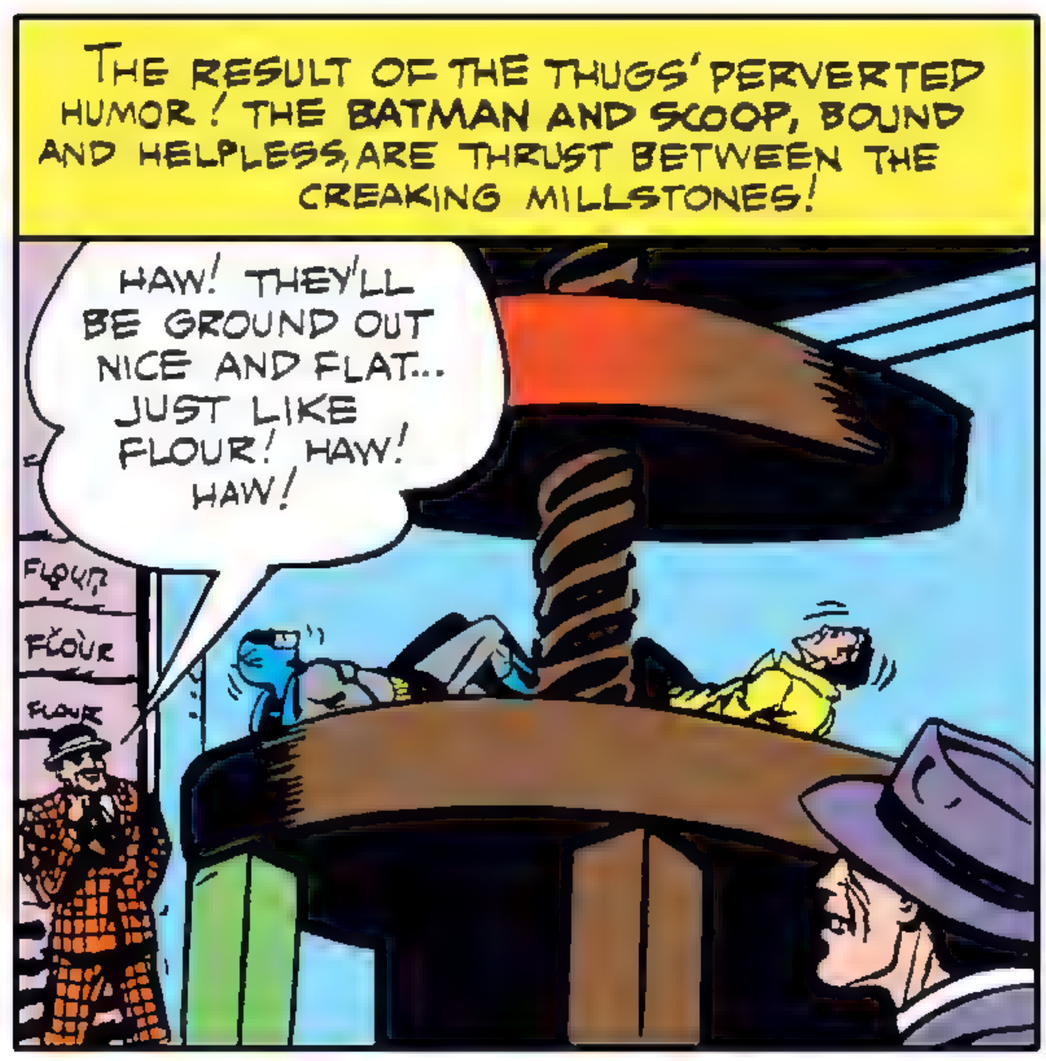
SOME TIME AFTER, THE BATMOBILE HALTS BEFORE A RAMSHACKLE OLD MILL WHOSE RAGGED BULK HUDDLES AGAINST THE BLACK SKY!
...AND THEN THEY THREATENED ME!

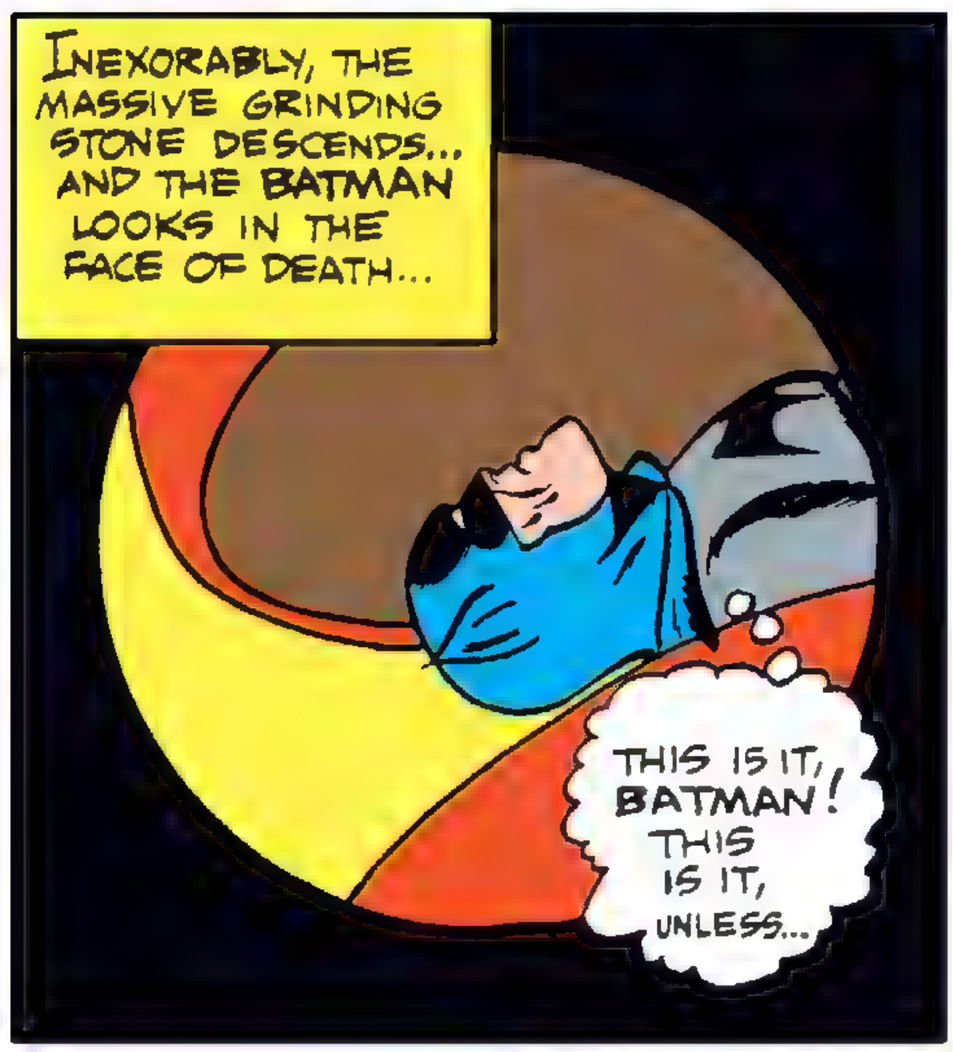
BUT AS THE BATMAN STEPS WARILY WITHIN... SUDDEN AMBUSH!! LEAPING FIGURES PINION HIS ARMS!
GOTCHA, PALLY!
I KNOW I'M A RAT, BUT ALL THIS WAS A TRAP SO I COULD FIND OUT YOUR REAL IDENTITY!
SCOOP, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER-
7

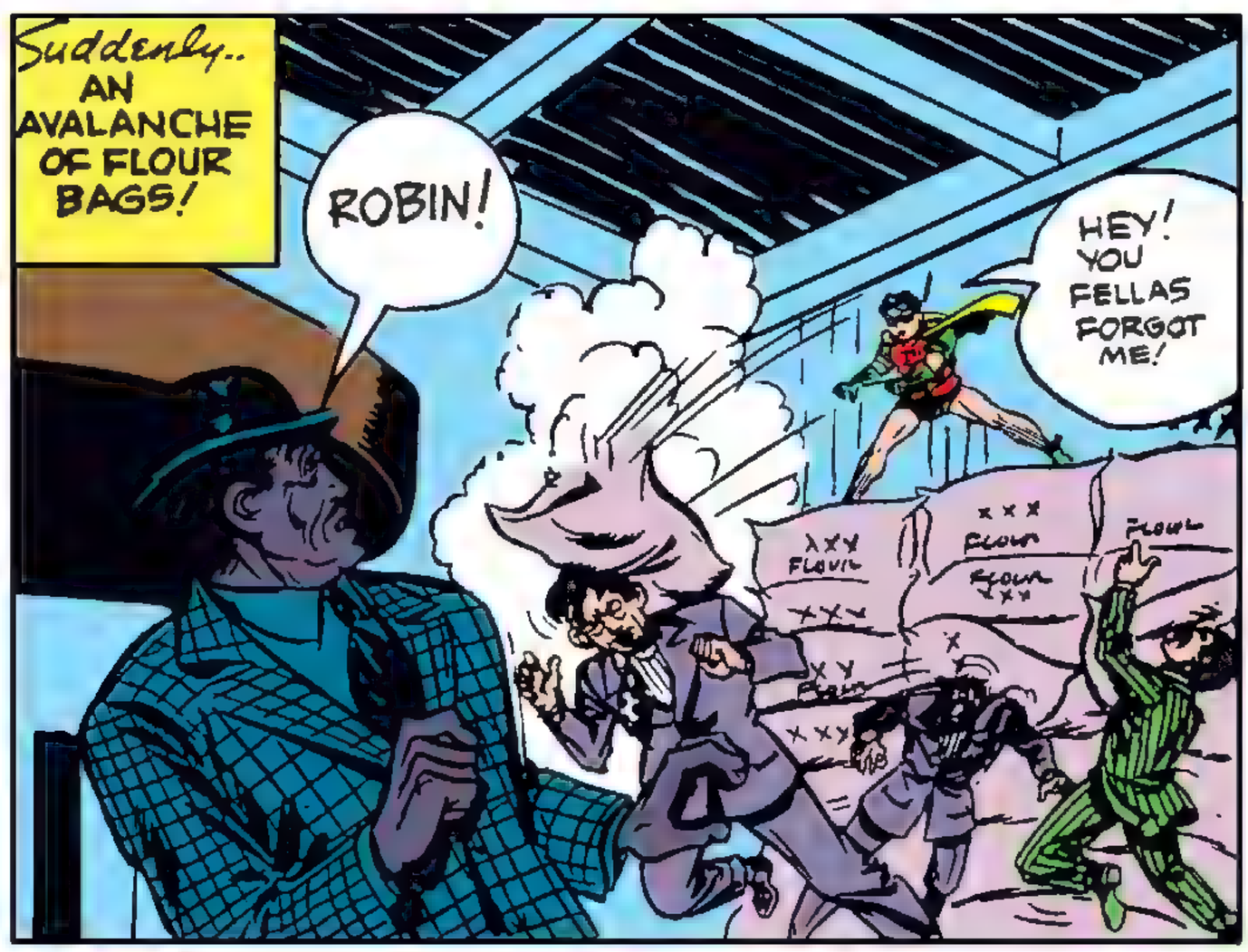
OKAY! SOMEBODY REMOVE THAT MASK WHILE I TAKE THE PICTURE! AND WHAT A PICTURE...THE BATMAN'S REAL FACE...FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE!
IT HAD TO COME EVENTUALLY! THE EXPOSURE OF THE BATMAN!

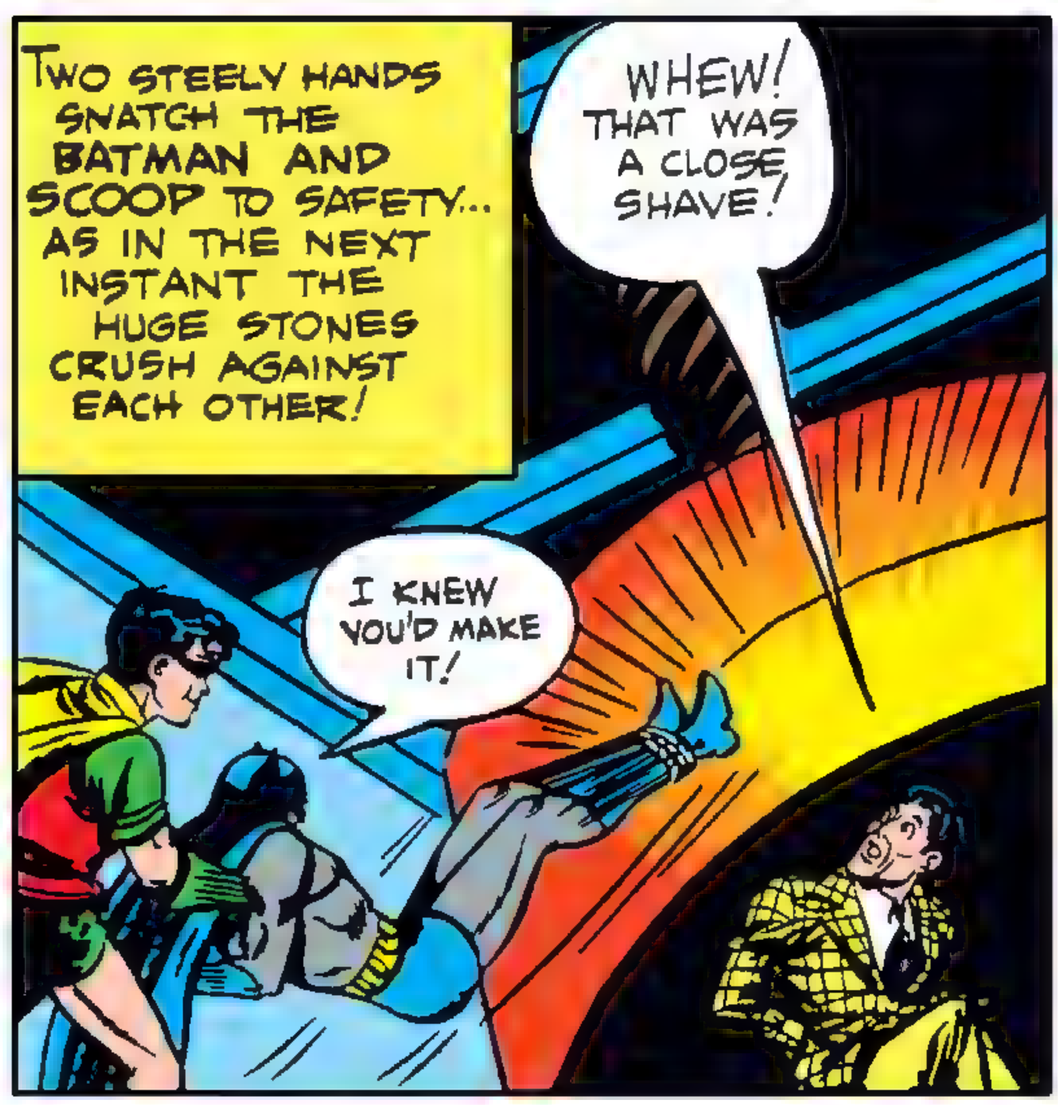
ABRUPTLY A MOCKING VOICE CUTS IN!
HAW! HAW! FORGET THE MASK. WE'RE JUST GONNA PLUG THE BATMAN THE WAY HE STANDS NOW!
HUH? WAIT! THE BATMAN IS NOT TO BE HURT! MR. WICKS JUST HIRED YOU TO AMBUSH HIM, THAT'S ALL!

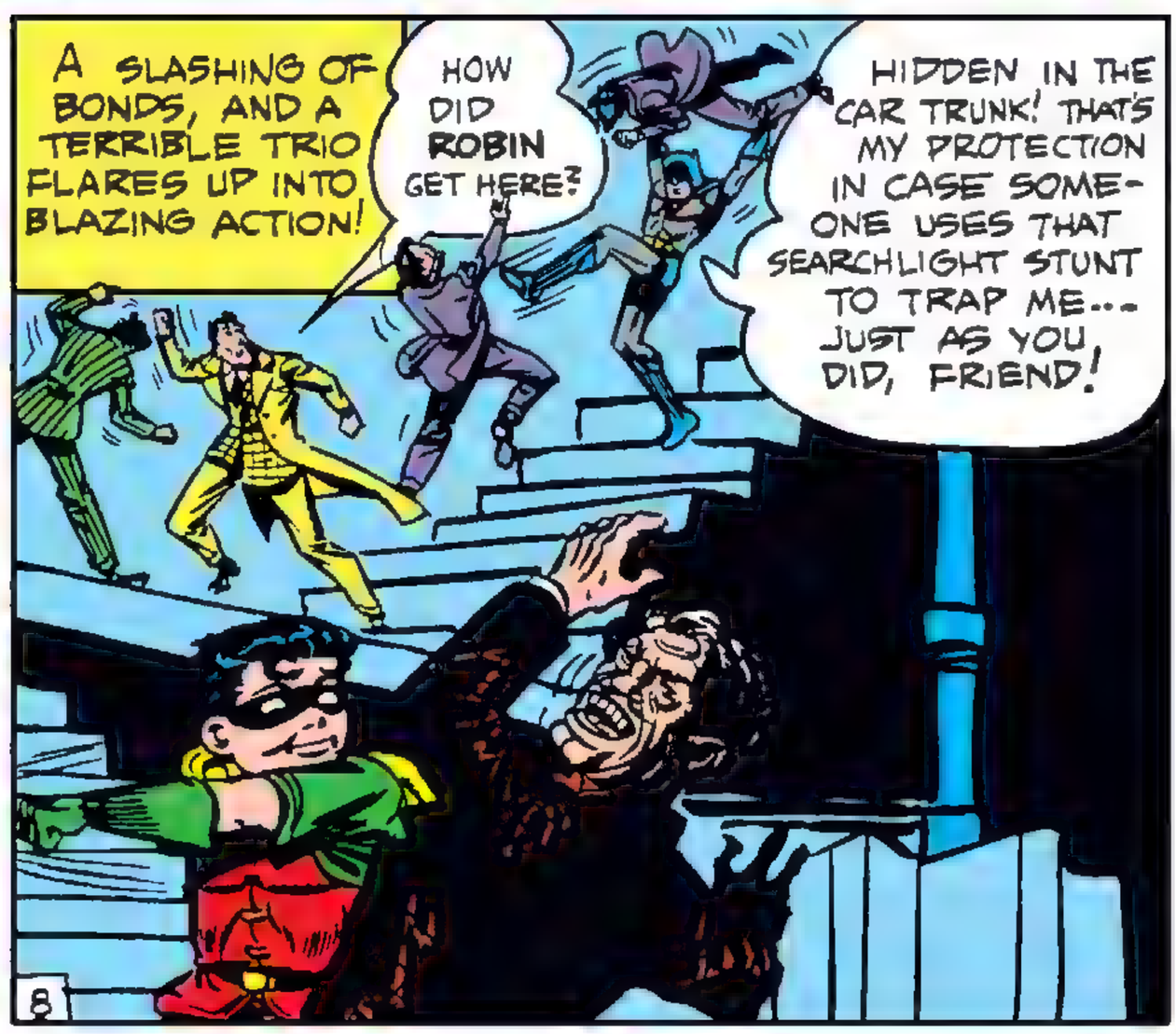
WE AIN'T TAKIN' ORDERS FROM WICKS! WE GOT ORDERS FROM OUR OWN BOSS TO GET THE BATMAN... AND YOU, TOO! YOU KNOW TOO MUCH!
SAY, APE... I GOT A BETTER IDEA... BZZ... BZZ! GOOD, EH?


THE RESULT OF THE THUGS' PERVERTED HUMOR! THE BATMAN AND SCOOP, BOUND AND HELPLESS, ARE THRUST BETWEEN THE CREAKING MILLSTONES!
HAW! THEY'LL BE GROUND OUT NICE AND FLAT... JUST LIKE FLOUR! HAW! HAW!
FLOUR
FLOUR
FLOUR


INEXORABLY, THE MASSIVE GRINDING STONE DESCENDS... AND THE BATMAN LOOKS IN THE FACE OF DEATH...
THIS IS IT, BATMAN! THIS IS IT, UNLESS...

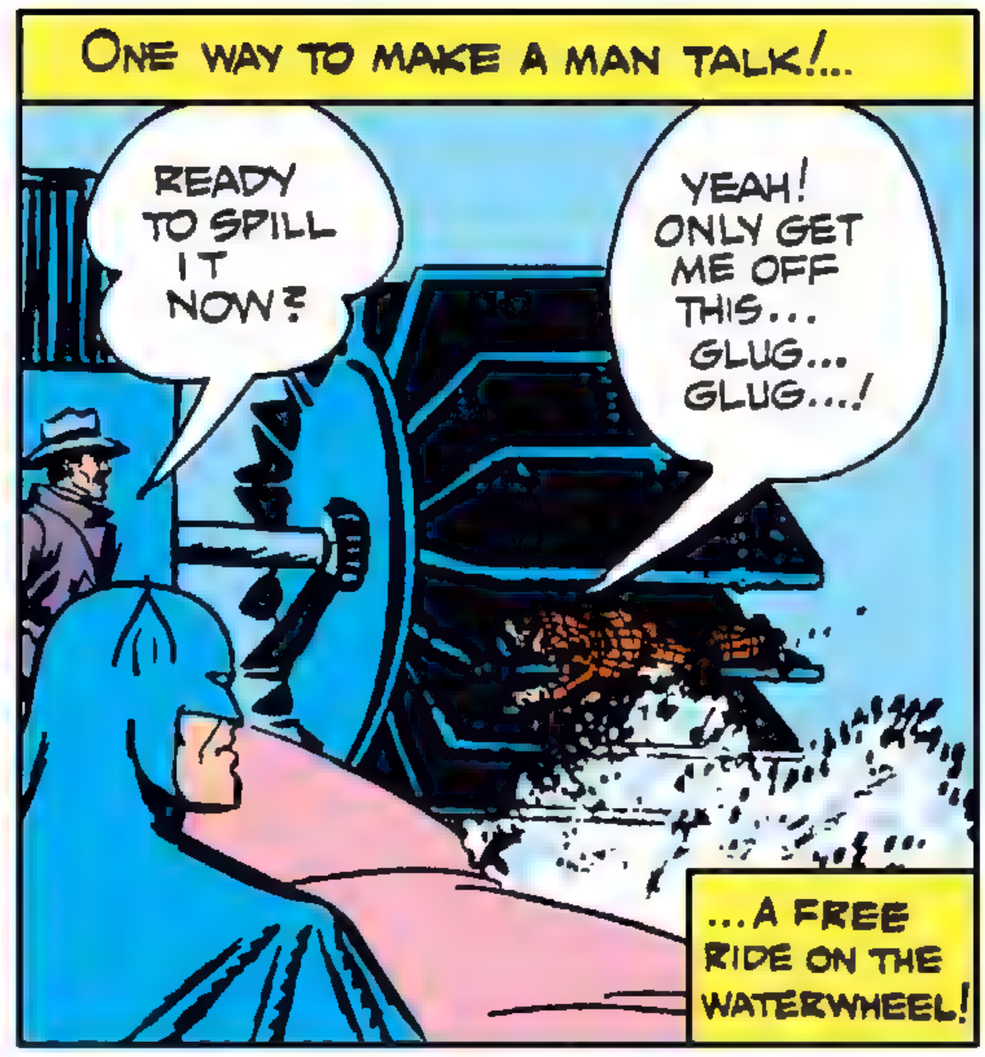

Suddenly.. AN AVALANCHE OF FLOUR BAGS!
ROBIN!
HEY! YOU FELLAS FORGOT ME!
FLOUR
FLOUR
FLOUR

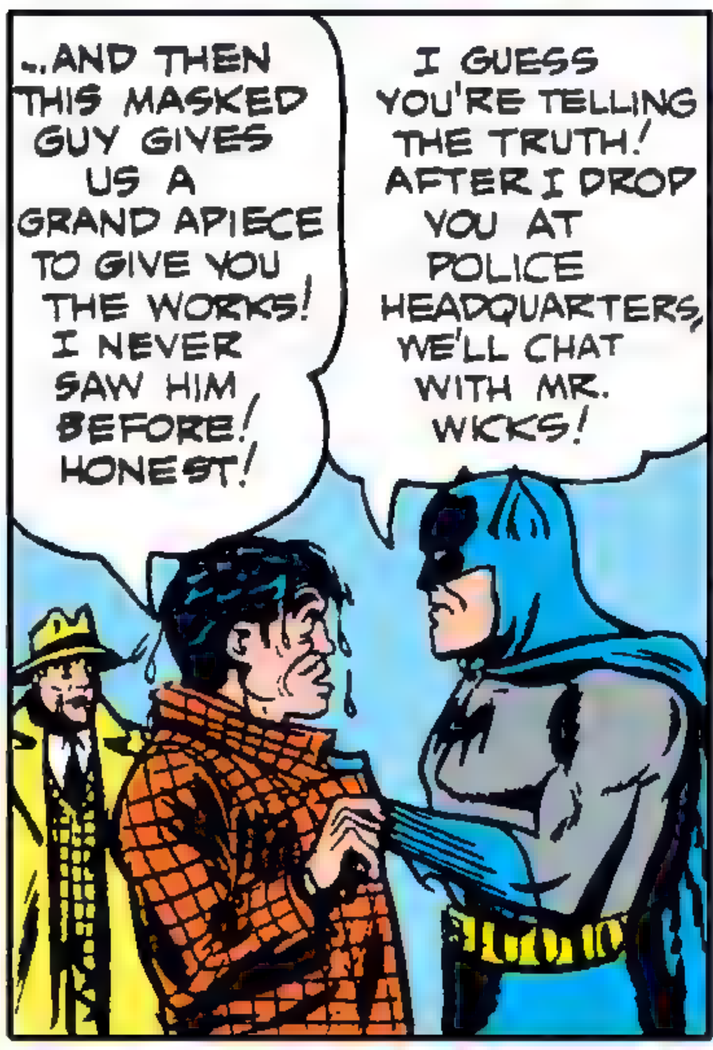

TWO STEELY HANDS SNATCH THE BATMAN AND SCOOP TO SAFETY... AS IN THE NEXT INSTANT THE HUGE STONES CRUSH AGAINST EACH OTHER!
WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE!
I KNEW YOU'D MAKE IT!

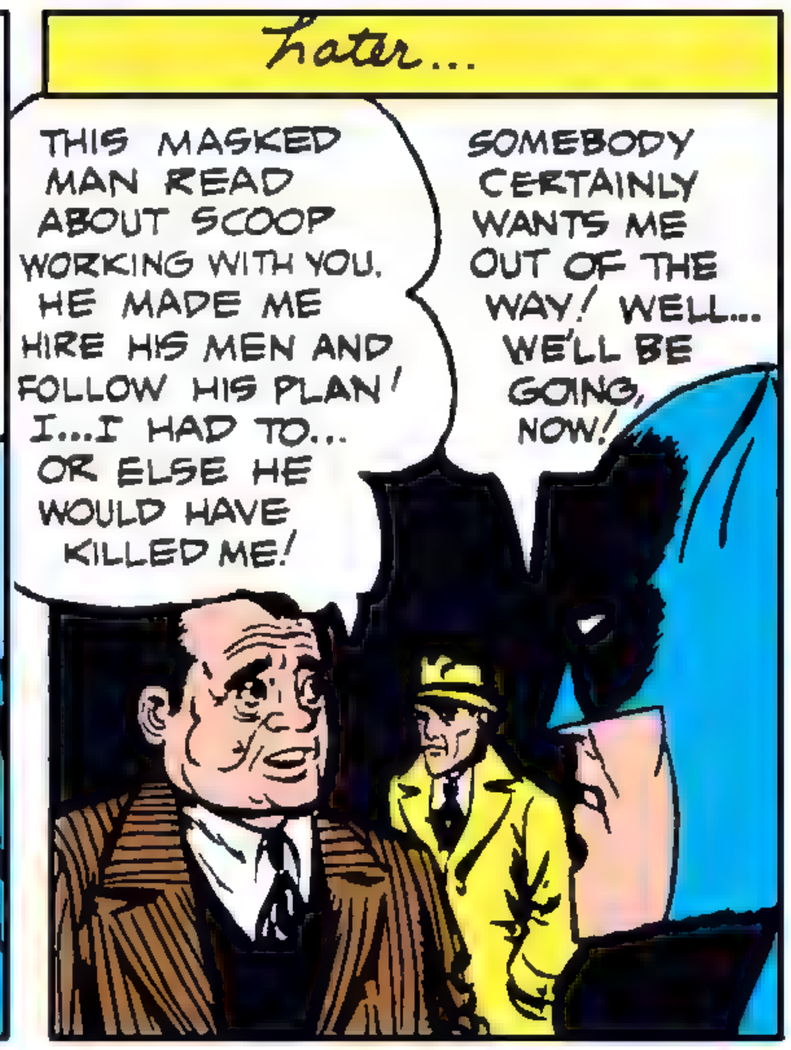

A SLASHING OF BONDS, AND A TERRIBLE TRIO FLARES UP INTO BLAZING ACTION!
HOW DID ROBIN GET HERE?
HIDDEN IN THE CAR TRUNK! THAT'S MY PROTECTION IN CASE SOMEONE USES THAT SEARCHLIGHT STUNT TO TRAP ME... JUST AS YOU DID, FRIEND!
8

WHOOPEE! I GET THE GOLD RING AND YOU GET A FREE RIDE!

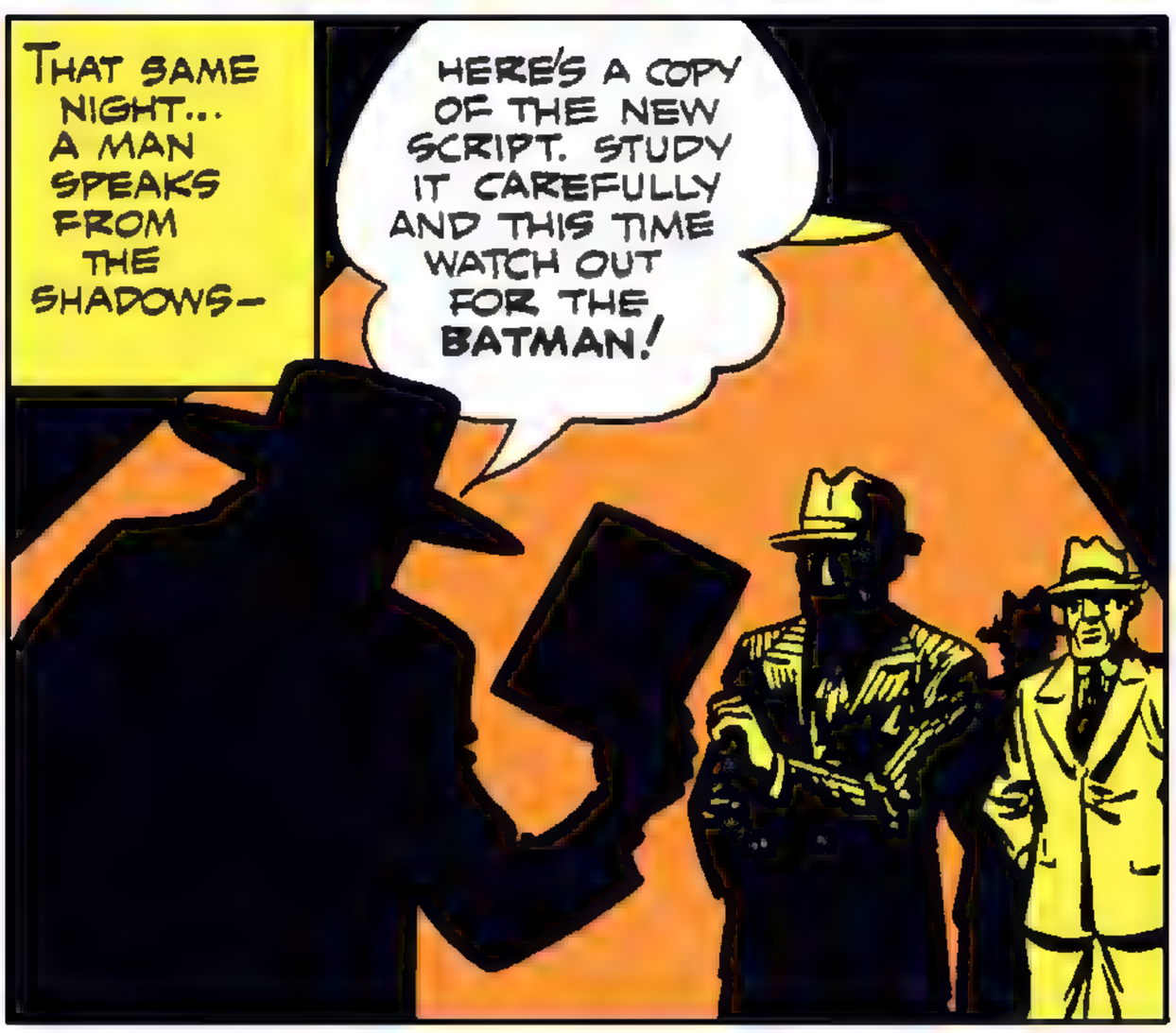
NOW, "PAL"... I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU TALK ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS BOSS OF YOURS!

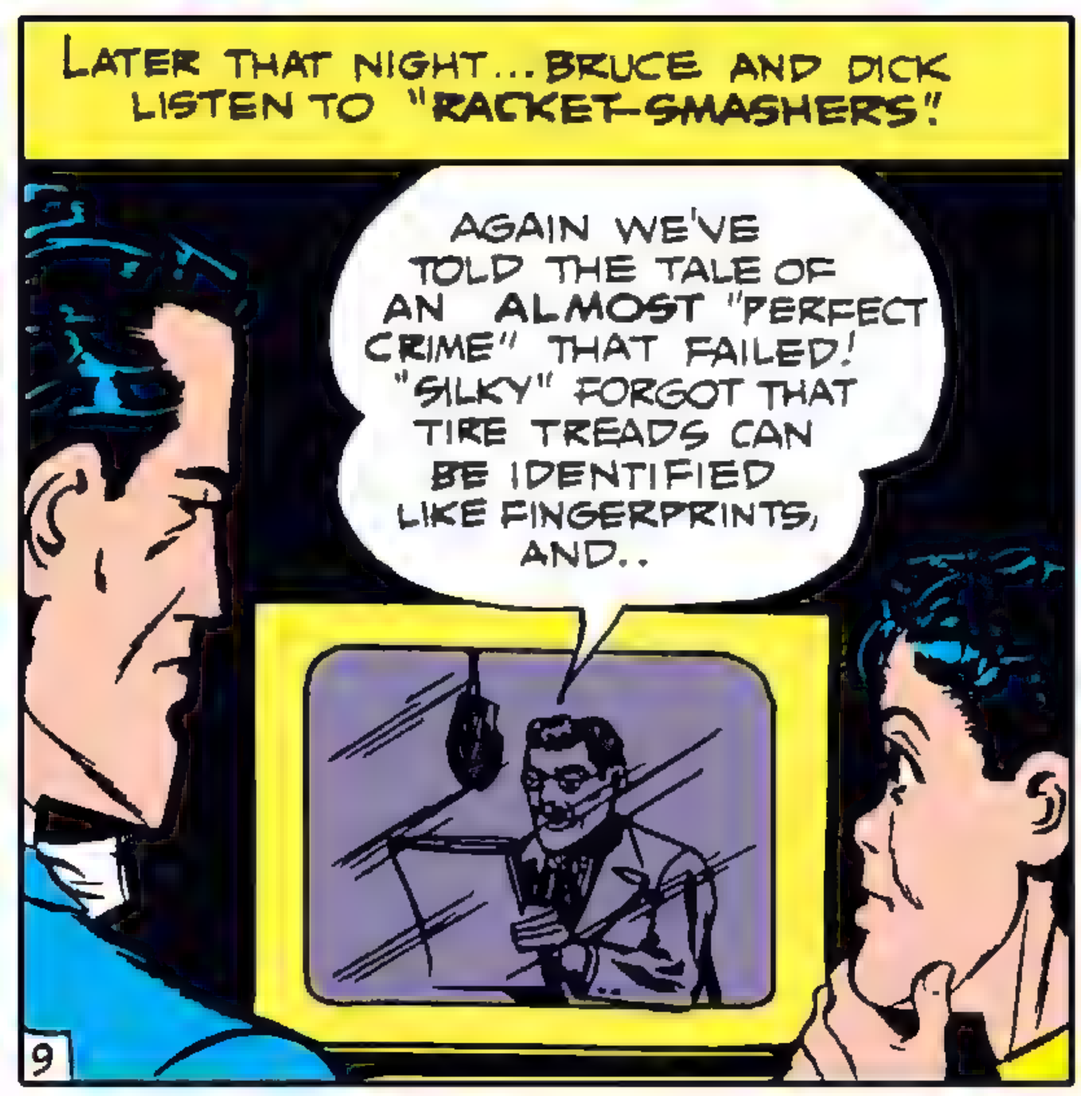

ONE WAY TO MAKE A MAN TALK!...
READY TO SPILL IT NOW?
YEAH! ONLY GET ME OFF THIS... GLUG... GLUG...!
...A FREE RIDE ON THE WATERWHEEL!


...AND THEN THIS MASKED GUY GIVES US A GRAND APIECE TO GIVE YOU THE WORKS! I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE! HONEST!
I GUESS YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH! AFTER I DROP YOU AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WE'LL CHAT WITH MR. WICKS!


Later...
THIS MASKED MAN READ ABOUT SCOOP WORKING WITH YOU. HE MADE ME HIRE HIS MEN AND FOLLOW HIS PLAN! I...I HAD TO... OR ELSE HE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME!
SOMEBODY CERTAINLY WANTS ME OUT OF THE WAY! WELL... WE'LL BE GOING, NOW!

BY THE WAY... THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE! BUT DON'T THINK I'M CALLING A TRUCE! I'LL UNMASK YOU YET!
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A PLEASANT LITTLE WAR BETWEEN FRIENDLY ENEMIES! MAY THE BEST MAN WIN! GOOD LUCK!

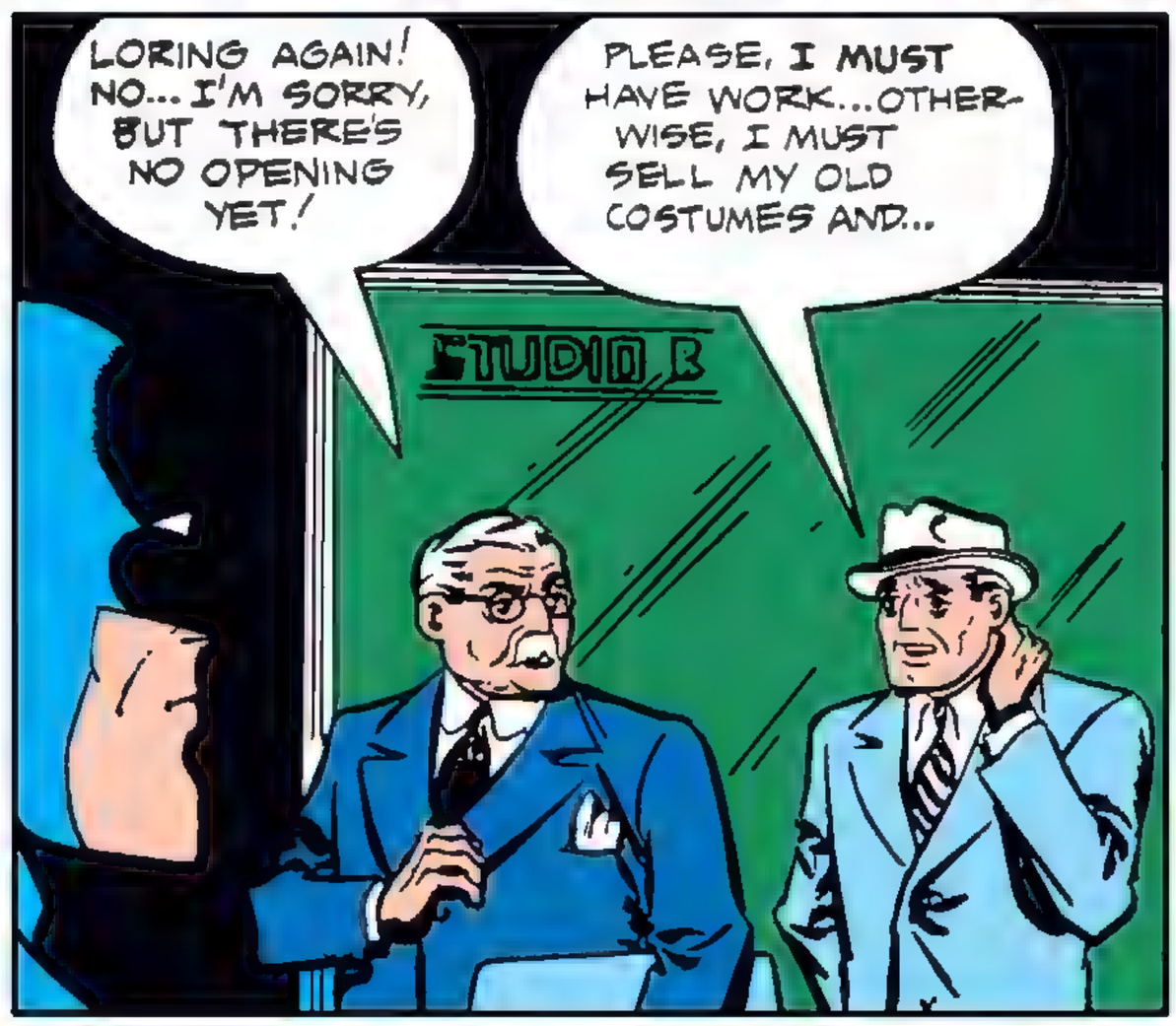

THAT SAME NIGHT... A MAN SPEAKS FROM THE SHADOWS—
HERE'S A COPY OF THE NEW SCRIPT. STUDY IT CAREFULLY AND THIS TIME WATCH OUT FOR THE BATMAN!

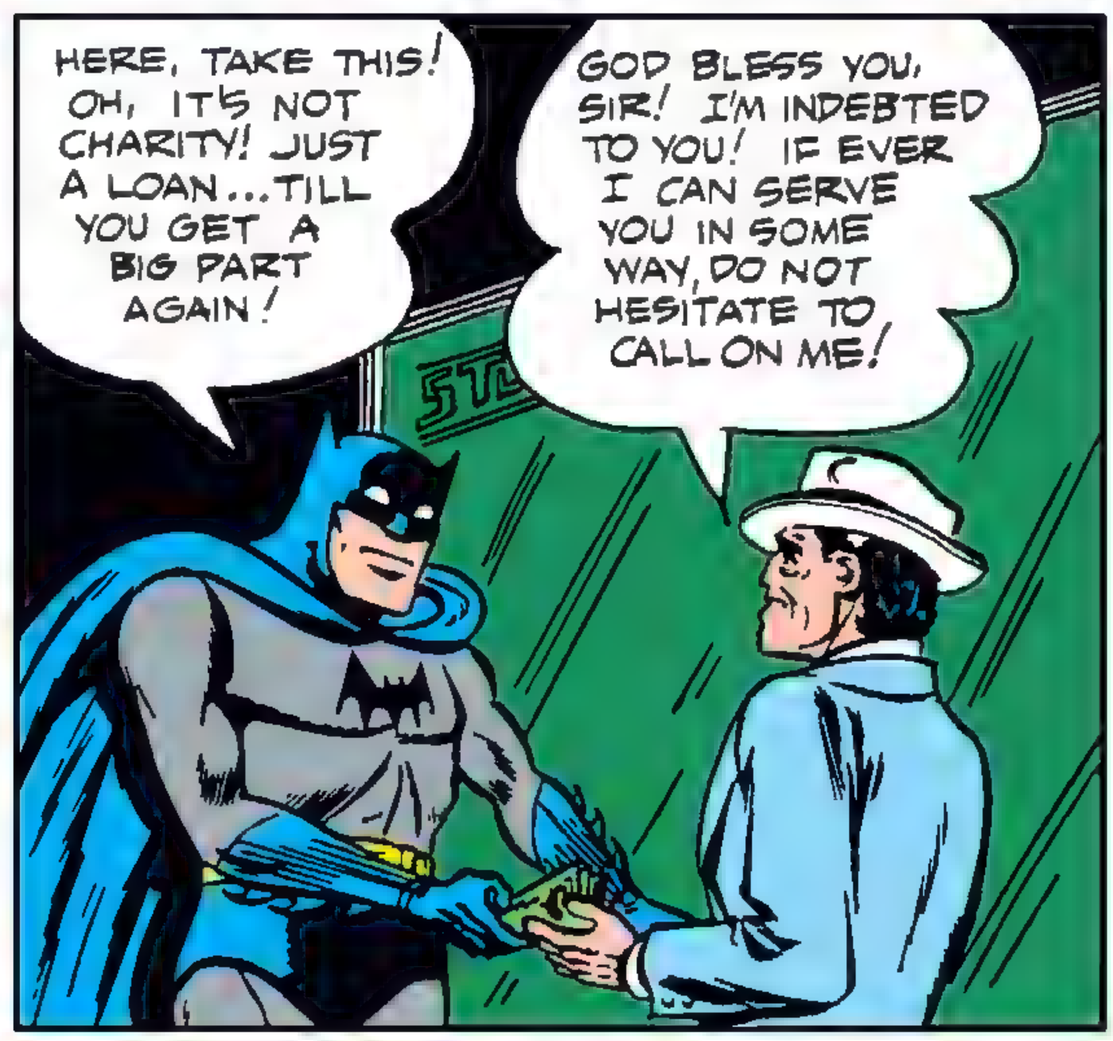

LATER THAT NIGHT...BRUCE AND DICK LISTEN TO "RACKET-SMASHERS".
AGAIN WE'VE TOLD THE TALE OF AN ALMOST "PERFECT CRIME" THAT FAILED! "SILKY" FORGOT THAT TIRE TREADS CAN BE IDENTIFIED LIKE FINGERPRINTS, AND..
9

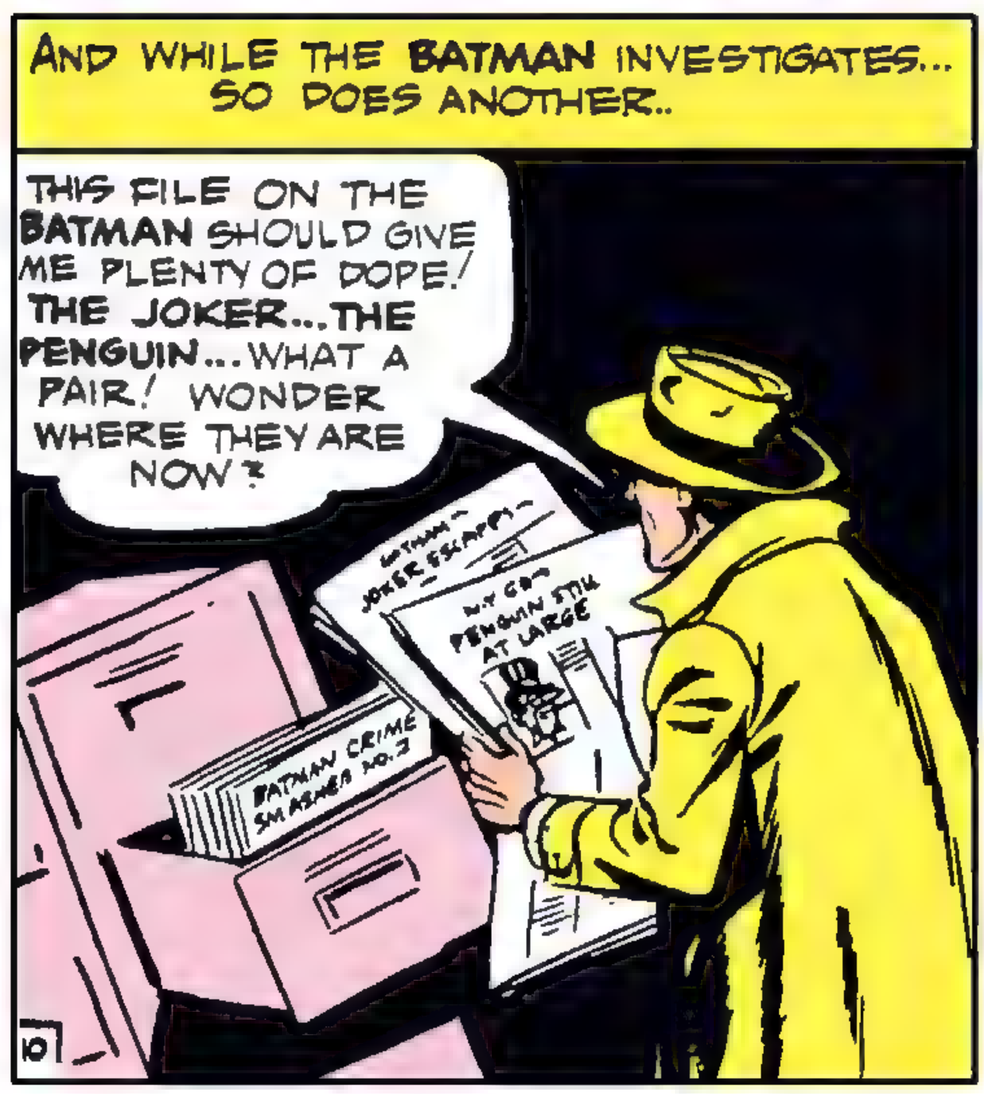
THE NEXT DAY..
LOOK! A ROBBERY PULLED EXACTLY AS IT WAS DRAMATIZED OVER "RACKET-SMASHERS" THE OTHER NIGHT... BUT THIS TIME WITHOUT MISTAKES!
THAT CLINCHES IT! THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE! PUT ON YOUR DUDS! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

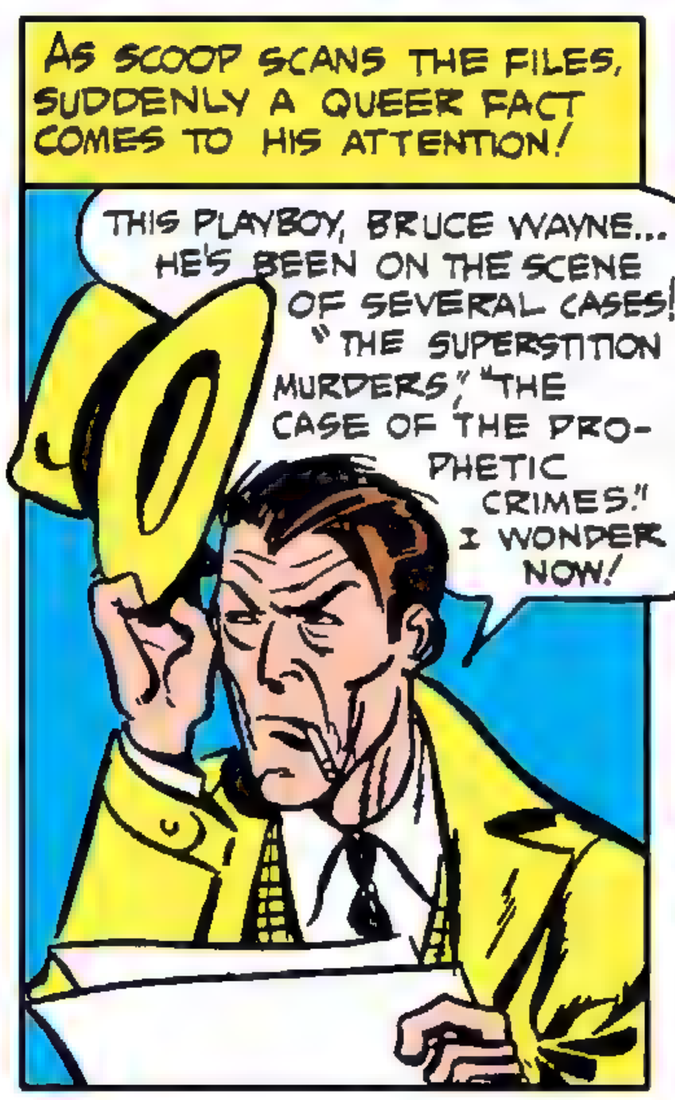
FIRST STOP! THE SCRIPT WRITER OF "RACKET-SMASHERS," MR. BRENT!
WHERE DO YOU GET THE MATERIAL FOR YOUR SCRIPTS?
POLICE RECORDS! POLICE CHIEFS COOPERATE WITH US! I GET INSIDE INFORMATION! BUT WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS?

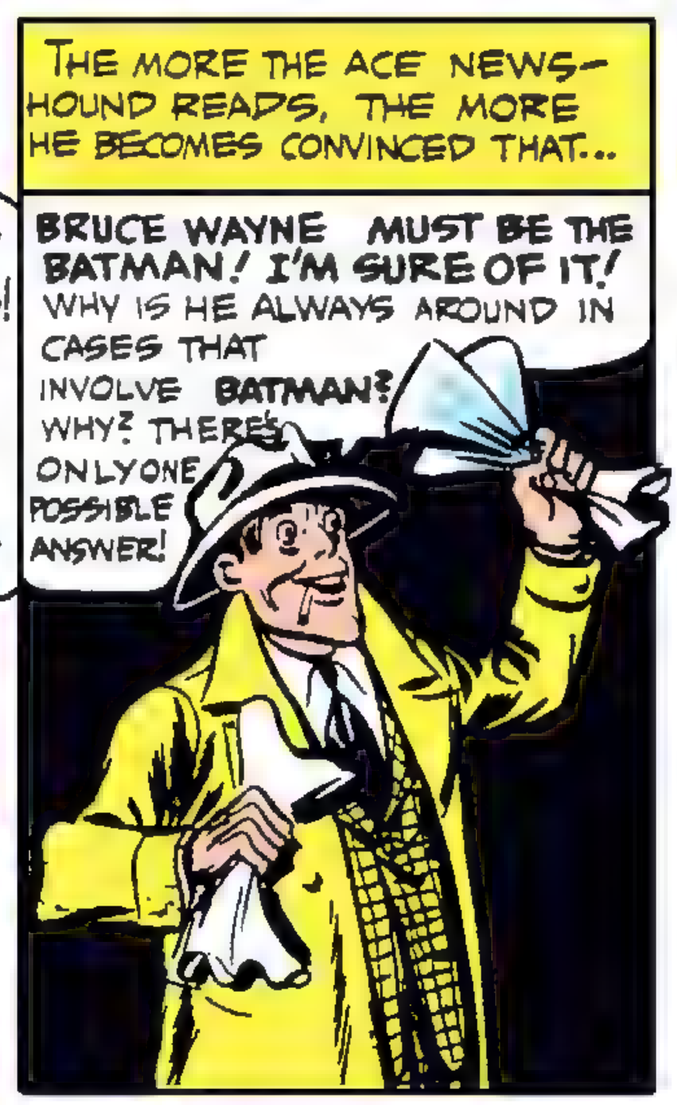
NEXT STOP! THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MR. RAND!
YOU SAY THE SCRIPTS ARE GIVEN TO THE ACTORS A WEEK IN ADVANCE?
THIS IS A TELEVISION PROGRAM! OUR ACTORS CAN'T READ FROM SCRIPTS! ONLY THE ANNOUNCER, GRAVES, DOES THAT... AND HE'S GIVEN THE SCRIPT THE DAY BEFORE WE GO ON!


LORING AGAIN! NO... I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO OPENING YET!
PLEASE, I MUST HAVE WORK...OTHERWISE, I MUST SELL MY OLD COSTUMES AND..
STUDIO B


HERE, TAKE THIS! OH, IT'S NOT CHARITY! JUST A LOAN...TILL YOU GET A BIG PART AGAIN!
GOD BLESS YOU, SIR! I'M INDEBTED TO YOU! IF EVER I CAN SERVE YOU IN SOME WAY, DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ON ME!


AND WHILE THE BATMAN INVESTIGATES... SO DOES ANOTHER..
THIS FILE ON THE BATMAN SHOULD GIVE ME PLENTY OF DOPE! THE JOKER...THE PENGUIN...WHAT A PAIR! WONDER WHERE THEY ARE NOW?
BATMAN CRIME SMASHER NO. 3


AS SCOOP SCANS THE FILES, SUDDENLY A QUEER FACT COMES TO HIS ATTENTION!
THIS PLAYBOY, BRUCE WAYNE... HE'S BEEN ON THE SCENE OF SEVERAL CASES! "THE SUPERSTITION MURDERS," "THE CASE OF THE PROPHETIC CRIMES!" I WONDER NOW!


THE MORE THE ACE NEWSHOUND READS, THE MORE HE BECOMES CONVINCED THAT...
BRUCE WAYNE MUST BE THE BATMAN! I'M SURE OF IT! WHY IS HE ALWAYS AROUND IN CASES THAT INVOLVE BATMAN? WHY? THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER!

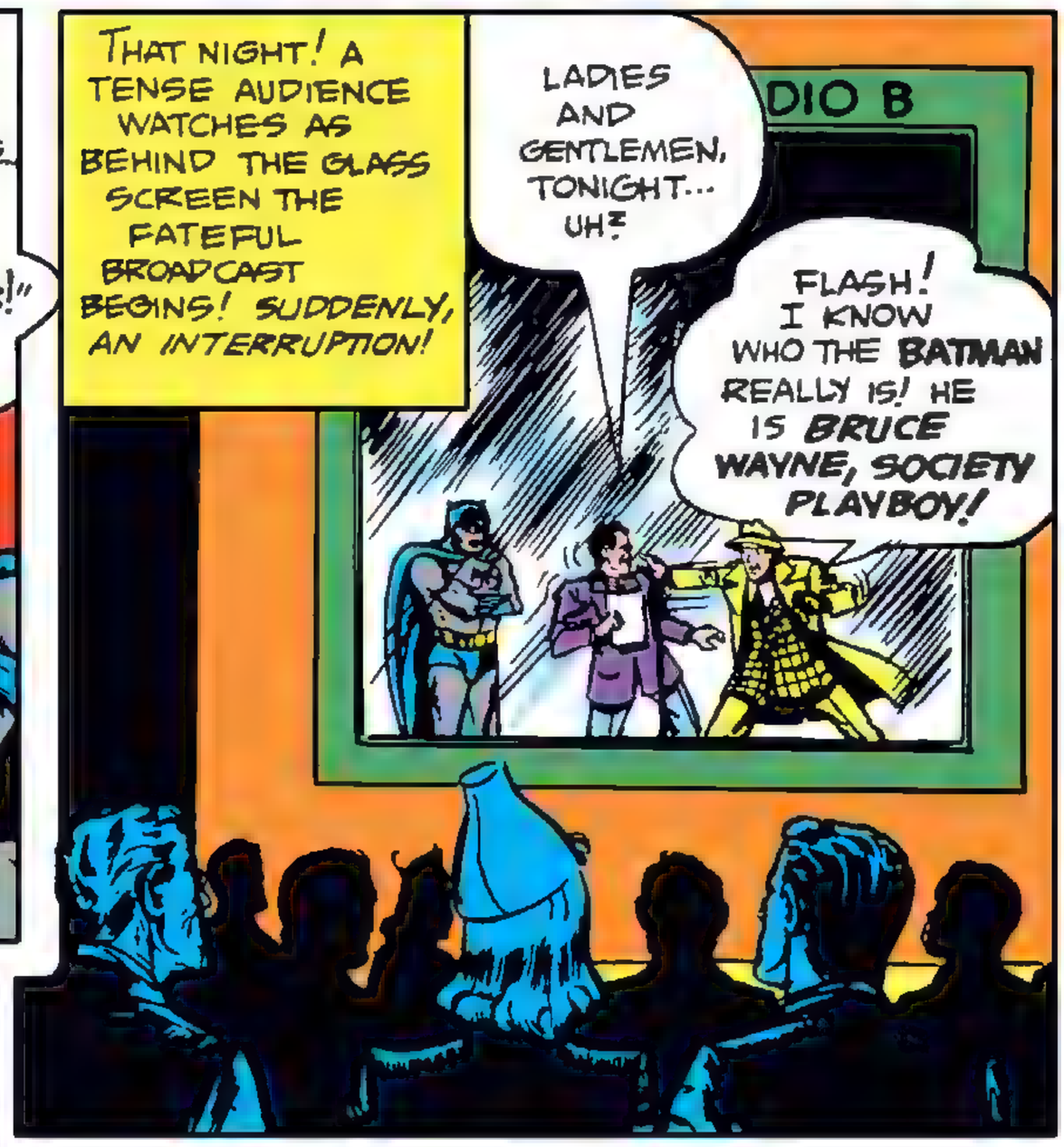
A WEEK PASSES...THEN BATMAN VISITS MR. RAND AND TELLS OF HIS SUSPICIONS!
YES...THESE CROOKS FOLLOW THE EXACT PLAN OF ACTION AS BROADCAST... ONLY WITHOUT THE MISTAKES!
AND YOU WANT ME TO SUBSTITUTE THIS SCRIPT YOU'VE WRITTEN FOR THE SCRIPT SCHEDULED? ALL RIGHT...I'LL COOPERATE!

THE CAST IS ASSEMBLED...
...AND YOU'RE TO LEARN YOUR NEW PARTS BY TOMORROW NIGHT!
T-THANKS! THANKS!
YOU HAVE A PART IN THIS, TOO, LORING!

ONE THING, THOUGH... YOU'LL FIND THE LAST PAGE MISSING FROM YOUR SCRIPTS!
I HAVE THAT! I'M PLAYING BATMAN MYSELF! AND AT THE PROPER TIME I'LL REVEAL THE NAME OF THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RADIO CRIMES!

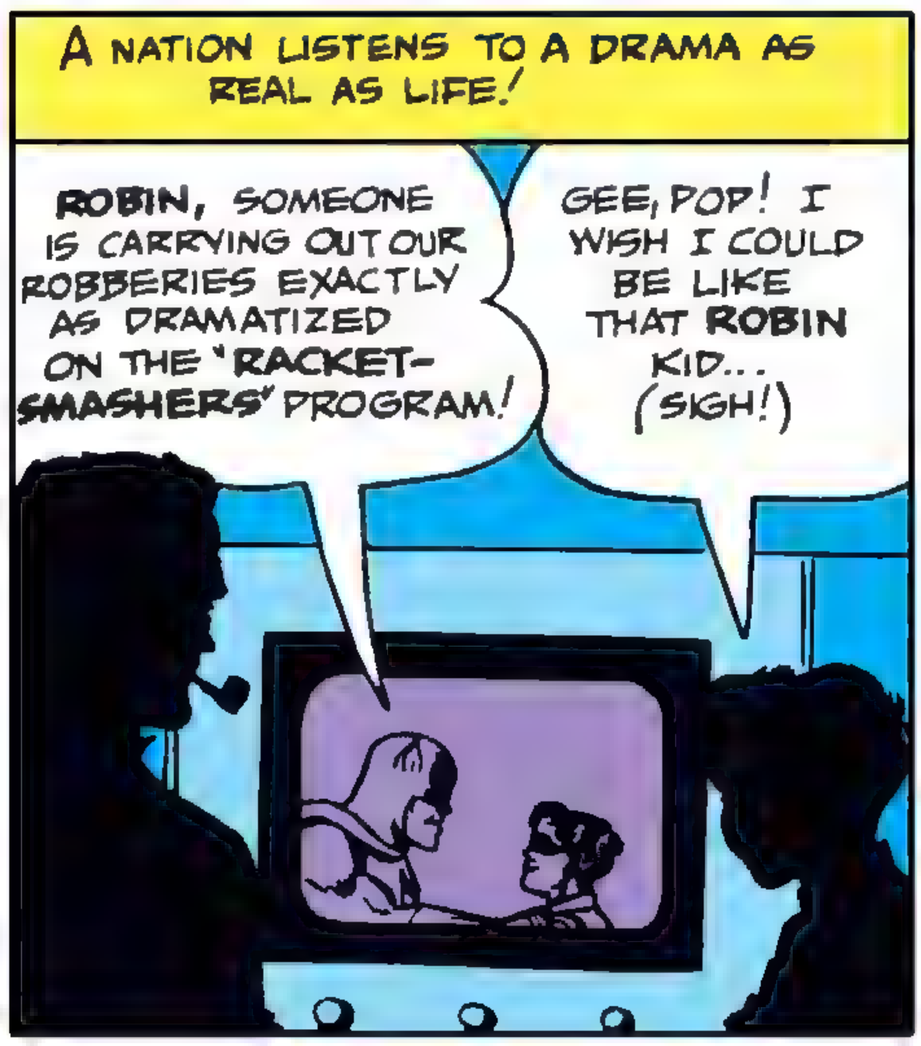
NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE THE SENSATIONAL STORY!
GOTHAM GAZ
MYSTERY BROADC
TO REVEAL RACKET
BATMAN HIM
TO ACT AND
TO NAME
OH, YEAH! WELL, MAYBE YOU WON'T GET A CHANCE TO FINISH THE BROADCAST, BATMAN!

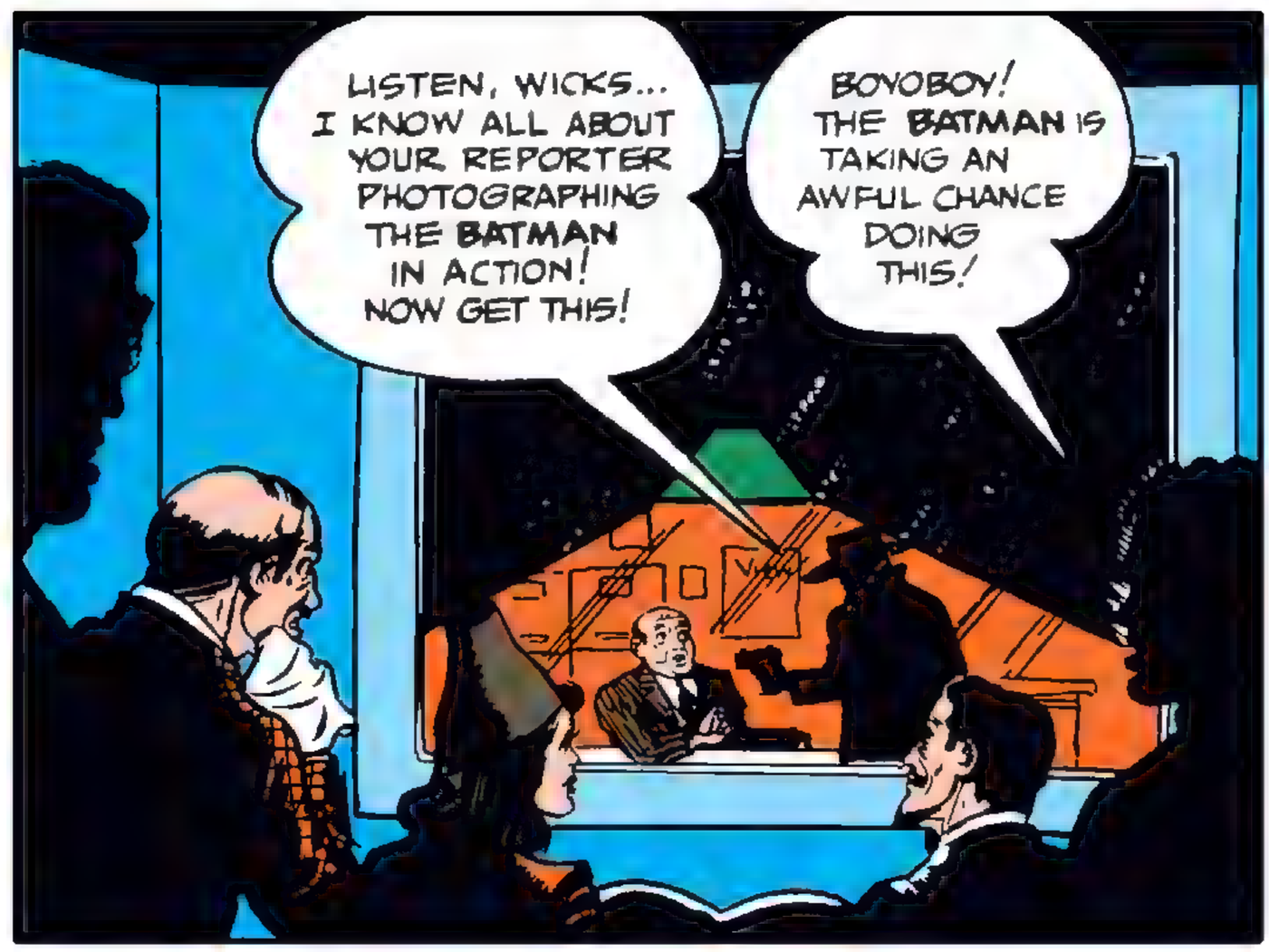
SAY- DO YOU REALIZE THAT OUR MYSTERY MAN WILL TRY TO KILL YOU TO STOP YOU FROM TALKING?
UH-HUH! AS THEY SAY IN MELODRAMAS... "I'M MARKED FOR MURDER-R-R!" SCARY, ISN'T IT?

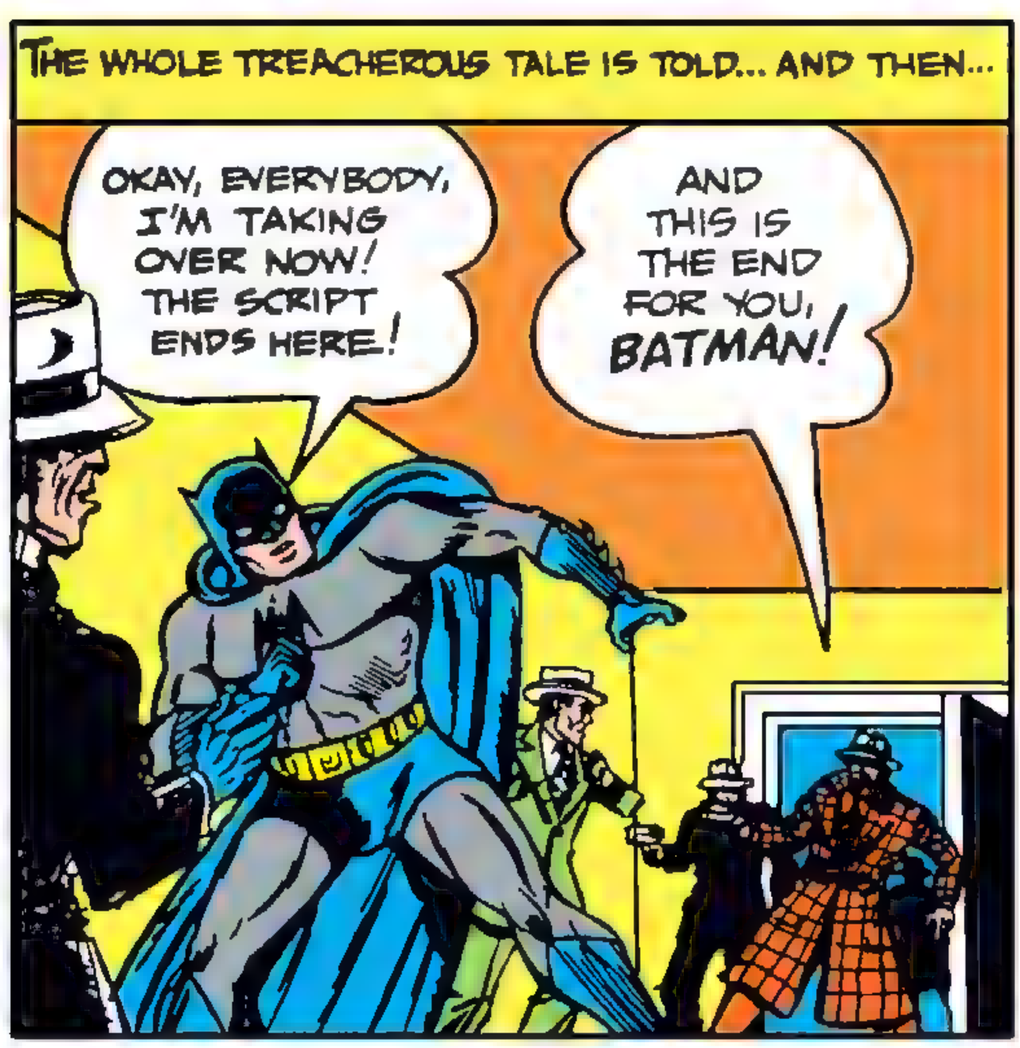

THAT NIGHT! A TENSE AUDIENCE WATCHES AS BEHIND THE GLASS SCREEN THE FATEFUL BROADCAST BEGINS! SUDDENLY, AN INTERRUPTION!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TONIGHT... UH?
DIO B
FLASH! I KNOW WHO THE BATMAN REALLY IS! HE IS BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY!

YOU'VE A REPUTATION FOR HONESTY! DO YOU DARE DENY THAT YOU ARE BRUCE WAYNE?
I DENY NOTHING NOW... BUT I DO PROMISE YOU AN ANSWER AFTER THIS BROADCAST! MY WORD OF HONOR ON THAT!

THE BROADCAST RESUMES...AND THE PLAY BEGINS- WITH DEATH IN THE CAST!
TONIGHT, "RACKET-SMASHERS" PRESENTS THE TRUE TALE OF A RACKET GOING ON NOW! IN THIS EXPOSÉ OF CRIME, THE BATMAN WILL..


A NATION LISTENS TO A DRAMA AS REAL AS LIFE!
ROBIN, SOMEONE IS CARRYING OUT OUR ROBBERIES EXACTLY AS DRAMATIZED ON THE "RACKET-SMASHERS" PROGRAM!
GEE, POP! I WISH I COULD BE LIKE THAT ROBIN KID... (SIGH!)


LISTEN, WICKS... I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR REPORTER PHOTOGRAPHING THE BATMAN IN ACTION! NOW GET THIS!
BOYOBOY! THE BATMAN IS TAKING AN AWFUL CHANCE DOING THIS!


THE WHOLE TREACHEROUS TALE IS TOLD... AND THEN...
OKAY, EVERYBODY, I'M TAKING OVER NOW! THE SCRIPT ENDS HERE!
AND THIS IS THE END FOR YOU, BATMAN!

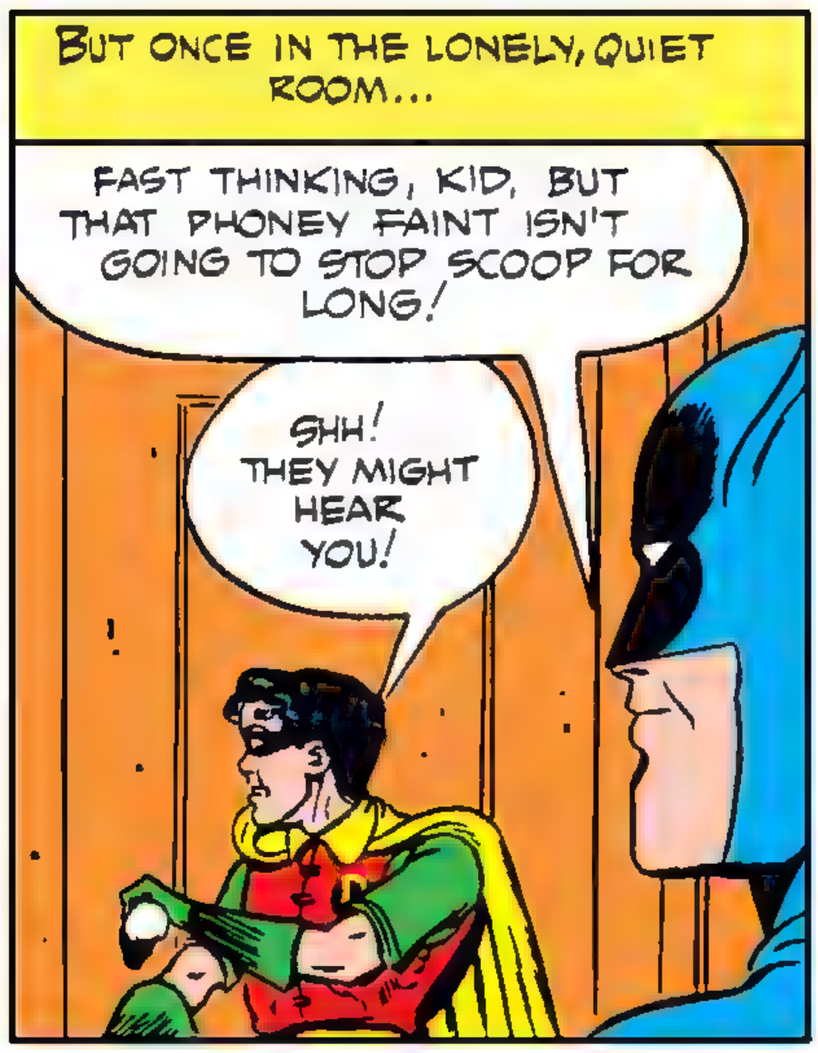
A HURTLING FORM INTER-VENES ...OLD LORING!...
TAKE IT, BA... UGH!
DROP IT, YOU MURDERER! OH-H-H!
...AND RECEIVES THE BULLET MEANT FOR BATMAN!

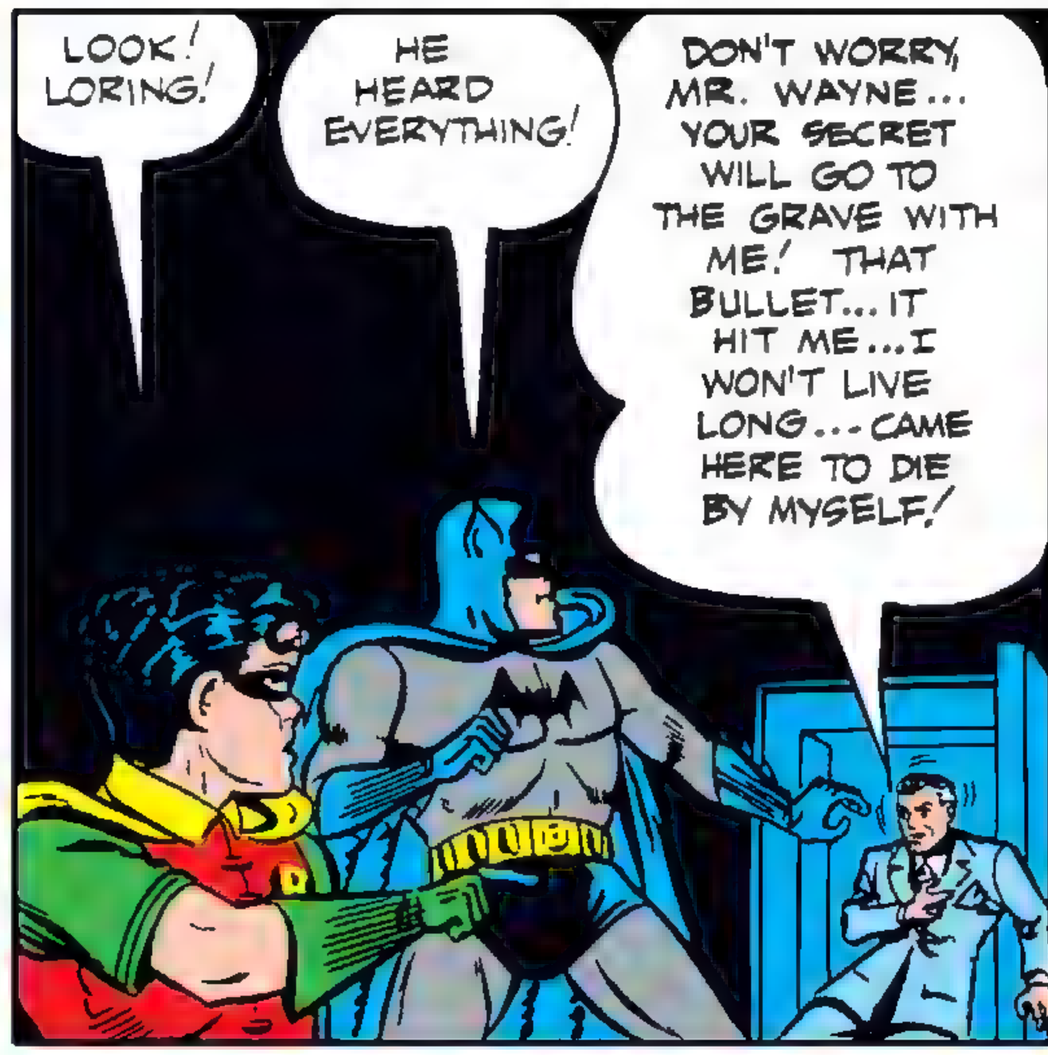
LET 'EM HAVE IT, ROBIN!
DON'T WORRY... THEY'RE GETTING IT!

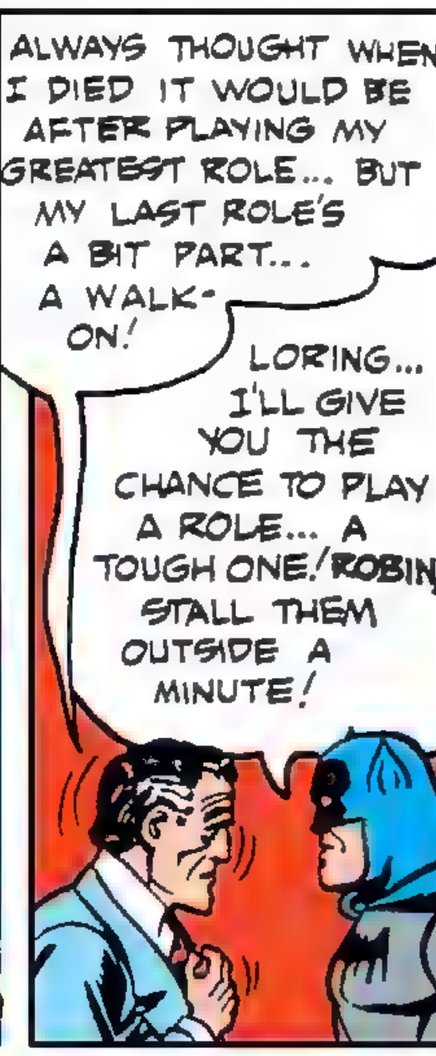
YOU! YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! I'LL...
NOT TODAY YOU DON'T... MISTER X!

OUR ANNOUNCER... GRAVES... THE MAN BEHIND THE ROBBERIES???
YES, GRAVES HAD BEEN LOSING HEAVILY ON THE STOCK MARKET... AND YET COULD AFFORD TO LIVE BEYOND HIS MEANS! I FELT IT WAS HIM, BUT COULDN'T PROVE IT!
BUT HE CERTAINLY GAVE HIMSELF AWAY NOW, EH?

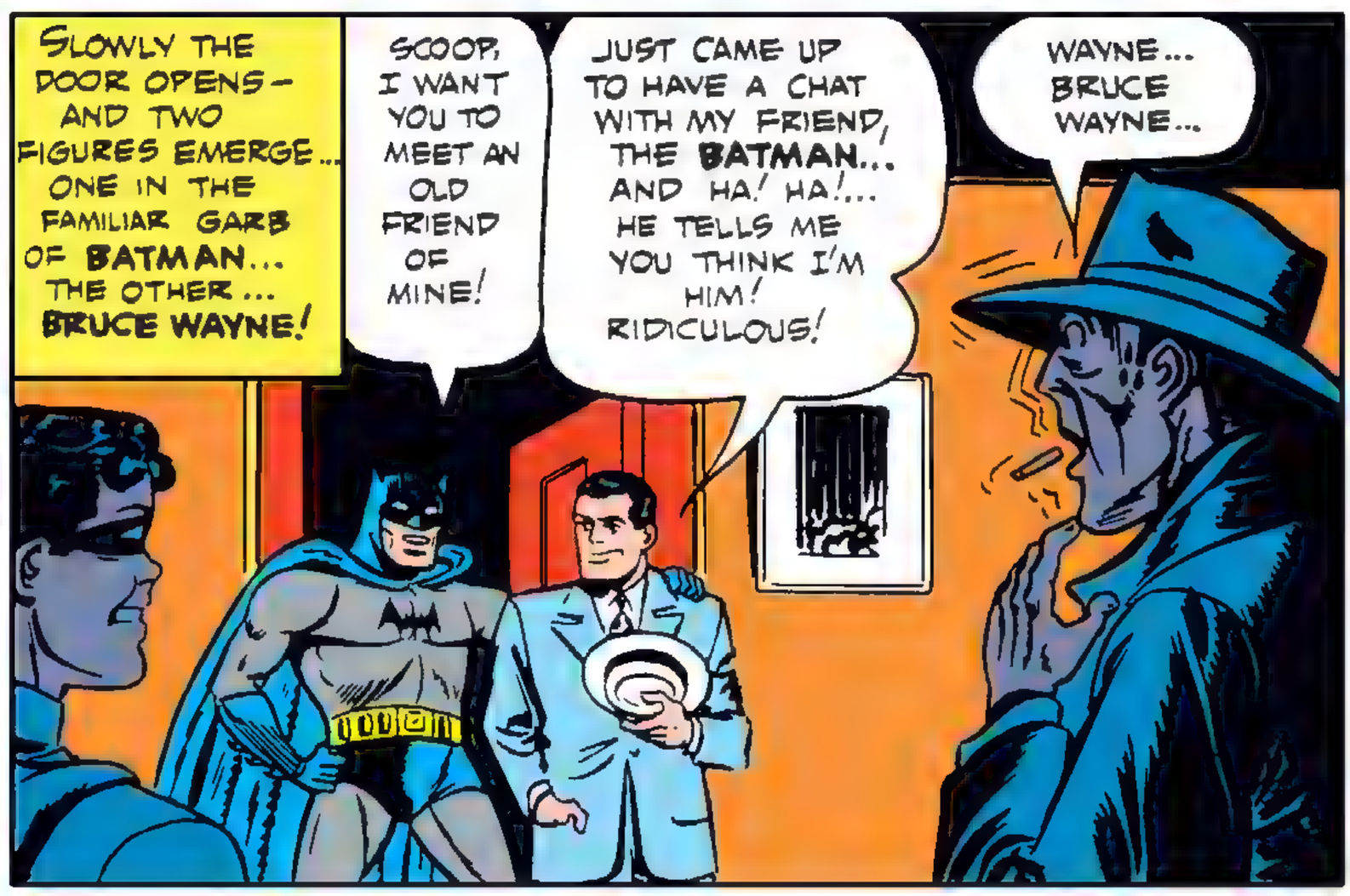
AFTER GRAVES IS TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY...
OKAY, BATMAN... QUIT STALLING... THE BROADCAST IS OVER! ARE YOU BRUCE WAYNE OR NOT?
ROBIN'S FAINTED! THE EXCITEMENT WAS TOO MUCH! WHERE'S A QUIET ROOM AWAY FROM ALL THIS NOISE? HURRY!
O-O-HHH!


BUT ONCE IN THE LONELY, QUIET ROOM...
FAST THINKING, KID, BUT THAT PHONEY FAINT ISN'T GOING TO STOP SCOOP FOR LONG!
SHH! THEY MIGHT HEAR YOU!

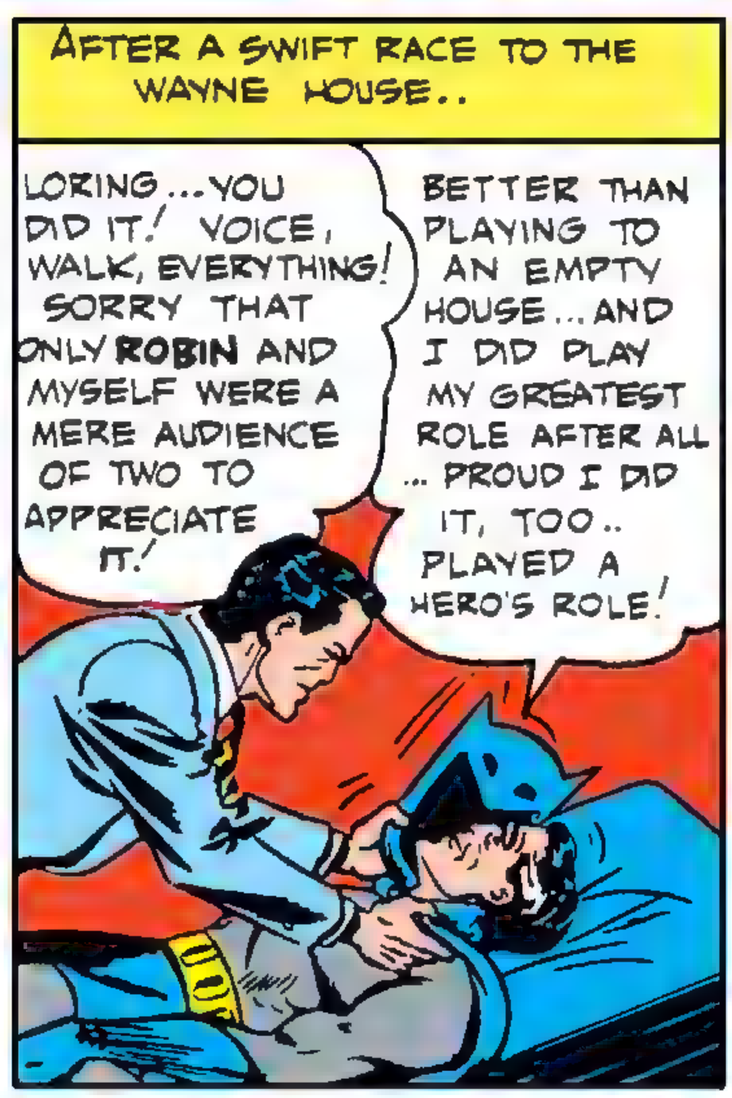

LOOK! LORING!
HE HEARD EVERYTHING!
DON'T WORRY, MR. WAYNE... YOUR SECRET WILL GO TO THE GRAVE WITH ME! THAT BULLET... IT HIT ME... I WON'T LIVE LONG... CAME HERE TO DIE BY MYSELF!


ALWAYS THOUGHT WHEN I DIED IT WOULD BE AFTER PLAYING MY GREATEST ROLE... BUT MY LAST ROLE'S A BIT PART... A WALK-ON!
LORING... I'LL GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO PLAY A ROLE... A TOUGH ONE! ROBIN, STALL THEM OUTSIDE A MINUTE!

WHERE'S THE BATMAN? IS HE TRYING TO RUN OUT ON US?
UH-NO... HE'S SPEAKING WITH A FRIEND- HE'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE!

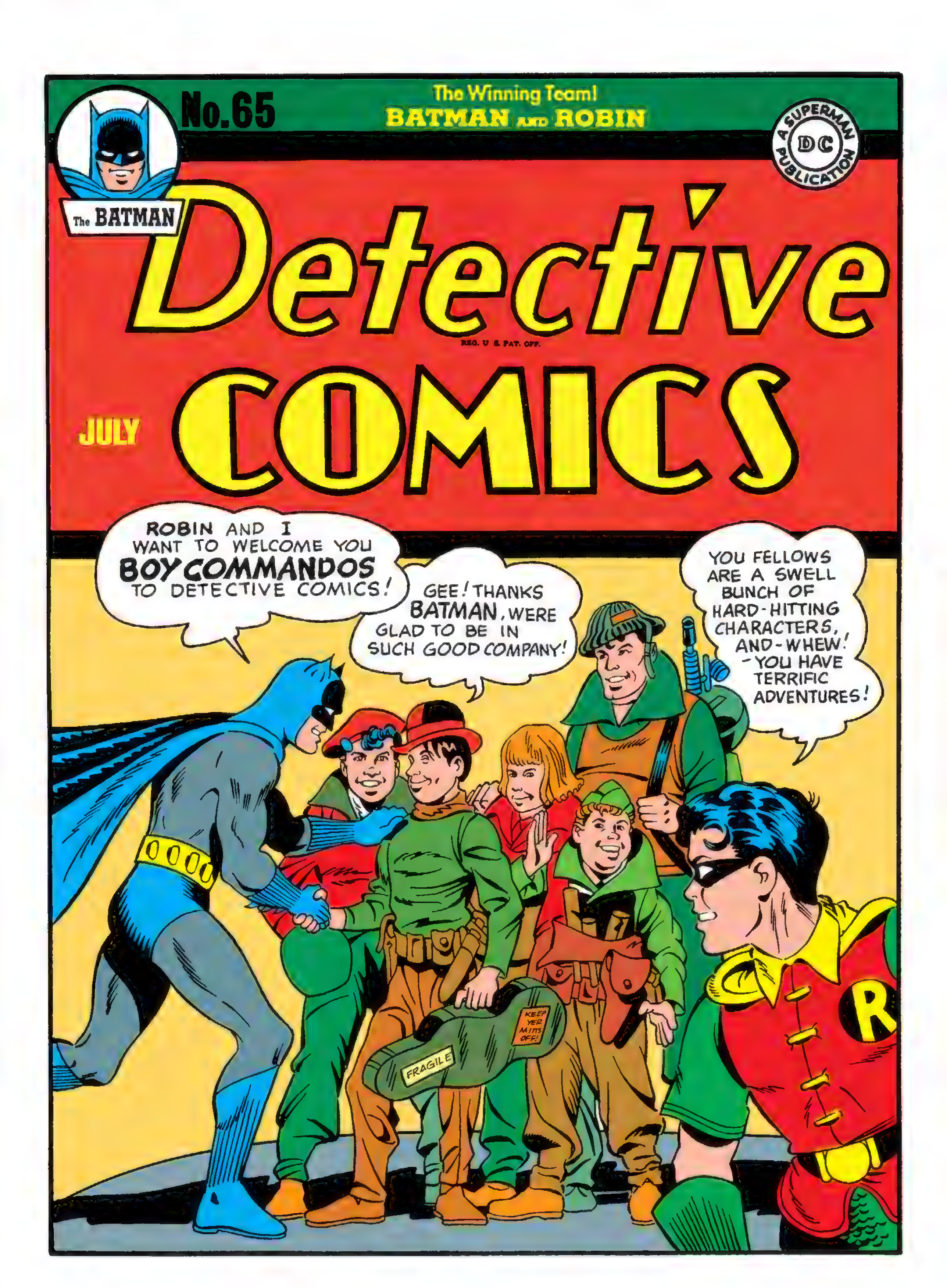

SLOWLY THE DOOR OPENS- AND TWO FIGURES EMERGE... ONE IN THE FAMILIAR GARB OF BATMAN... THE OTHER... BRUCE WAYNE!
SCOOP, I WANT YOU TO MEET AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE!
JUST CAME UP TO HAVE A CHAT WITH MY FRIEND, THE BATMAN... AND HA! HA!... HE TELLS ME YOU THINK I'M HIM! RIDICULOUS!
WAYNE... BRUCE WAYNE...

OKAY! I KNOW WHEN I'M LICKED! I WONDER WHO YOU REALLY ARE?
SH-H-H! DON'T TELL ANYBODY... BUT I'M REALLY THE JOKER!
HA! HA! SAY, BATMAN HOW ABOUT A RIDE IN YOUR BATMOBILE?
13


AFTER A SWIFT RACE TO THE WAYNE HOUSE..
LORING... YOU DID IT! VOICE, WALK, EVERYTHING! SORRY THAT ONLY ROBIN AND MYSELF WERE A MERE AUDIENCE OF TWO TO APPRECIATE IT!
BETTER THAN PLAYING TO AN EMPTY HOUSE... AND I DID PLAY MY GREATEST ROLE AFTER ALL ... PROUD I DID IT, TOO.. PLAYED A HERO'S ROLE!

CURTAIN COMING DOWN, NOW! MY CUE TO GO... EXIT SMILING... AAAHHH!

IT'S AS IF HIS DYING GIVES LIFE TO ME! ON HIS GRAVESTONE I'LL HAVE CARVED "HUMBLY IN LIFE HE PLAYED THE PROUDEST OF ALL ROLES... MAN"!
HE'S DEAD... AND YOUR SECRET IS SAFE!


No.65
The Winning Team!
BATMAN AND ROBIN
A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION
The BATMAN
Detective
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
JULY
COMICS
ROBIN AND I WANT TO WELCOME YOU BOY COMMANDOS TO DETECTIVE COMICS!
GEE! THANKS BATMAN, WERE GLAD TO BE IN SUCH GOOD COMPANY!
YOU FELLOWS ARE A SWELL BUNCH OF HARD-HITTING CHARACTERS, AND-WHEW! -YOU HAVE TERRIFIC ADVENTURES!
KEEP YER MITTS OFF!
FRAGILE

BATMAN WITH ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER

STATE TROOPERS!... THAT GALLANT BODY OF MEN WHO CARRY THE LAW WITH THEM INTO UNSETTLED COUNTRY! IN EMERGENCIES THEY CARRY MAIL, ACT AS DOCTORS, AND RESCUE THE LOST AND SNOWBOUND! NO PERIL IS TOO GREAT, NO DISTANCE TOO LONG TO TRAVEL AS THEY SPEED IN PURSUIT OF THEIR DUTY!

THIS IS THE TALE OF THESE UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR NATION'S POLICE SYSTEM! TO THEM...THIS STORY IS DEDICATED! HERE IS THE STORY OF HOW THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** CAME TO LIVE AMONG THEM ... AND WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY MET...

"THE COP WHO HATED THE BATMAN!"

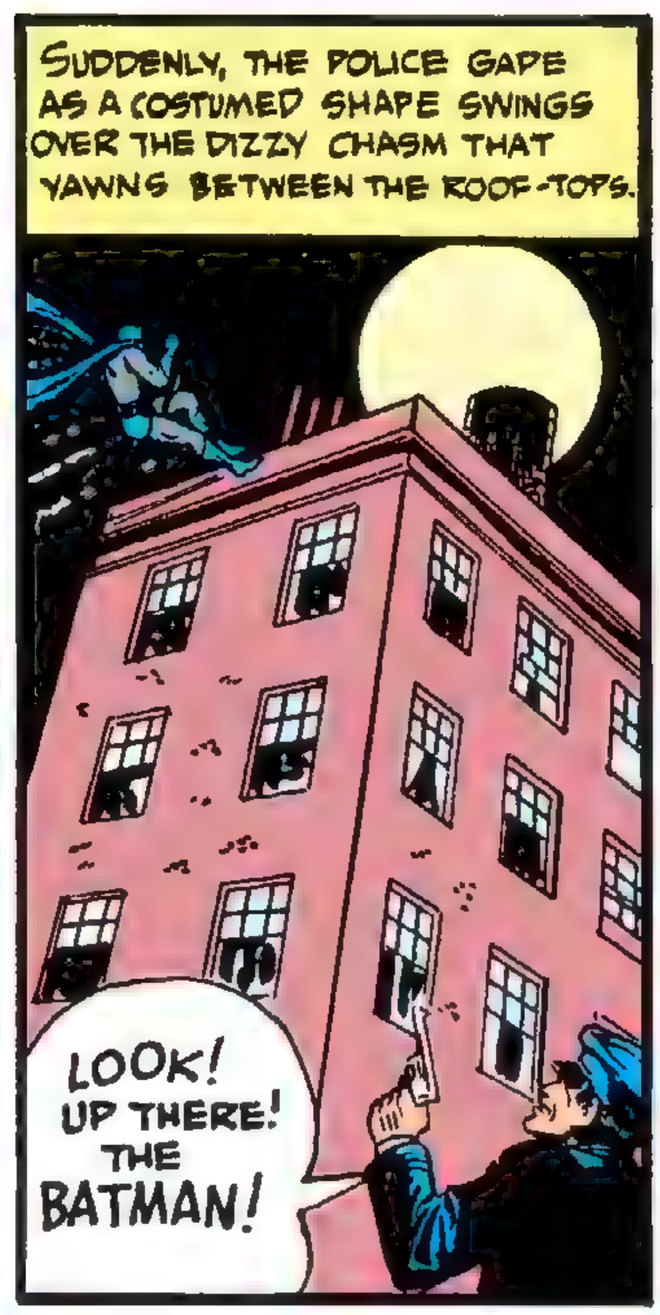
SO LET US GO BACK TO A NIGHT IN THE YEAR 1937, WHEN THE POLICE WERE CLOSING IN ON TWO TRAPPED CRIMINALS...

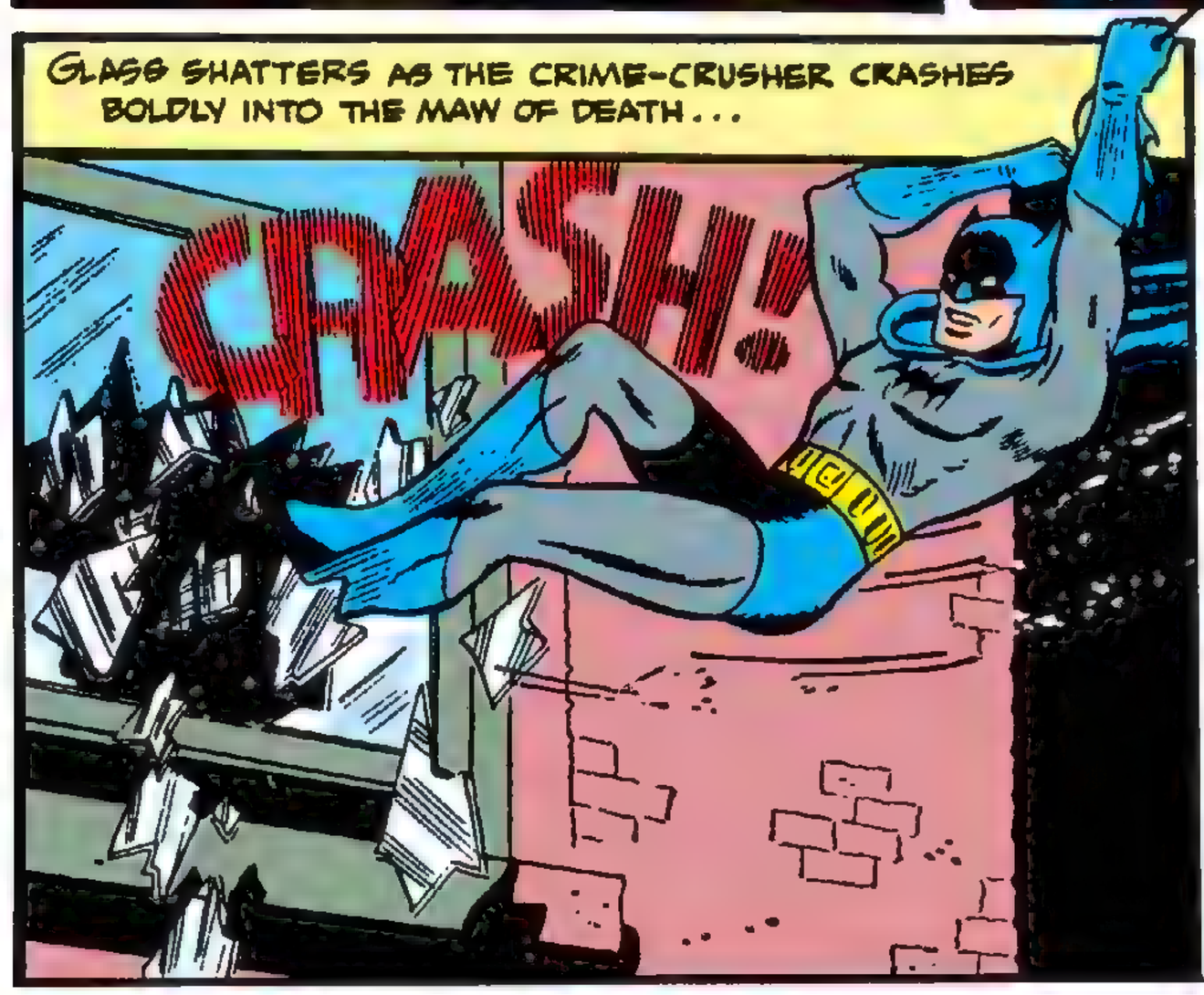
MIKE NOLAN! NICK ROCCO! WE'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED! WILL YOU COME OUT WALKING...OR ON STRETCHERS?

LET US GO BACK TO FIVE YEARS AGO. BEFORE THE BATMAN TOOK DAREDEVIL YOUNG ROBIN UNDER HIS WING...BEFORE THE POLICE LOOKED WITH APPROVAL ON THIS "OUTSIDE THE LAW" RACKET-BUSTER.

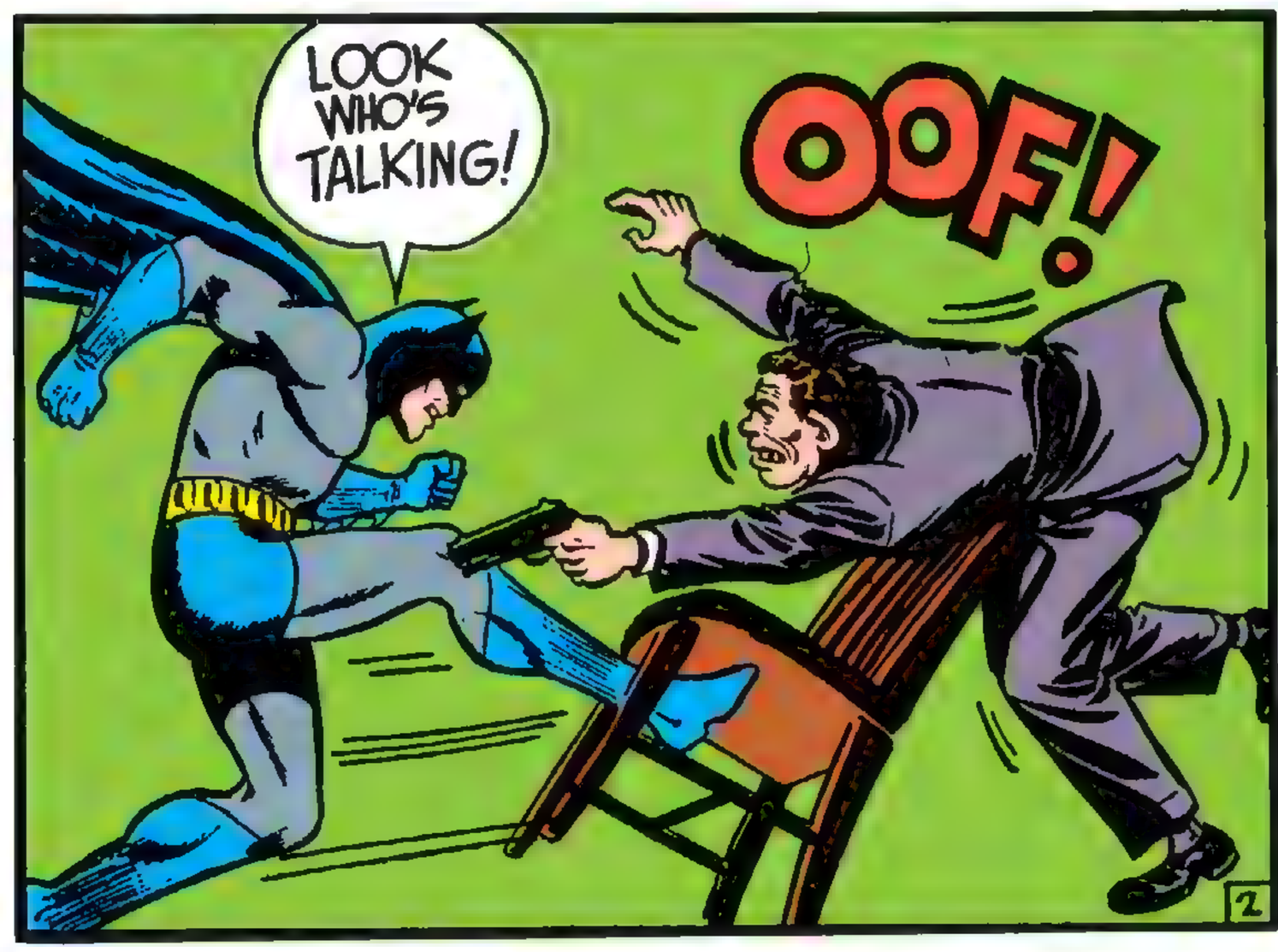
HERE'S MY ANSWER. YOU BLASTED COPPERS! C'MON, MIKE ...USE THAT GAT...WHAT'RE YA WAITING FOR?
I... I..!

FROM THE WINDOW RIPS A SCREAMING BARRAGE OF DEFIANT BULLETS...HOLDING THE BLUECOATS AT BAY.
MAYBE IF WE CAN GET SOME TEAR GAS UP AT THEM...
HOW? WE'D BE CUT DOWN BEFORE WE TOOK A STEP!


SUDDENLY, THE POLICE GAPE AS A COSTUMED SHAPE SWINGS OVER THE DIZZY CHASM THAT YAWNS BETWEEN THE ROOF-TOPS.
LOOK! UP THERE! THE BATMAN!


GLASS SHATTERS AS THE CRIME-CRUSHER CRASHES BOLDLY INTO THE MAW OF DEATH...
CRASH!

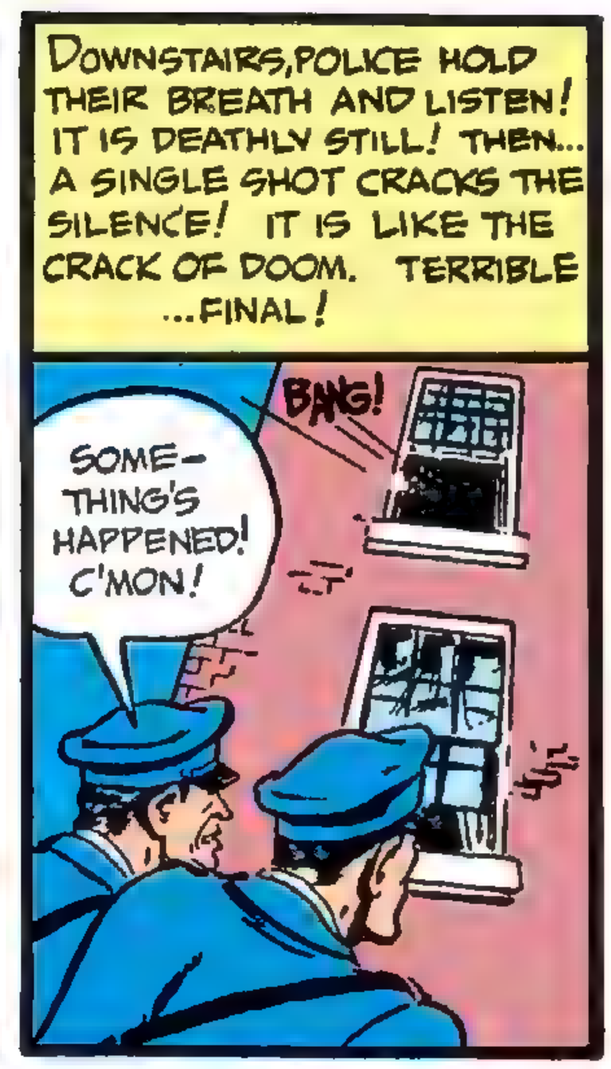
ALL RIGHT, BOYS...THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS AND MAKE IT EASY FOR YOUR-SELVES!
OH...THE BATMAN, EH? OKAY...YOU LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN THIS TIME, CHUMP!

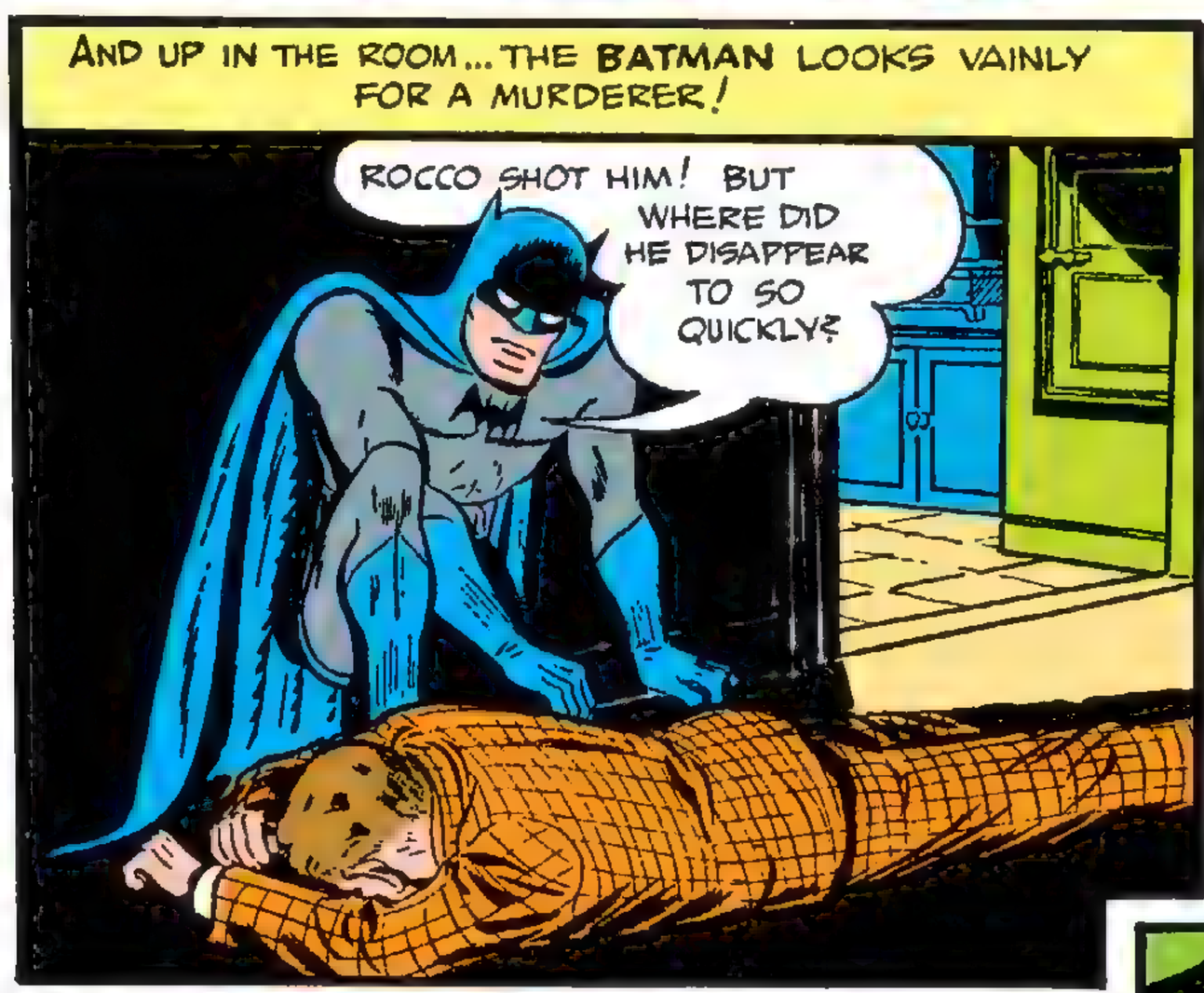

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
OOF!
2

ROCCO, YOU'RE ALL WASHED UP!
UGH

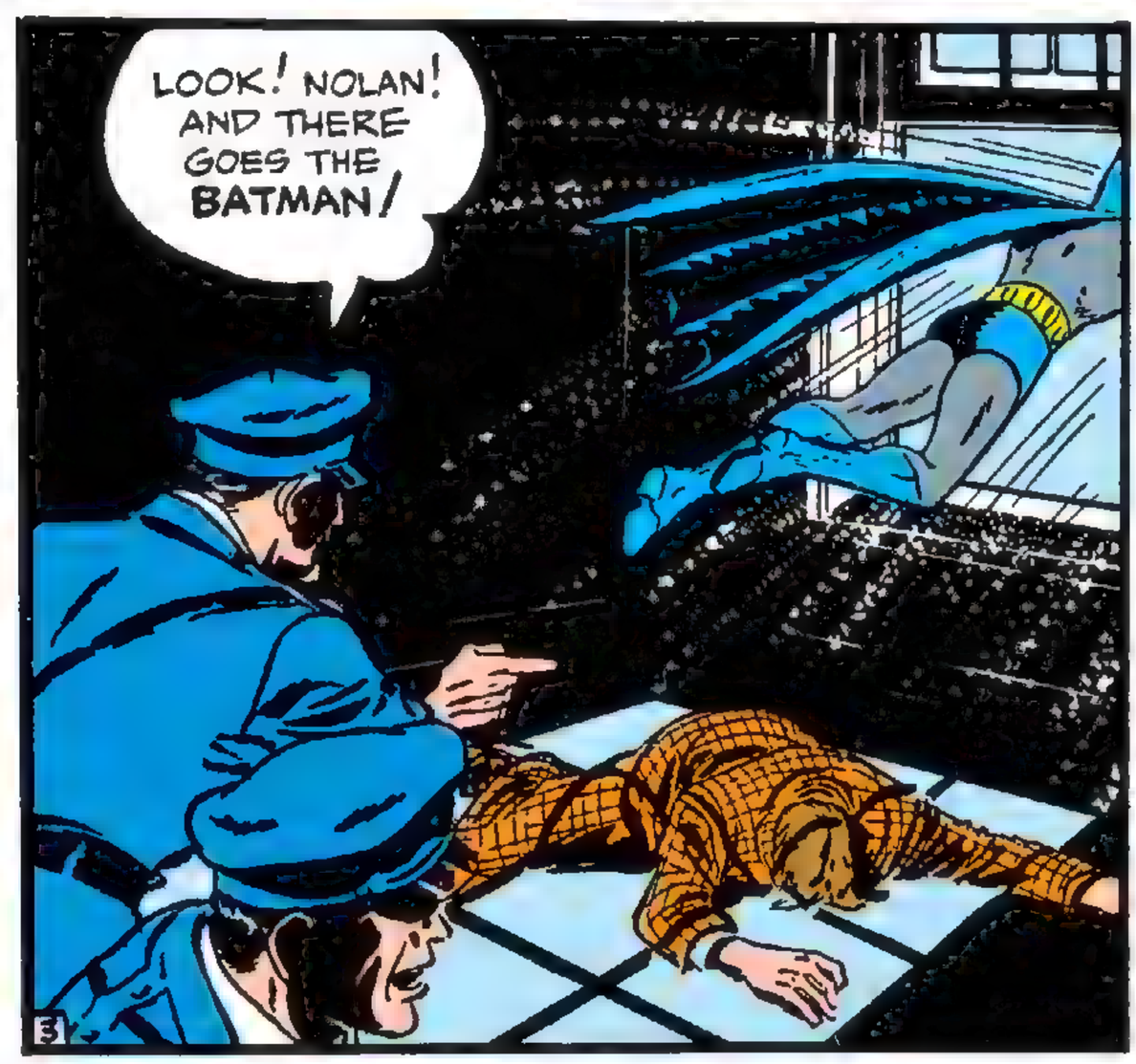
YOU'RE NEXT, NOLAN!
I'LL BE GLAD TO GO! I'M TIRED OF HIDING IN ALLEYS... AND I NEVER WANTED ANY PART OF COP KILLINGS!

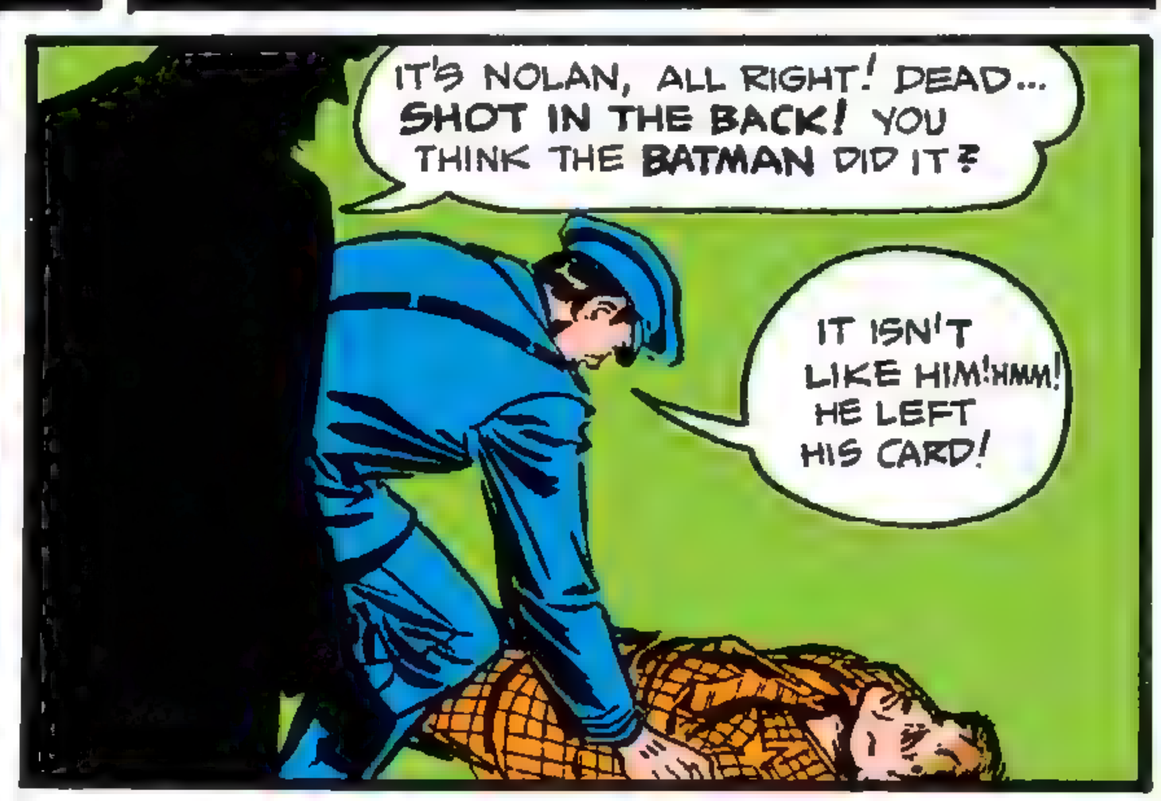
I NEVER WANTED TO BE A CRIMINAL. I'M GOING TO MAKE A COMPLETE CONFESSION... TELL EVERYTHING ABOUT NICK AND ME!


DOWNSTAIRS, POLICE HOLD THEIR BREATH AND LISTEN! IT IS DEATHLY STILL! THEN... A SINGLE SHOT CRACKS THE SILENCE! IT IS LIKE THE CRACK OF DOOM. TERRIBLE ...FINAL!
BANG!
SOME-THING'S HAPPENED! C'MON!


AND UP IN THE ROOM... THE BATMAN LOOKS VAINLY FOR A MURDERER!
ROCCO SHOT HIM! BUT WHERE DID HE DISAPPEAR TO SO QUICKLY?

OH-OH! POLICE! I'D BETTER MAKE TRACKS! I'M STILL ON THE OUTS BECAUSE I'M WORKING OUTSIDE THE LAW.
THUMP! THUMP!


LOOK! NOLAN! AND THERE GOES THE BATMAN!


IT'S NOLAN, ALL RIGHT! DEAD... SHOT IN THE BACK! YOU THINK THE BATMAN DID IT?
IT ISN'T LIKE HIM! HMM! HE LEFT HIS CARD!

Mike Rocco got away! Mike Nolan didn't!

THE TIME...TODAY! THE PLACE... GOTHAM CITY! IT IS NIGHT, AND SUDDENLY A GIGANTIC CONE OF LIGHT ETCHES AN EERIE SYMBOL AGAINST THE SKY!
WHY, THAT'S THE SEARCHLIGHT FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS ROOF! THAT'S HOW THEY CALL THE BATMAN!
SAY, I SAW THAT ONCE BEFORE. WHAT IS IT?
SCAN'T MOMENTS LATER, TWO LITHE FIGURES LOPE SWIFTLY OVER CITY STREETS— BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!!...
LIFT YOUR FEET, ROBIN! GORDON NEVER CALLS US UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
YEAH... (PUFF...PUFF) WONDER WHAT'S UP?
SOON THE DYNAMIC DUO BURSTS IN ON THE POLICE COMMISSIONER
HA! HA! TAKE IT EASY! NO CRIME-HUNTING THIS TIME! I JUST CALLED TO FIND OUT IF YOU WANT TO GO WITH ME ON MY VACATION!
GORDON! WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M GOING TO SPEND TWO WEEKS UP IN ONE OF OUR NORTHERN STATES... AT THE BARRACKS OF STATE TROOPERS!
I THOUGHT YOU AND ROBIN WOULD FIND IT VERY INTERESTING TO WATCH THEIR WORK AT FIRST HAND.
I WOULDN'T MIND! OKAY, GORDON, YOU'VE GOT COMPANY!
GEE! SOUNDS SWELL TO ME! LET'S GO, HUH?
TWO DAYS' TRAVEL BRINGS THE TRIO TO THE SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAIN OF A NORTHERN STATE...
IT'S SPRING AND THERE'S STILL SNOW UP HERE!
DON'T FORGET, ROBIN, THIS IS HIGH MOUNTAIN LAND.
LOOK! THERE'S THE BARRACKS NOW!
HELLO, CAPTAIN... I'VE BROUGHT ALONG A COUPLE OF GUESTS-- BATMAN AND ROBIN!
BATMAN AND RO.....? I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU! WAIT TILL MY MEN FIND OUT ABOUT THIS! THEY'LL MOB YOU!
AND THE EAGER TROOPERS DO MOB THEIR HONORARY FELLOW OFFICERS.
HOW ABOUT AN AUTOGRAPH?
I'M SHAKING HANDS WITH THE BATMAN! BOYOBOY!
4

HERE COMES TOM BOLTON! LOOKS LIKE HE'S BAGGED SOMETHING!
TOM'S ONE OF OUR FINEST OFFICERS! WE'RE PROUD OF HIS RECORD UP HERE!

HELLO, SIR...LOOK WHO I CAUGHT HIDING UP IN THAT OLD SHACK ON THE SOUTH TRAIL! SOAPIE JOE, THE SAFE-CRACKER!
FINE WORK, TOM! JUST FOR THAT, I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR HONORED GUEST... THE BATMAN!

GLAD TO KNOW YOU, TOM!
I'M NOT GLAD TO MEET YOU!

BUT...BUT TOM...THIS IS THE BATMAN? THE BATMAN!
SO WHAT?... I STILL DON'T WANT TO MEET HIM! MAY I BE EXCUSED, SIR?

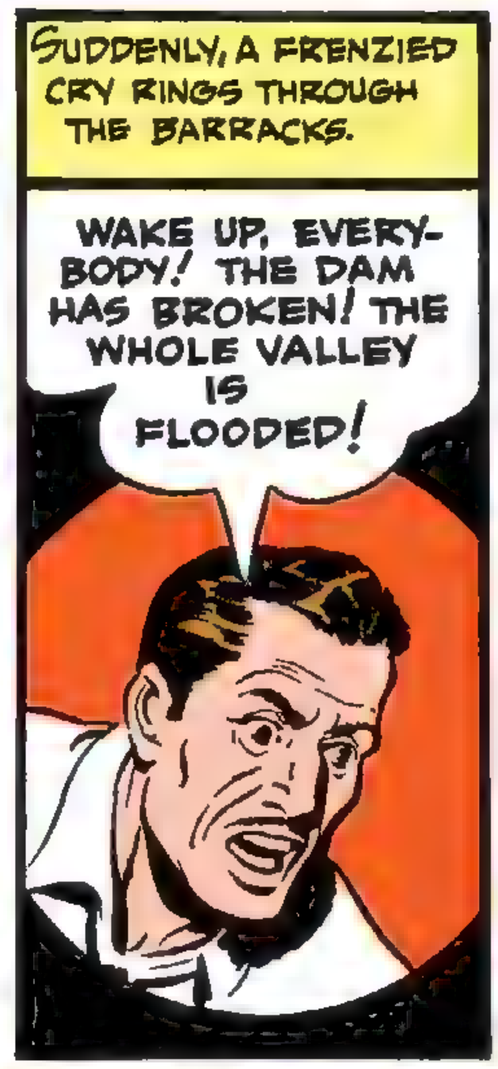
SAY...AFTER ALL...I NEVER MET YOU BEFORE. WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY HAVE AGAINST ME?
I NEVER MET YOU BEFORE...BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE YOU! AND TAKE YOUR HAND AWAY BEFORE I KNOCK IT OFF!
IN THOSE EYES, THE BATMAN SEES HATE...SEARING, BURNING HATE...HATE SO STRONG IT BEATS AGAINST HIM LIKE A SOLID WALL OF FLAME!

NOT A MAN STIRS, BUT WATCHES IN AGHAST SILENCE AS THE TROOPER WHEELS SHARPLY AND STRIDES AWAY!
?
?
5

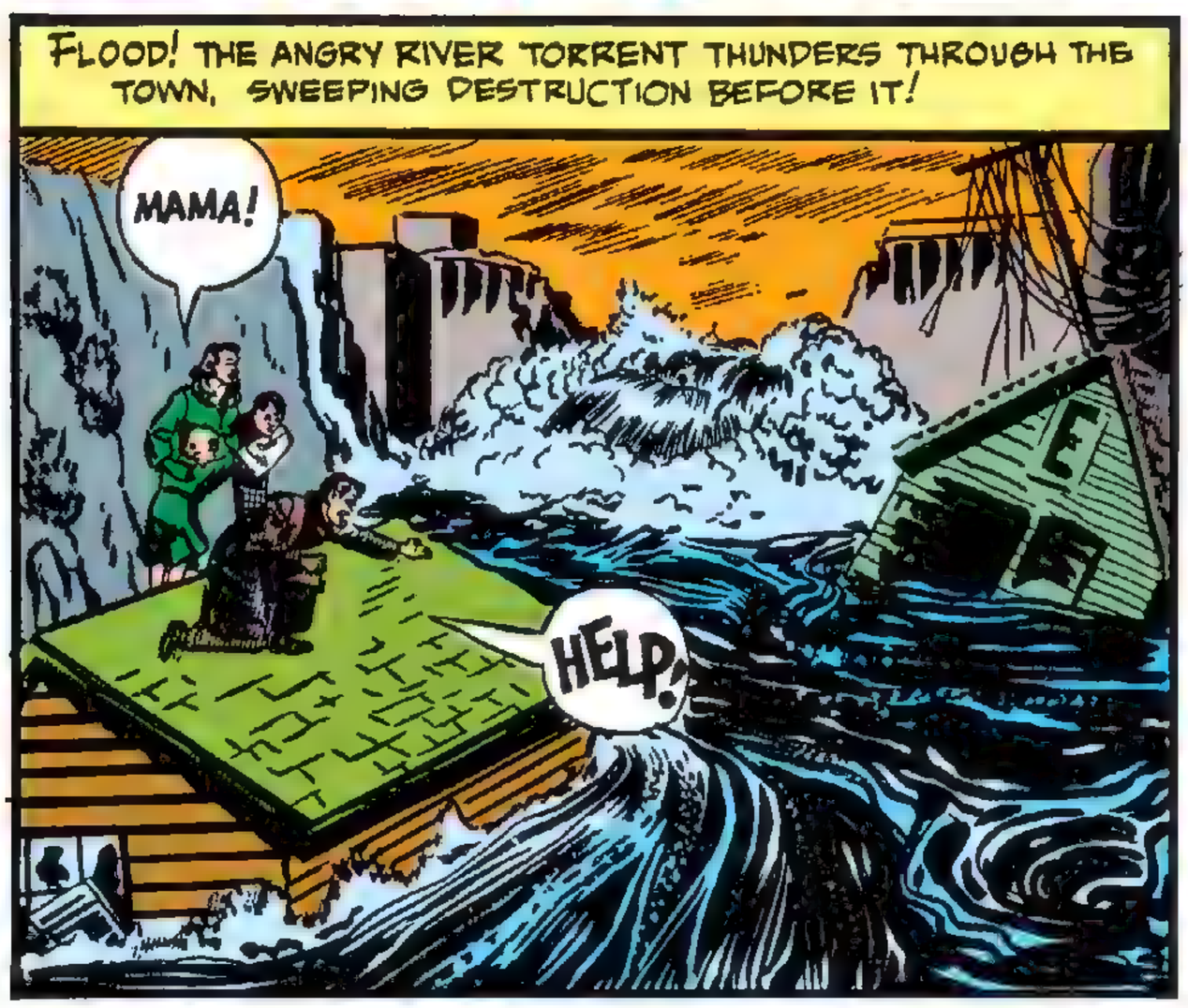
TOM NEVER ACTED LIKE THAT BEFORE!
FORGET IT! IF THAT BOY HATES ME, HE MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR IT! TELL ME, IS HE HONEST?
I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR HIS ACTIONS... I...

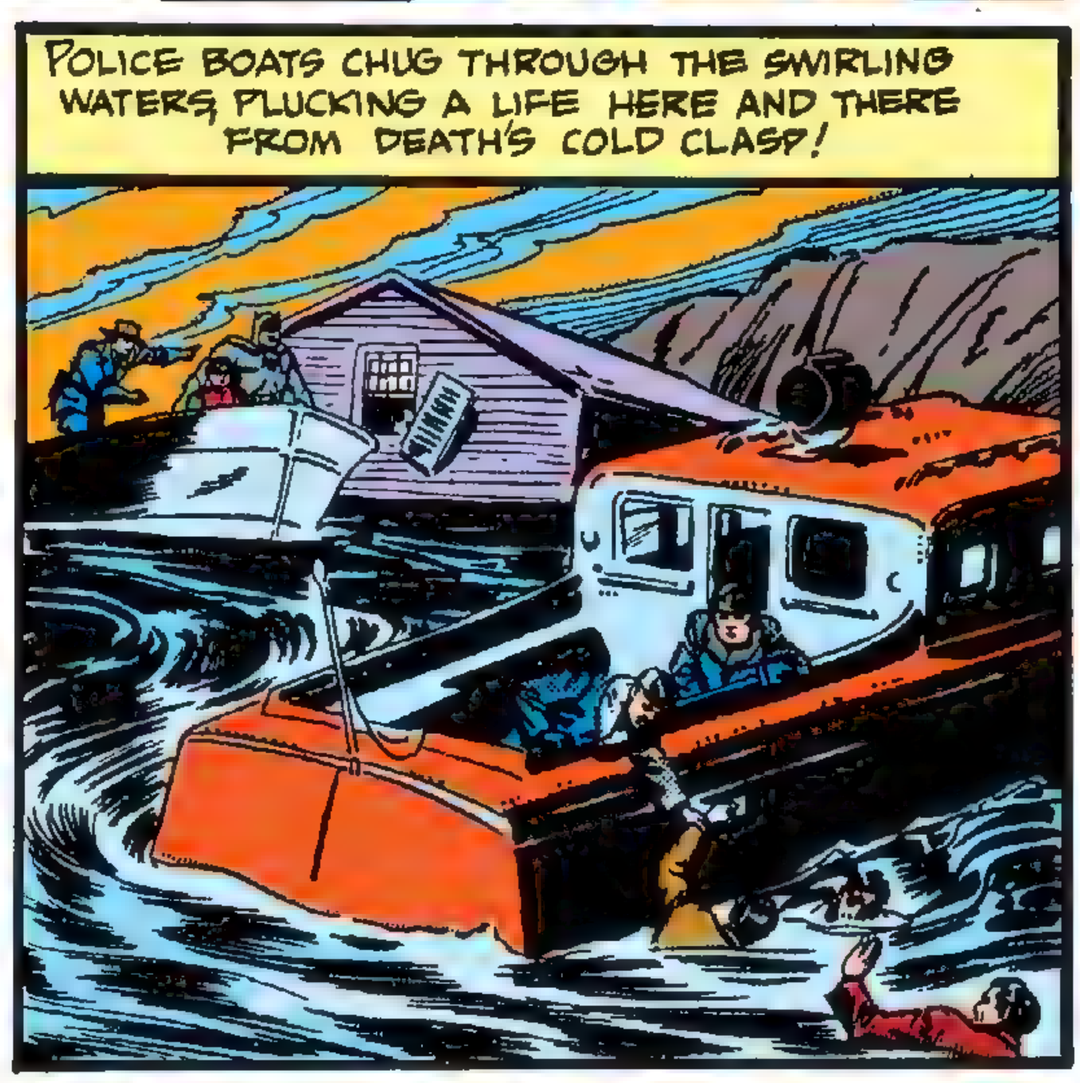
HONEST? THE LAST TIME SOMEONE TRIED TO BRIBE TOM, THE CROOK ALMOST HAD HIS BLOCK KNOCKED OFF!
THEN WHY DOES BOLTON HATE ME? HMM...I'VE COME UP AGAINST MYSTERIES BEFORE...BUT THIS IS THE STRANGEST!

THAT NIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS CHILDHOOD, THE BATMAN HAS A NIGHTMARE!
I'M NOT GLAD TO MEET YOU!
...NEVER MET YOU BEFORE. STILL DON'T LIKE YOU!
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!
WHY?... WHY?

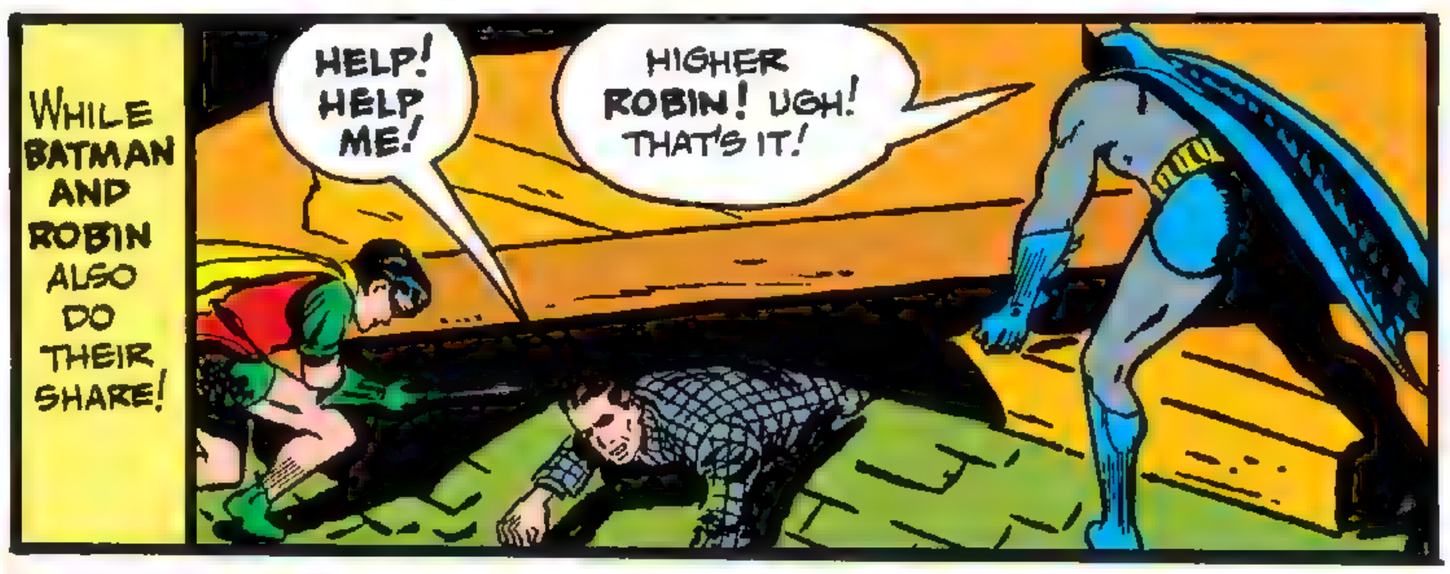

SUDDENLY, A FRENZIED CRY RINGS THROUGH THE BARRACKS.
WAKE UP, EVERYBODY! THE DAM HAS BROKEN! THE WHOLE VALLEY IS FLOODED!

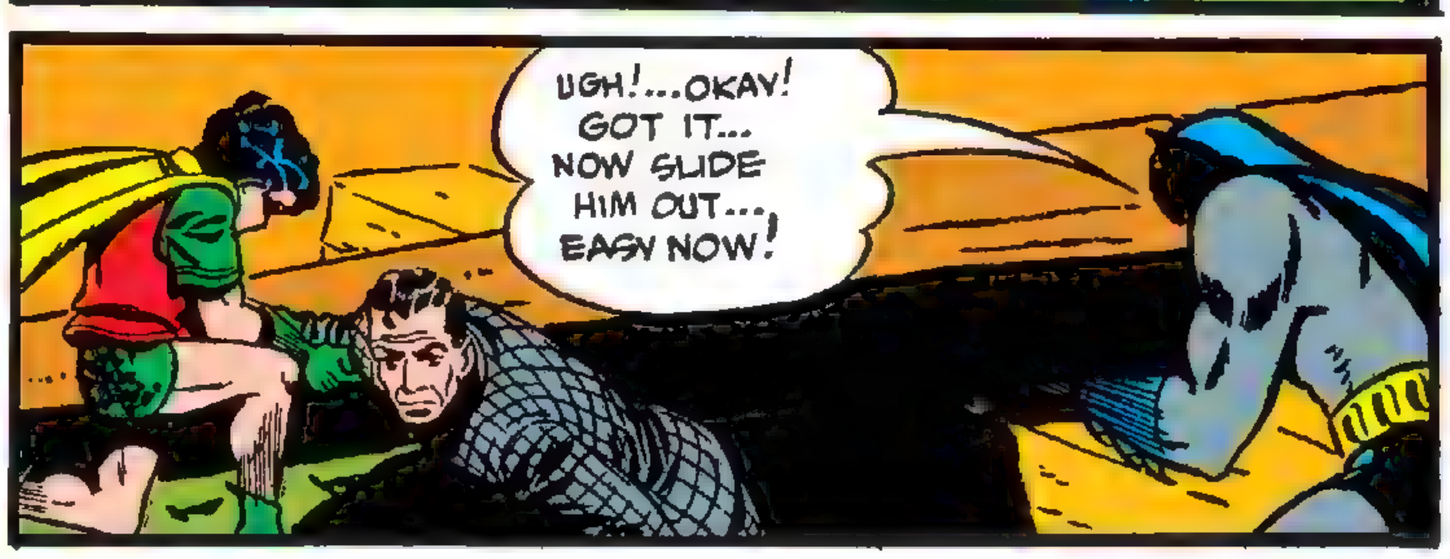
IT'S THE SPRING THAW! THE MELTED SNOWS MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR THAT DAM!
...WE'LL NEED EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN TONIGHT!

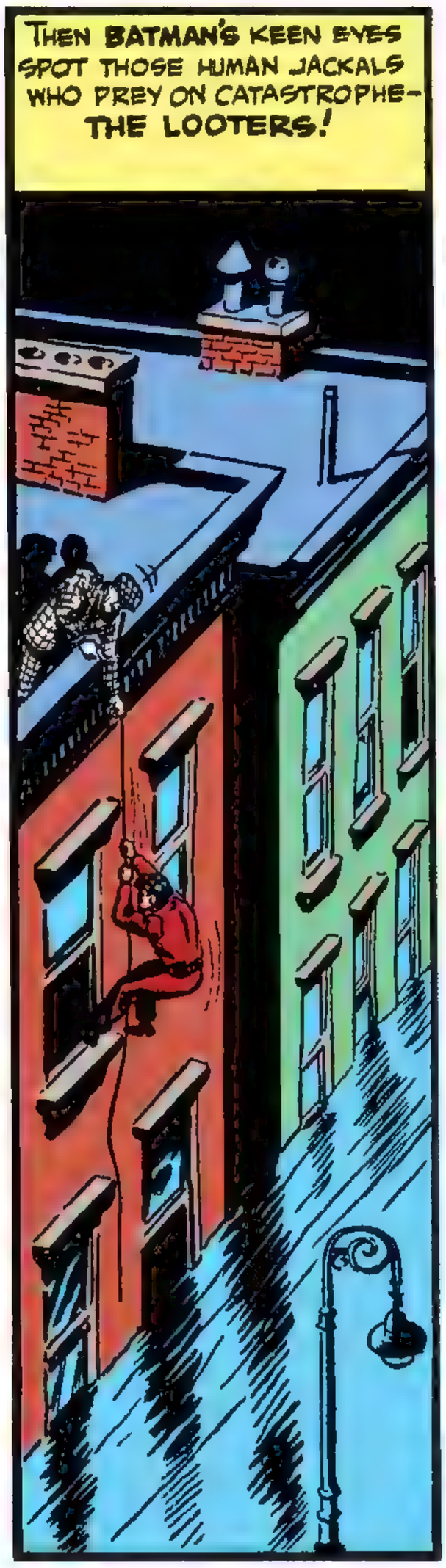

FLOOD! THE ANGRY RIVER TORRENT THUNDERS THROUGH THE TOWN, SWEEPING DESTRUCTION BEFORE IT!
MAMA!
HELP!


POLICE BOATS CHUG THROUGH THE SWIRLING WATERS, PLUCKING A LIFE HERE AND THERE FROM DEATH'S COLD CLASP!

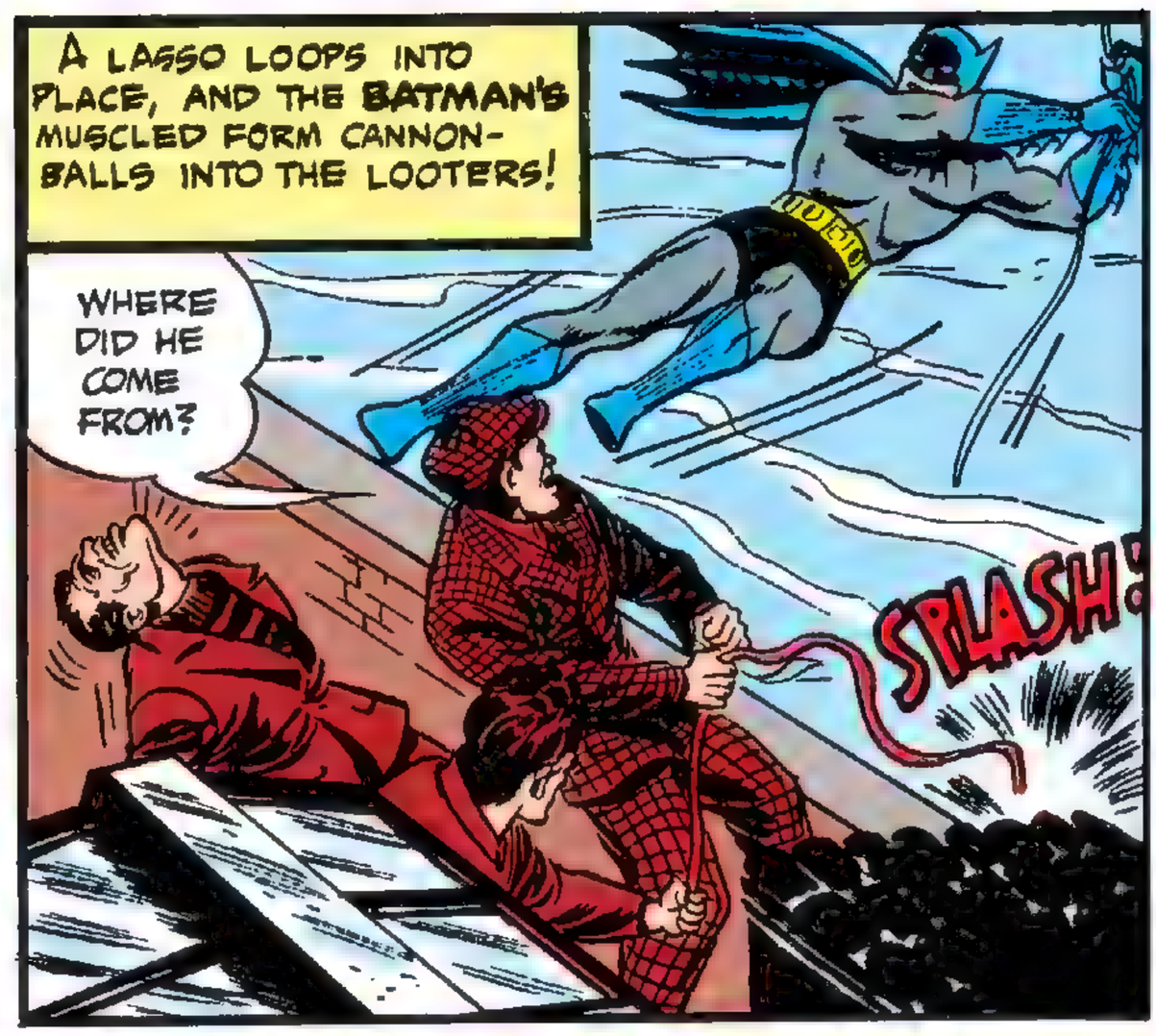
AND AMONG THE MOST VALIANT AND HEROIC OF THE POLICE IS TOM BOLTON!
GOD BLESS YOU, YOUNG MAN!

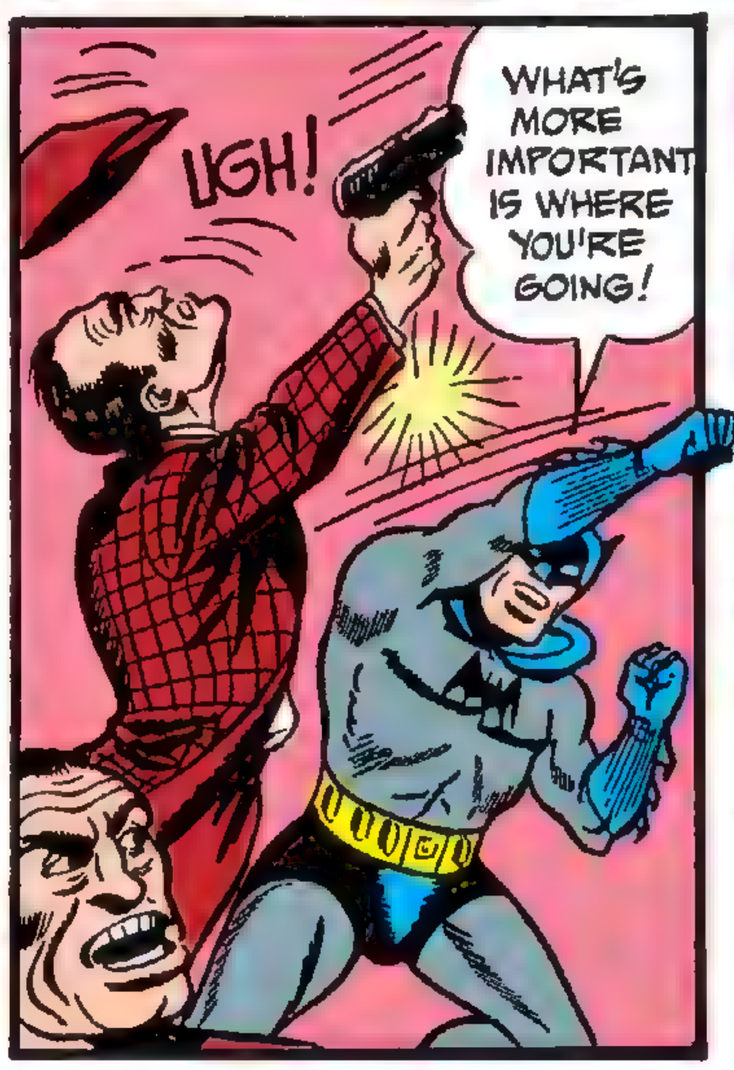

WHILE BATMAN AND ROBIN ALSO DO THEIR SHARE!
HELP! HELP ME!
HIGHER ROBIN! UGH! THAT'S IT!


UGH!...OKAY! GOT IT... NOW SLIDE HIM OUT... EASY NOW!

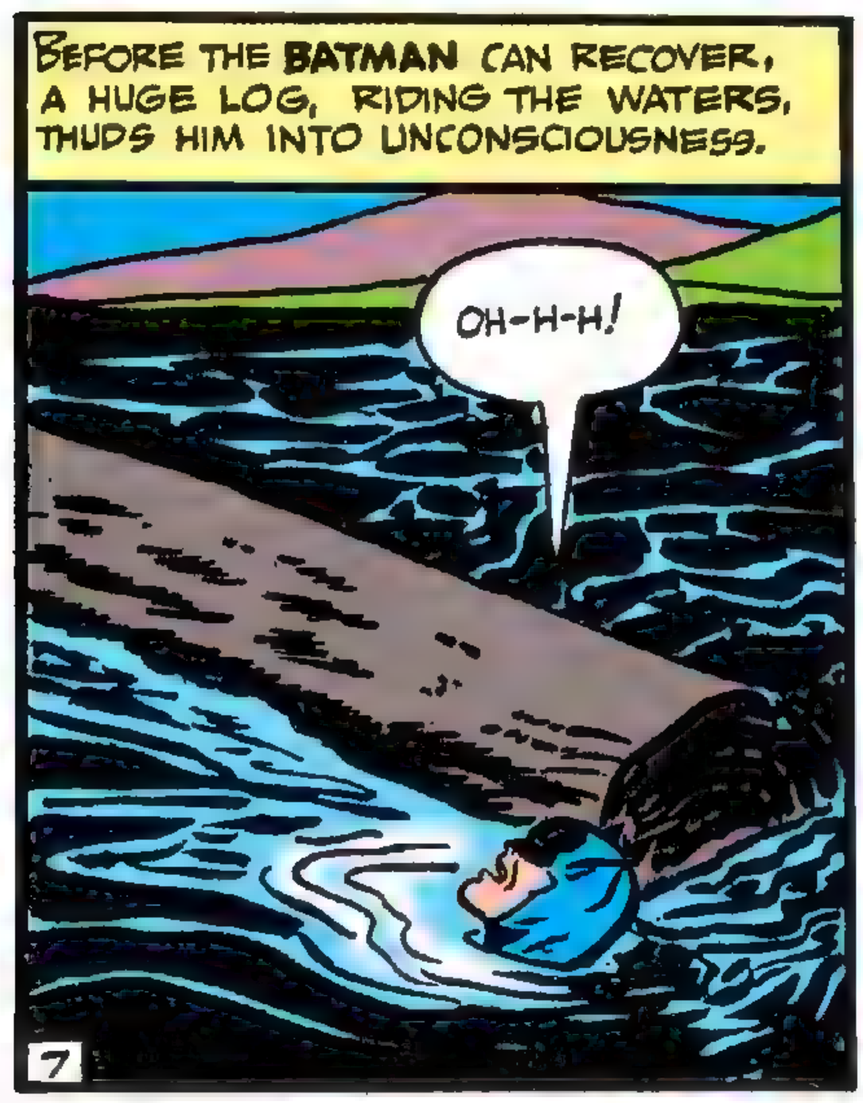

THEN BATMAN'S KEEN EYES SPOT THOSE HUMAN JACKALS WHO PREY ON CATASTROPHE- THE LOOTERS!

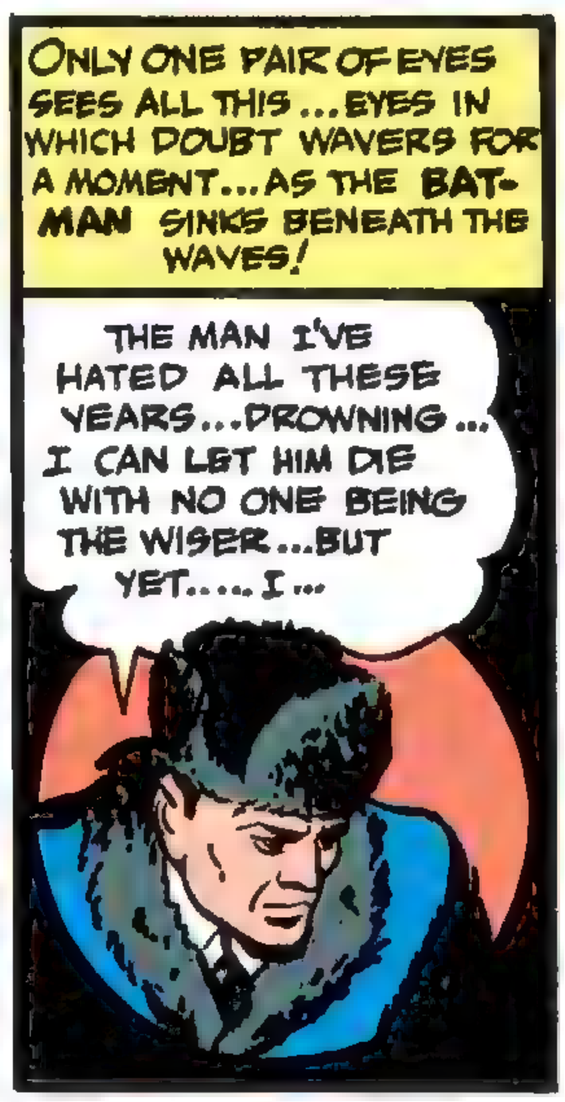
WHY, THE VERMIN! GET THAT MAN TO THE BOAT, ROBIN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THOSE SCAVENGERS... PRONTO!


A LASSO LOOPS INTO PLACE, AND THE BATMAN'S MUSCLED FORM CANNON-BALLS INTO THE LOOTERS!
WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
SPLASH!

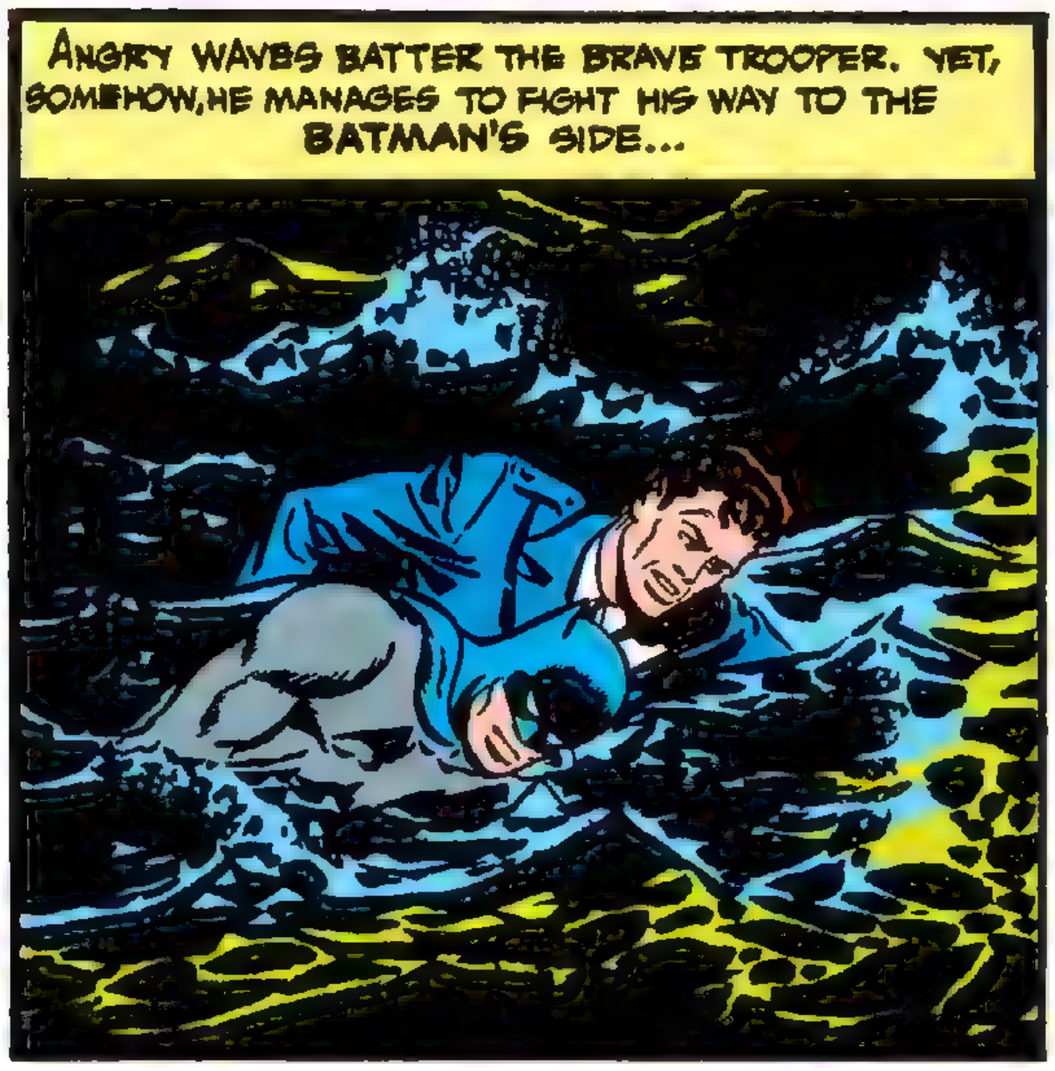

UGH!
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

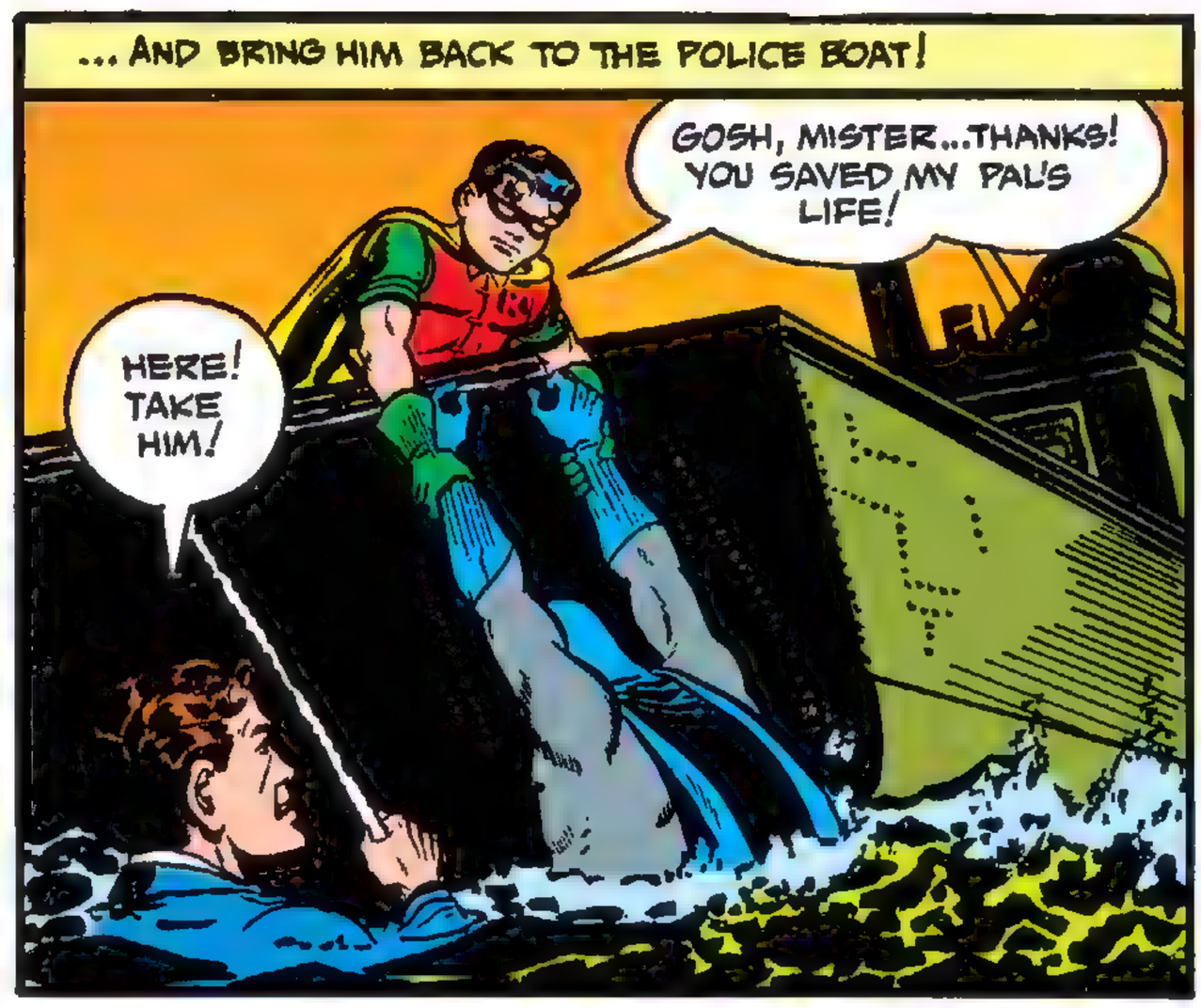
DESPERATION LENDS COURAGE... EVEN TO RATS... AND A MAD ONRUSH SLAMS THE BATMAN OFF-BALANCE...
THAT GOT HIM!


BEFORE THE BATMAN CAN RECOVER, A HUGE LOG, RIDING THE WATERS, THUDS HIM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.
OH-H-H!
7


ONLY ONE PAIR OF EYES SEES ALL THIS ...EYES IN WHICH DOUBT WAVERS FOR A MOMENT...AS THE BATMAN SINKS BENEATH THE WAVES!
THE MAN I'VE HATED ALL THESE YEARS...DROWNING... I CAN LET HIM DIE WITH NO ONE BEING THE WISER...BUT YET..... I...

I CAN'T DO IT...


ANGRY WAVES BATTER THE BRAVE TROOPER. YET, SOMEHOW, HE MANAGES TO FIGHT HIS WAY TO THE BATMAN'S SIDE...


... AND BRING HIM BACK TO THE POLICE BOAT!
GOSH, MISTER...THANKS! YOU SAVED MY PAL'S LIFE!
HERE! TAKE HIM!

LATER THAT NIGHT, AT THE BARRACKS. THE BATMAN SEEKS OUT TOM...
THANKS, BOLTON! YOU KNOW, I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT/ YOU HATE ME... AND YET YOU SAVED MY LIFE! WHY?
I'D SAVE A DOG FROM DROWNING! I'M AN OFFICER OF THE LAW... IT'S MY DUTY TO SAVE LIFE... EVEN YOURS.

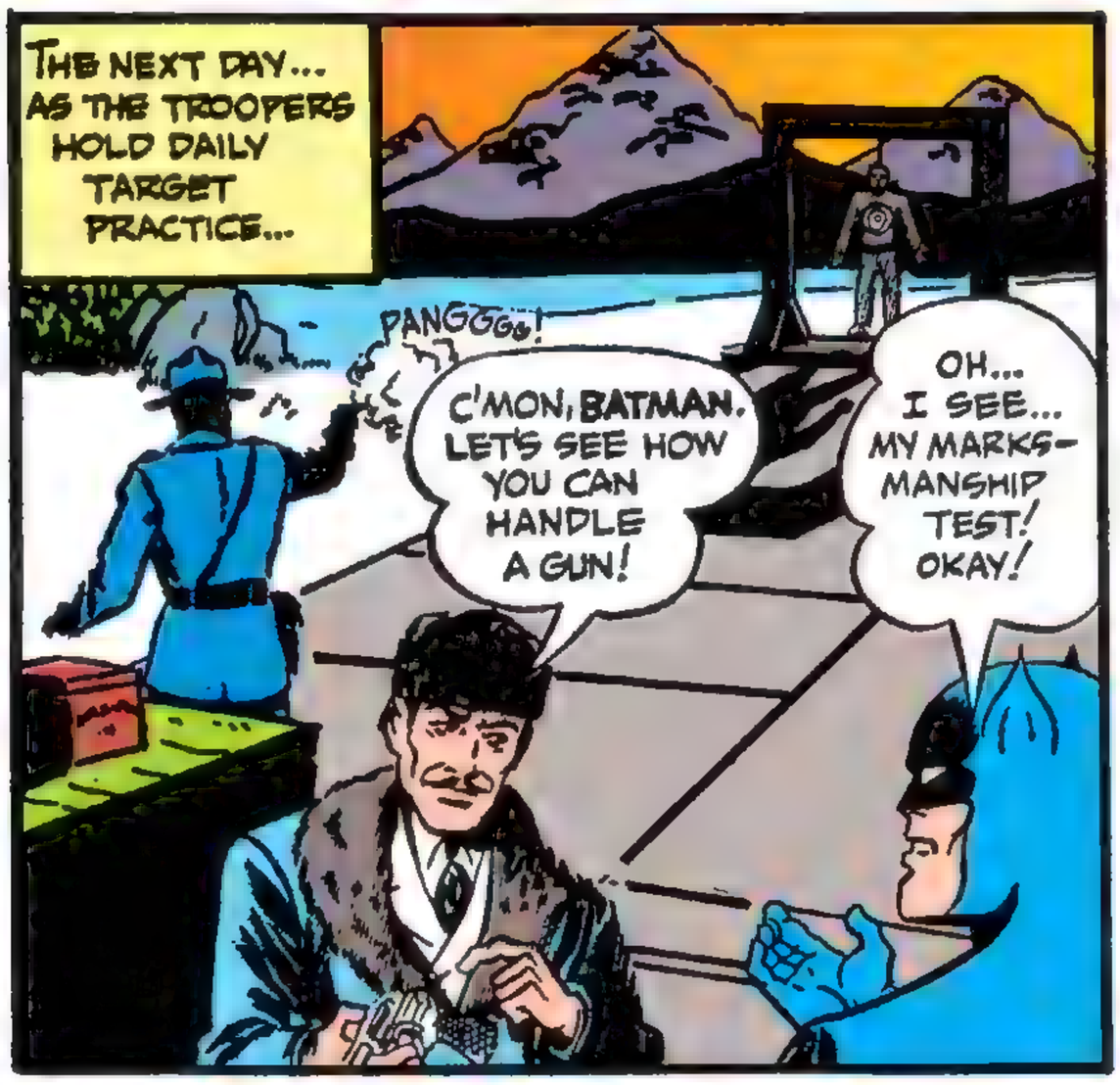
C'MON, BOLTON... WHY DON'T YOU SKIP THIS HATE STUFF? LET'S SHAKE HANDS AND BE FRIENDS!
I'D RATHER SHAKE HANDS WITH A RATTLESNAKE FIRST...

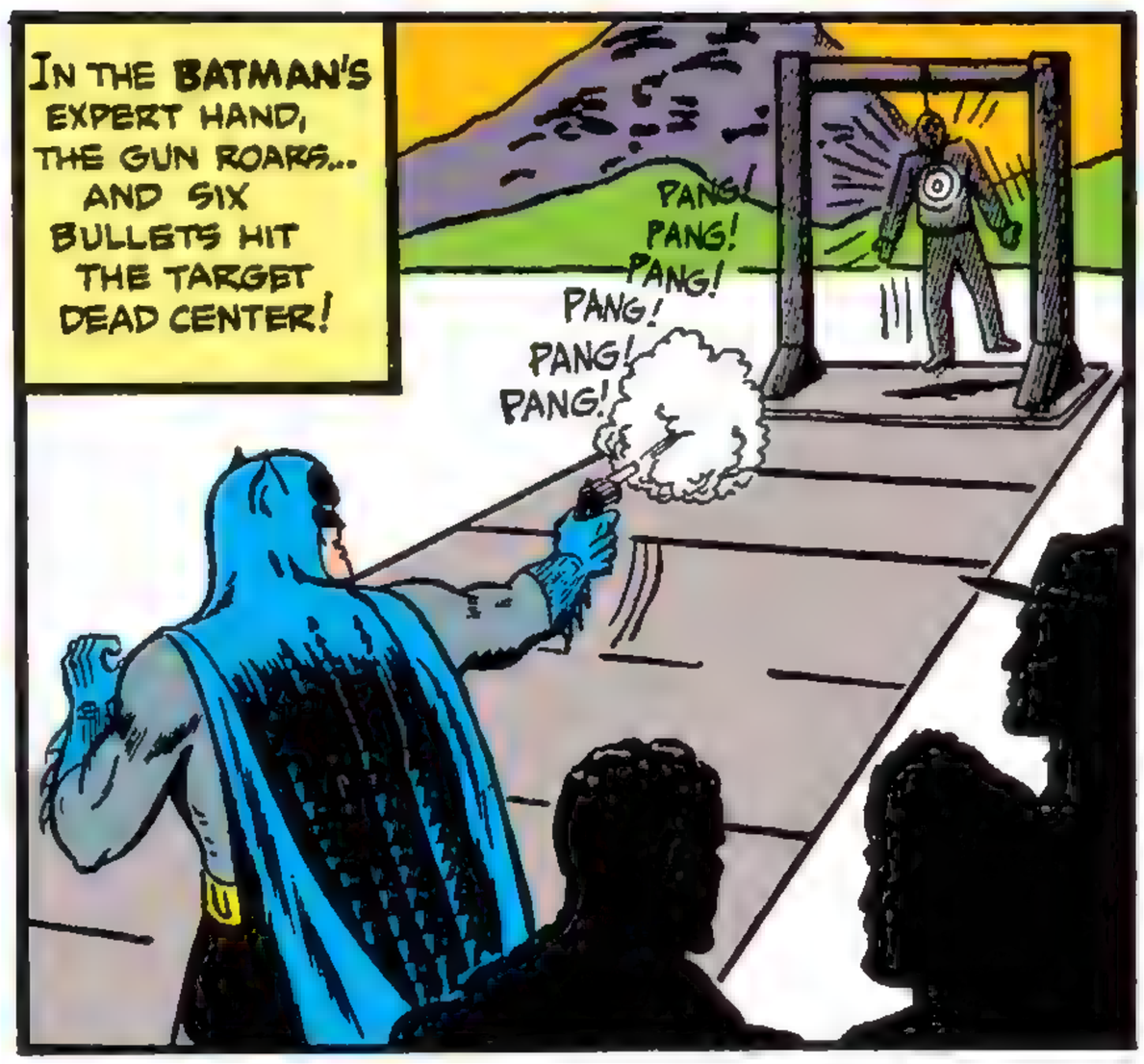
HE CAN'T TALK TO YOU THAT WAY! I'LL...
EASY, ROBIN... THAT BOY'S CARRYING AROUND A LOT OF TROUBLE AND IT'S UP TO HIM TO GET RID OF IT ALL BY HIMSELF!
SLAM

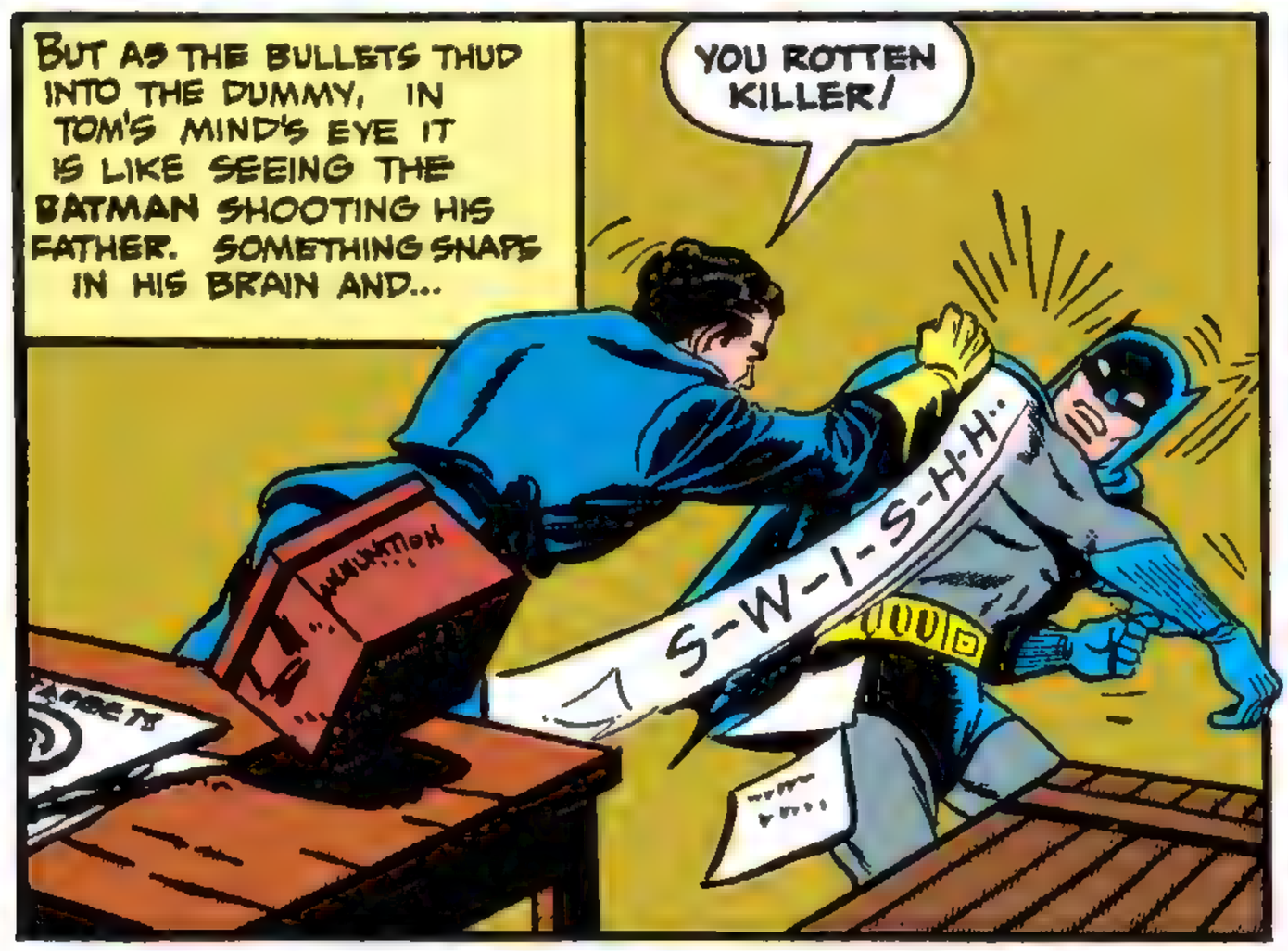
ALONE IN HIS ROOM...TOM DRAWS OUT A SMALL STRONGBOX...
BANDIT MIKE NOLAN DEAD! ROCCO ELUDES CAPTURE.
POLICE DISCOVER NOLAN'S BODY SHOT IN THE BACK! NOLAN WITH WEAPON. BATMAN FLEES SCENE AS POLICE ARRIVE.

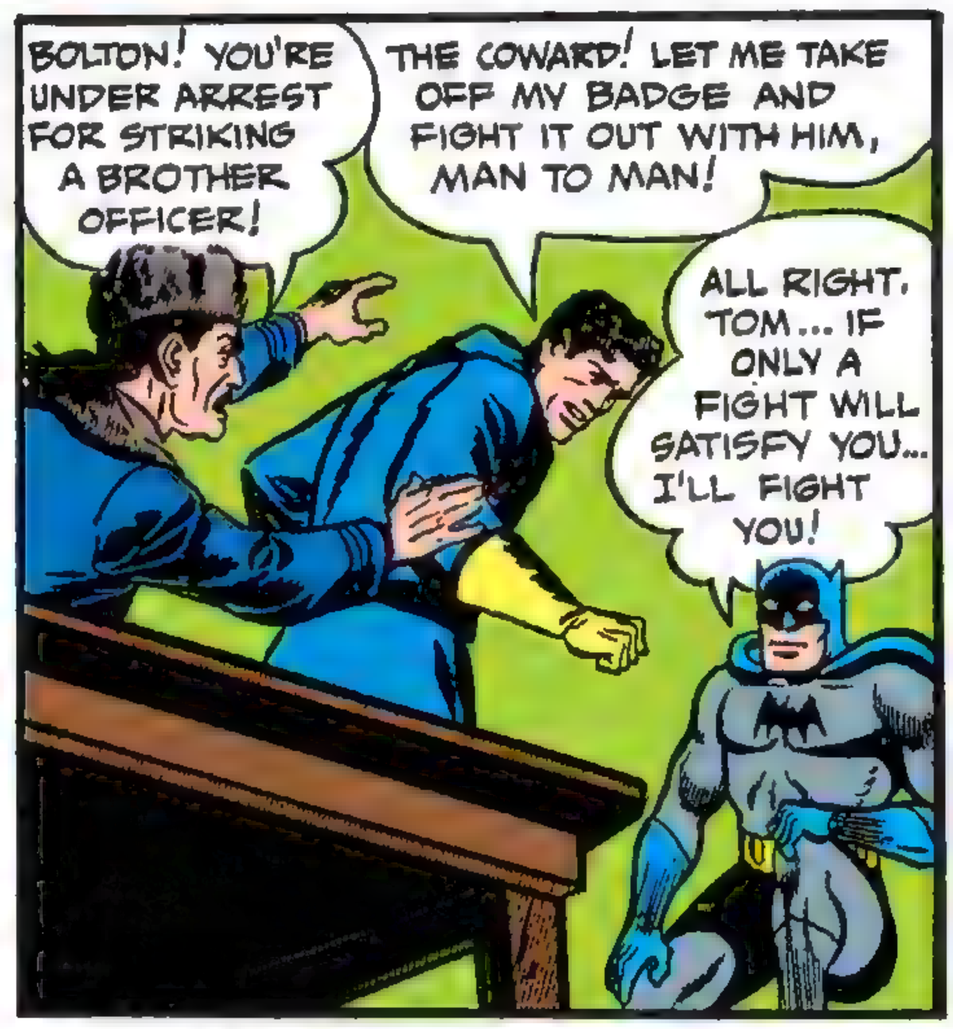
DAD! DAD! I STILL REMEMBER! I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A POLICEMAN, SO I CHANGED MY NAME... BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU'RE MY FATHER!

NOR THAT I'M MIKE NOLAN'S SON... AND THAT THE BATMAN SHOT YOU IN THE BACK!


THE NEXT DAY... AS THE TROOPERS HOLD DAILY TARGET PRACTICE...
PANGGGG!
C'MON, BATMAN. LET'S SEE HOW YOU CAN HANDLE A GUN!
OH... I SEE... MY MARKS-MANSHIP TEST! OKAY!


IN THE BATMAN'S EXPERT HAND, THE GUN ROARS... AND SIX BULLETS HIT THE TARGET DEAD CENTER!
PANG! PANG! PANG! PANG! PANG! PANG!


BUT AS THE BULLETS THUD INTO THE DUMMY, IN TOM'S MIND'S EYE IT IS LIKE SEEING THE BATMAN SHOOTING HIS FATHER. SOMETHING SNAPS IN HIS BRAIN AND...
YOU ROTTEN KILLER!
S-W-I-S-H-H-H-
AMMUNITION

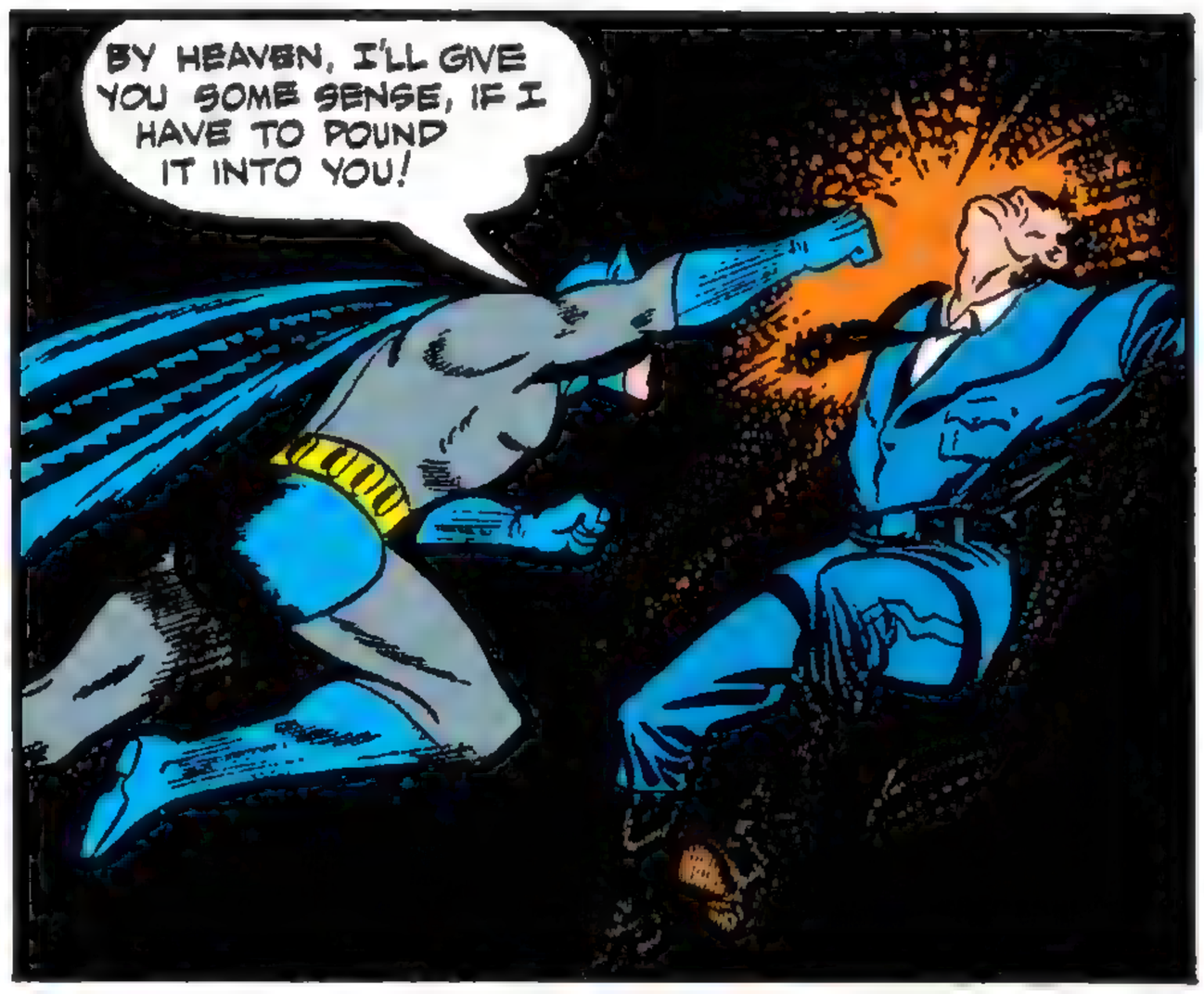

BOLTON! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR STRIKING A BROTHER OFFICER!
THE COWARD! LET ME TAKE OFF MY BADGE AND FIGHT IT OUT WITH HIM, MAN TO MAN!
ALL RIGHT, TOM... IF ONLY A FIGHT WILL SATISFY YOU... I'LL FIGHT YOU!

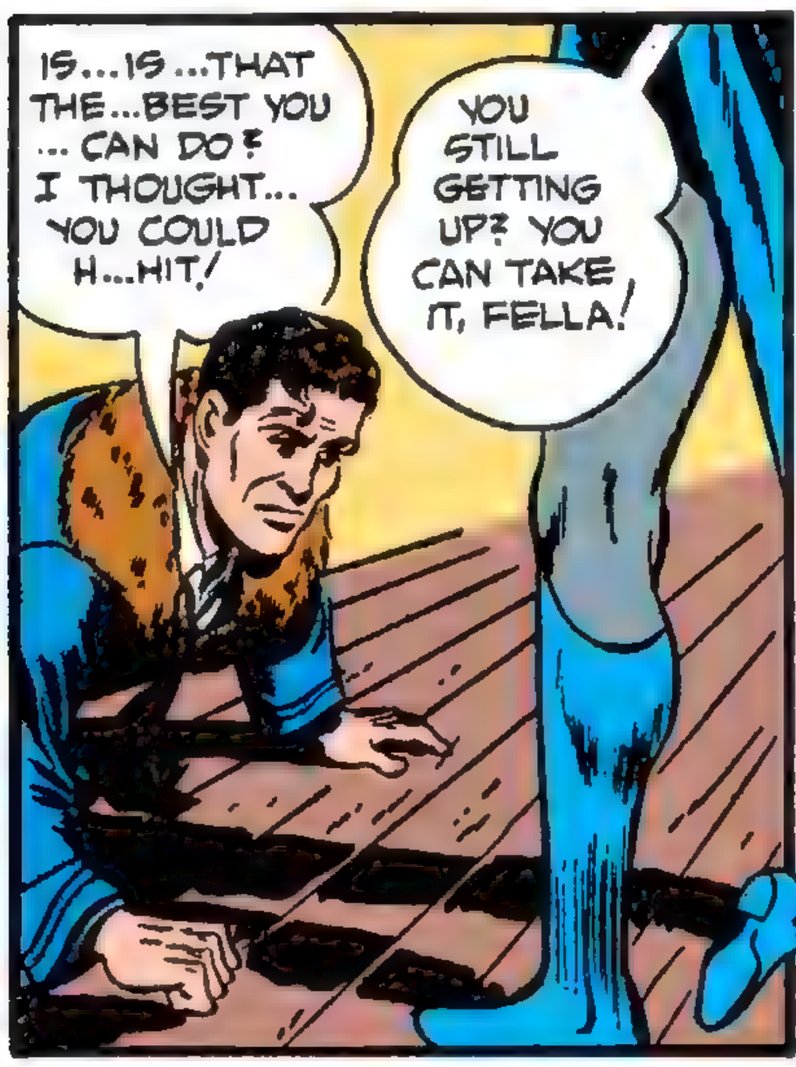
A CLEARING IS MADE... THE TWO OPPONENTS SQUARE OFF... AND THE BATTLE BEGINS!
THE FIRST THING A BOXER LEARNS IS TO USE CAUTION!
I'LL TEAR YOUR H... OH!
9

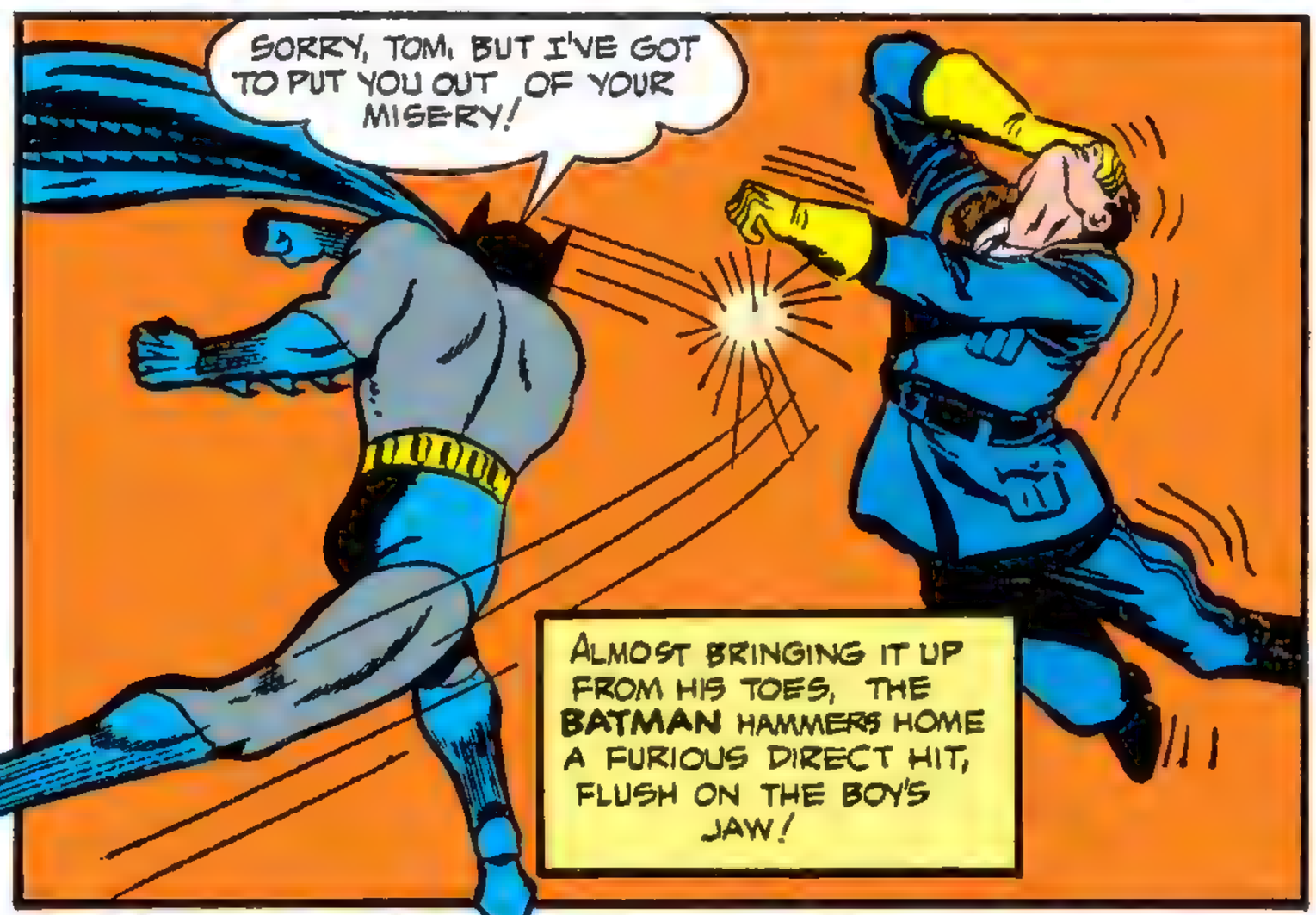
SKIP THE ADVICE! C'MON... FIGHT!

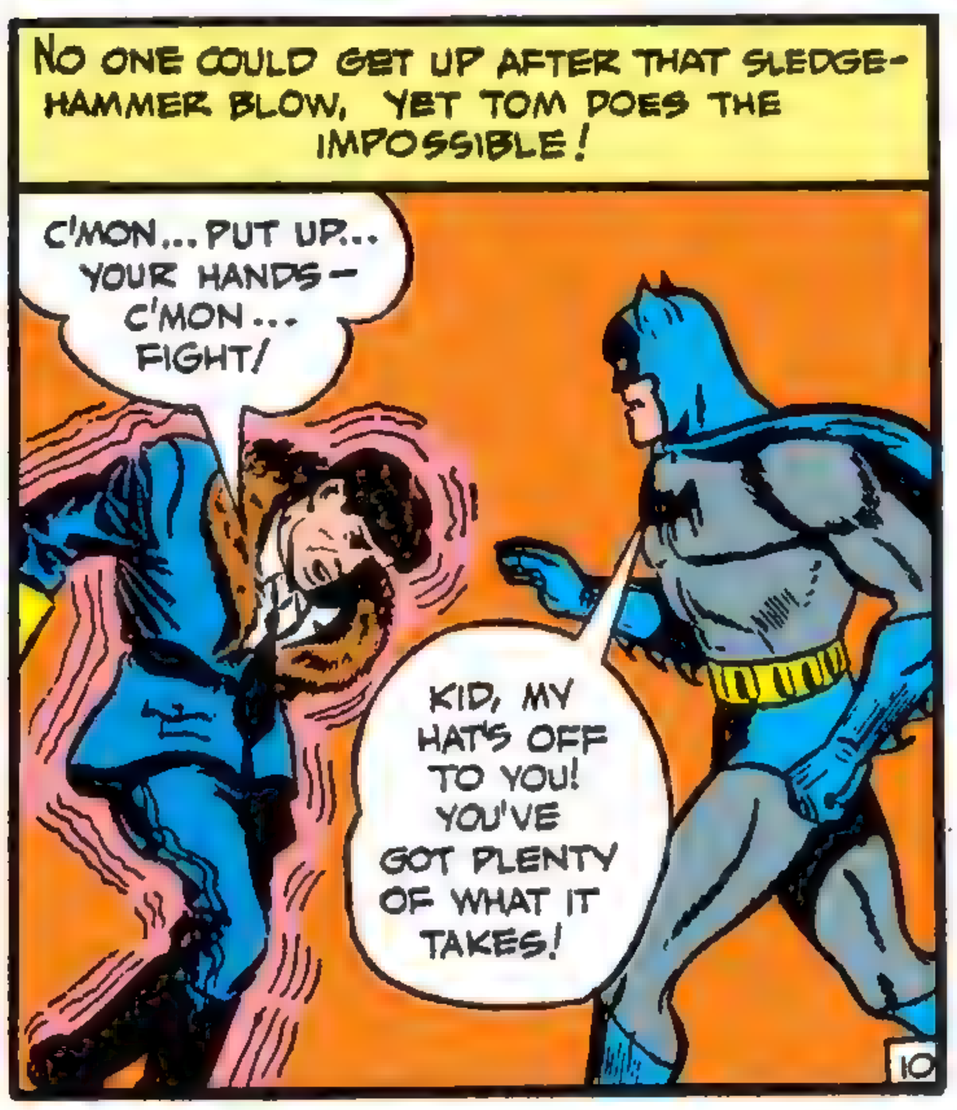
RELUCTANT BUT GRIM, THE DEADLY FIGHTING MACHINE THAT IS THE BATMAN BEGINS TO CRACK HOME WITH DYNAMITE FISTS!
OKAY... I HATE TO DO THIS... BUT YOU ASKED FOR IT!

YOU...DON'T THINK... THAT'S GOING TO STOP ME! C'MON... BATMAN!

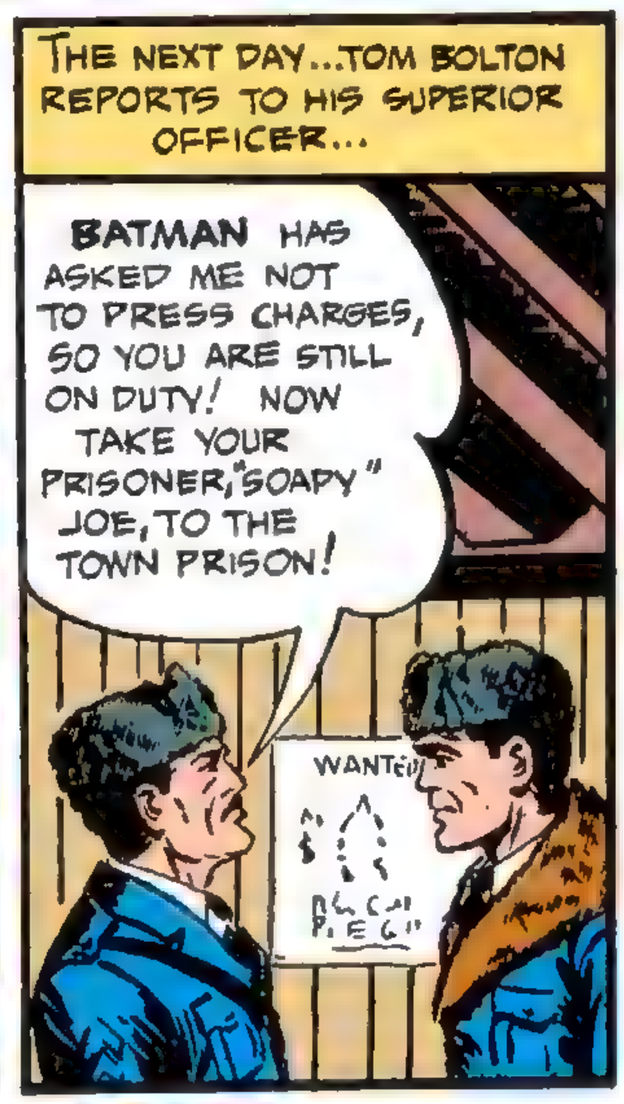

BY HEAVEN, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME SENSE, IF I HAVE TO POUND IT INTO YOU!


IS...IS...THAT THE...BEST YOU ... CAN DO? I THOUGHT... YOU COULD H...HIT!
YOU STILL GETTING UP? YOU CAN TAKE IT, FELLA!

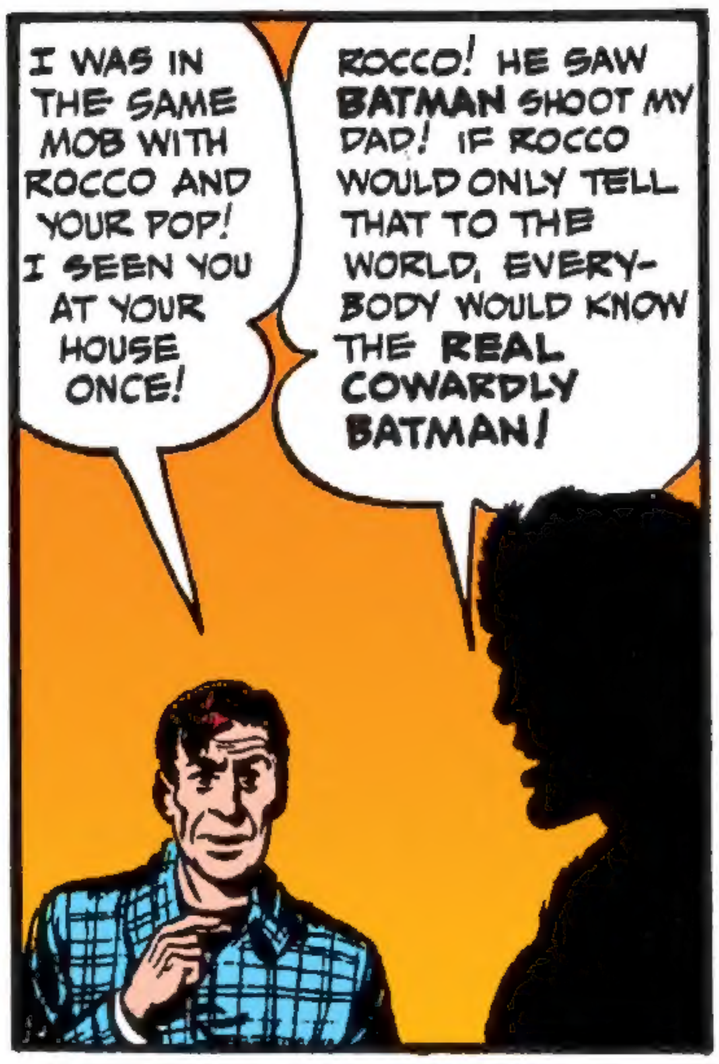

SORRY, TOM, BUT I'VE GOT TO PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY!
ALMOST BRINGING IT UP FROM HIS TOES, THE BATMAN HAMMERS HOME A FURIOUS DIRECT HIT, FLUSH ON THE BOY'S JAW!


NO ONE COULD GET UP AFTER THAT SLEDGE-HAMMER BLOW, YET TOM DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE!
C'MON... PUT UP... YOUR HANDS— C'MON... FIGHT!
KID, MY HAT'S OFF TO YOU! YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF WHAT IT TAKES!
10

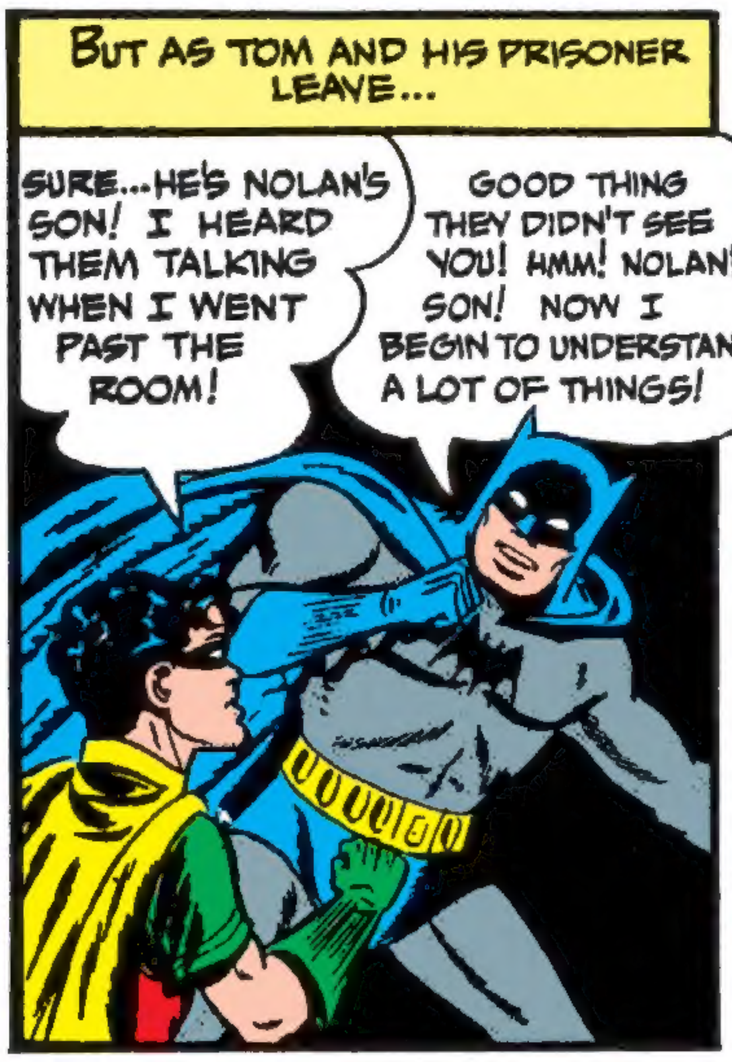
BUT THOSE TERRIFIC PUNCHES HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL... AND THE GALLANT LAD SUDDENLY SLUMPS FORWARD... BEATEN AT LAST!
C'MON... FIGHT... FI... AH-H-H-H..!
OKAY, KID...HAVE IT YOUR WAY IF YOU WON'T THROW IN THE SPONGE.


THE NEXT DAY...TOM BOLTON REPORTS TO HIS SUPERIOR OFFICER...
BATMAN HAS ASKED ME NOT TO PRESS CHARGES, SO YOU ARE STILL ON DUTY! NOW TAKE YOUR PRISONER, "SOAPY" JOE, TO THE TOWN PRISON!
WANTED

INSIDE THE PRISON BARRACKS...
I SEEN YOUR SCRAP WITH THE BATMAN FROM THIS WINDOW. YOU SURE DO HATE THAT GUY, EH, TOM... NOLAN?
HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

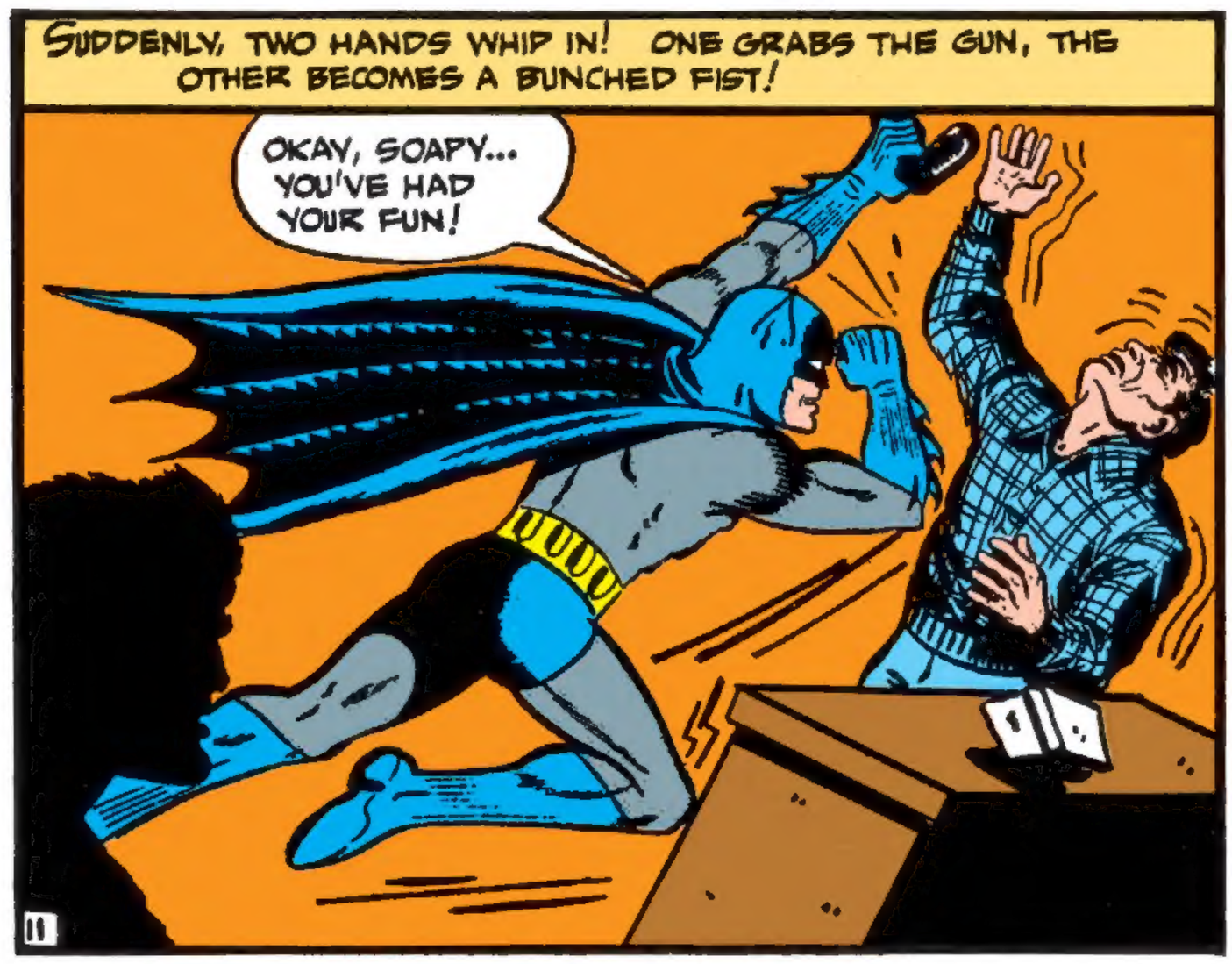

I WAS IN THE SAME MOB WITH ROCCO AND YOUR POP! I SEEN YOU AT YOUR HOUSE ONCE!
ROCCO! HE SAW BATMAN SHOOT MY DAD! IF ROCCO WOULD ONLY TELL THAT TO THE WORLD, EVERYBODY WOULD KNOW THE REAL COWARDLY BATMAN!

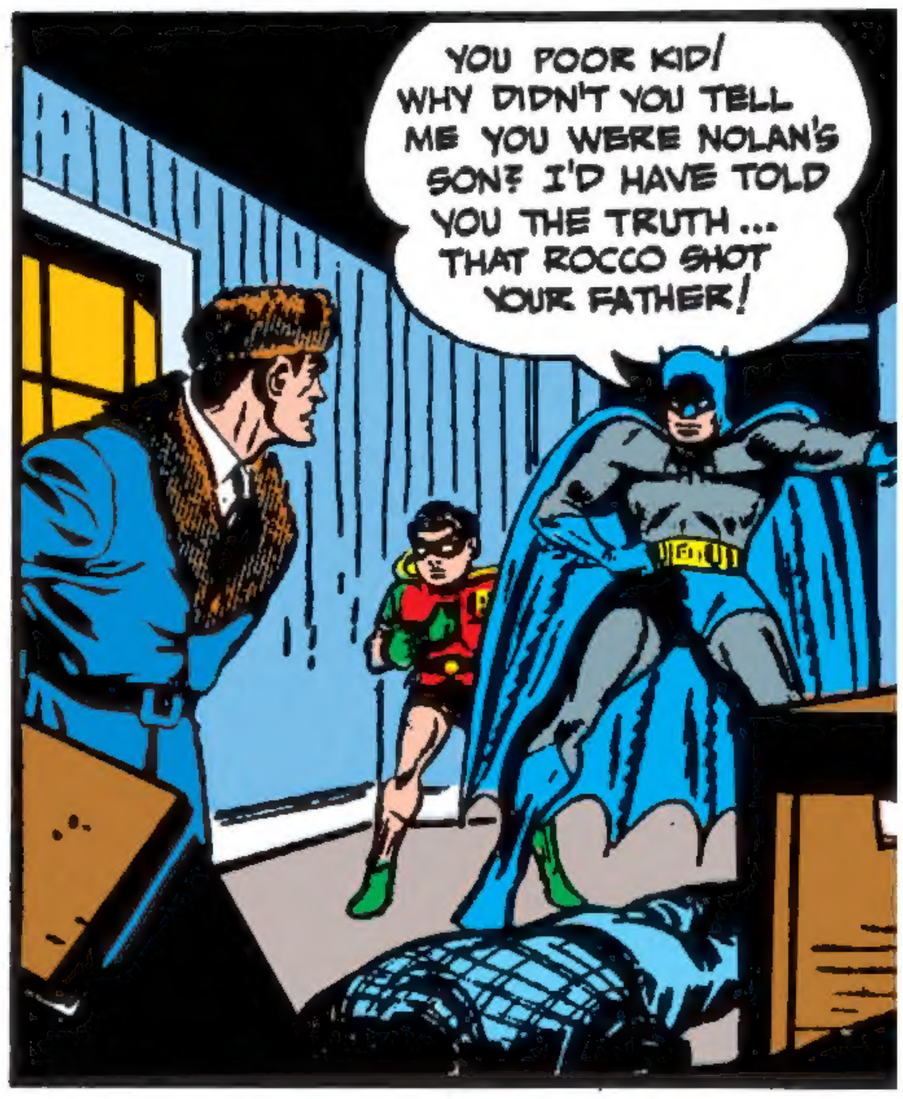
I CAN TAKE YOU TO ROCCO! HE'S HIDING OUT HERE IN THESE WOODS!
ROCCO HERE? C'MON, WE'RE GOING TO HIM!

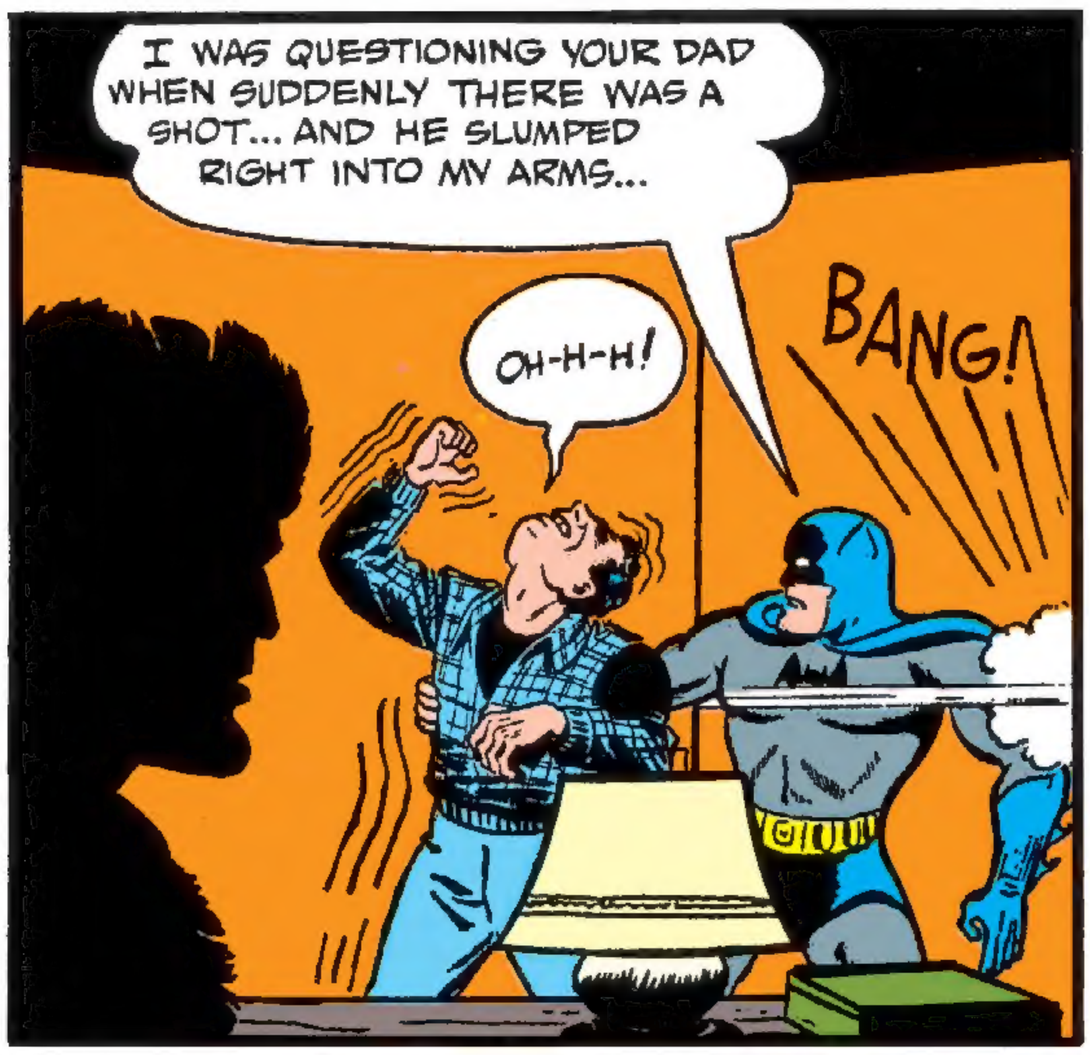

BUT AS TOM AND HIS PRISONER LEAVE...
SURE...HE'S NOLAN'S SON! I HEARD THEM TALKING WHEN I WENT PAST THE ROOM!
GOOD THING THEY DIDN'T SEE YOU! HMM! NOLAN'S SON! NOW I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND A LOT OF THINGS!

DONNING SKIS, THE CRIME-BUSTERS FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF TOM AND SOAPY...
THERE THEY GO...TOWARD THAT CABIN!

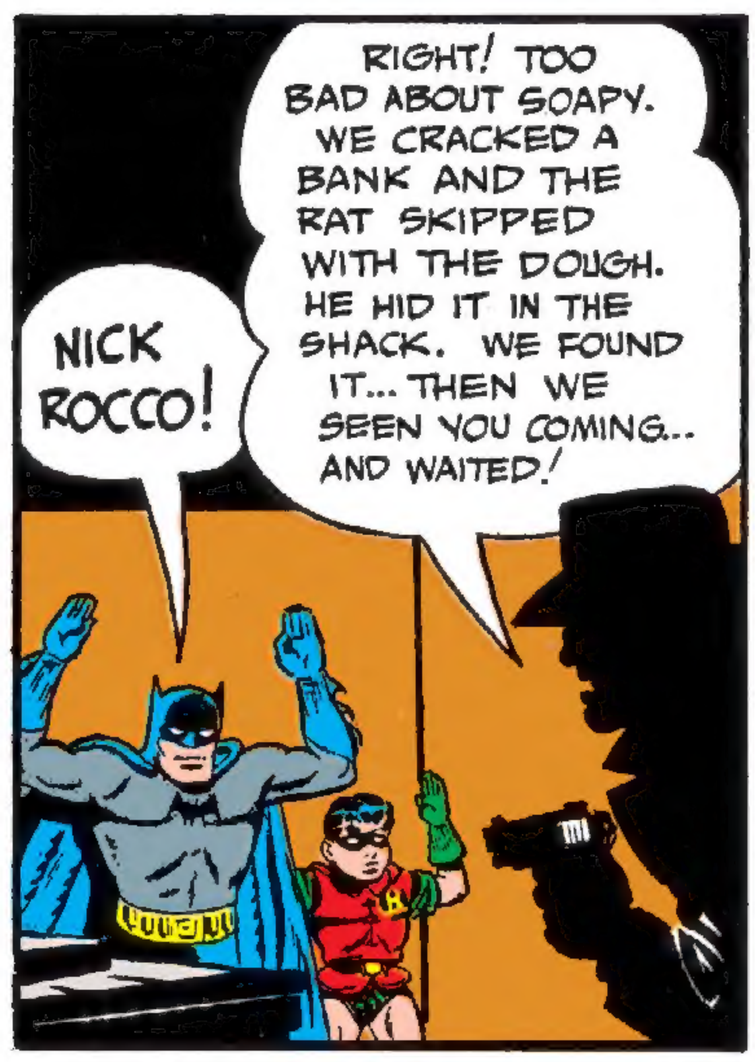
INSIDE THE CABIN...
WHERE'S ROCCO? WHAT?
LIFT 'EM UP, COPPER! HIGH!

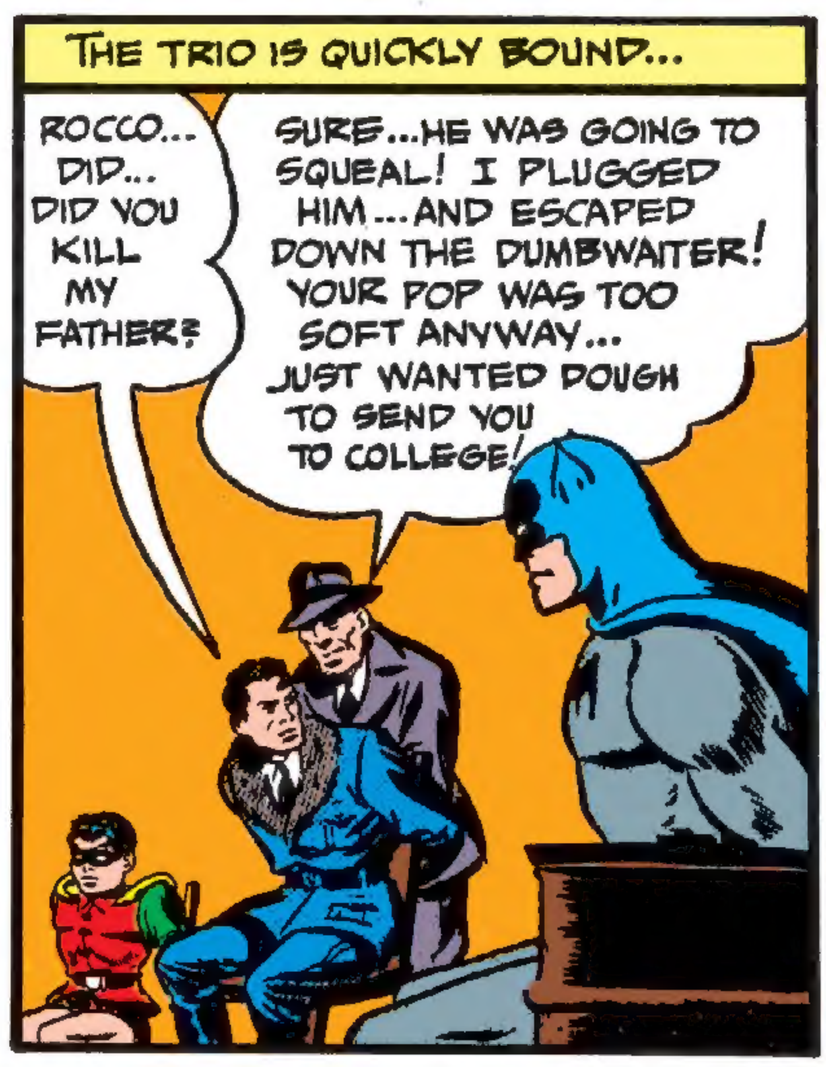

SUDDENLY, TWO HANDS WHIP IN! ONE GRABS THE GUN, THE OTHER BECOMES A BUNCHED FIST!
OKAY, SOAPY... YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN!


YOU POOR KID! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE NOLAN'S SON? I'D HAVE TOLD YOU THE TRUTH... THAT ROCCO SHOT YOUR FATHER!


I WAS QUESTIONING YOUR DAD WHEN SUDDENLY THERE WAS A SHOT... AND HE SLUMPED RIGHT INTO MY ARMS...
OH-H-H!
BANG!

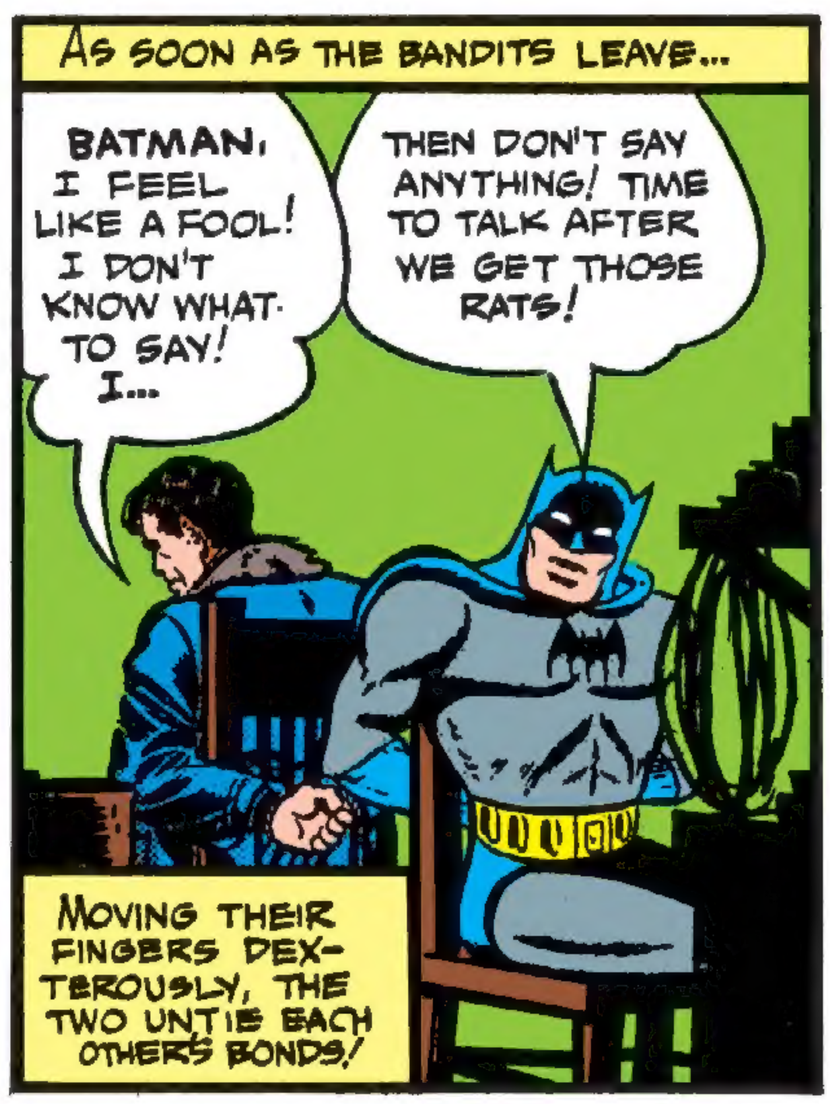
...JUST LIKE THAT, EH, BATMAN?

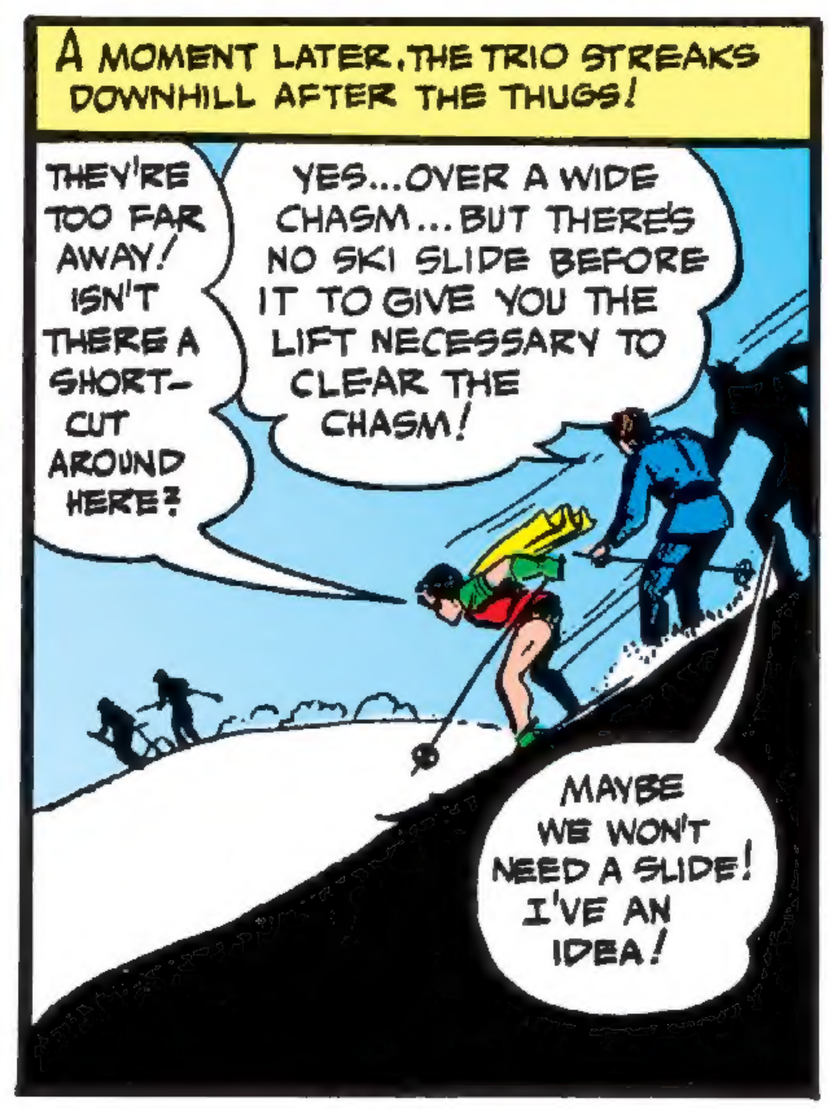

NICK ROCCO!
RIGHT! TOO BAD ABOUT SOAPY. WE CRACKED A BANK AND THE RAT SKIPPED WITH THE DOUGH. HE HID IT IN THE SHACK. WE FOUND IT... THEN WE SEEN YOU COMING... AND WAITED!

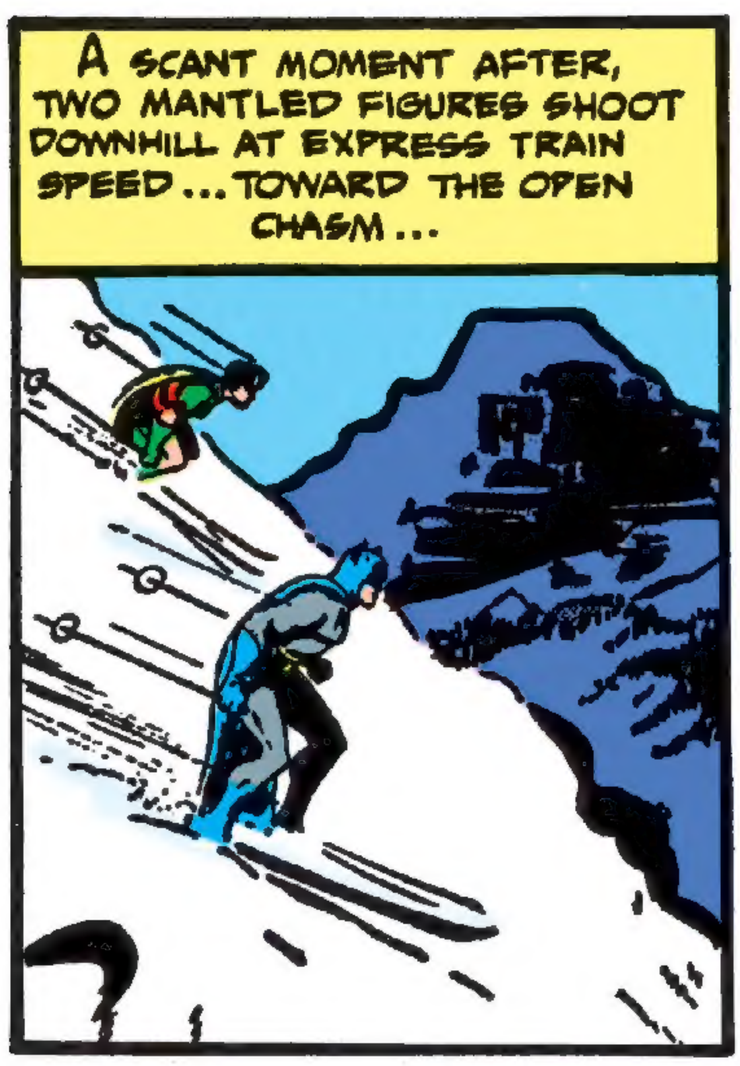

THE TRIO IS QUICKLY BOUND...
ROCCO... DID... DID YOU KILL MY FATHER?
SURE...HE WAS GOING TO SQUEAL! I PLUGGED HIM...AND ESCAPED DOWN THE DUMBWAITER! YOUR POP WAS TOO SOFT ANYWAY... JUST WANTED DOUGH TO SEND YOU TO COLLEGE!

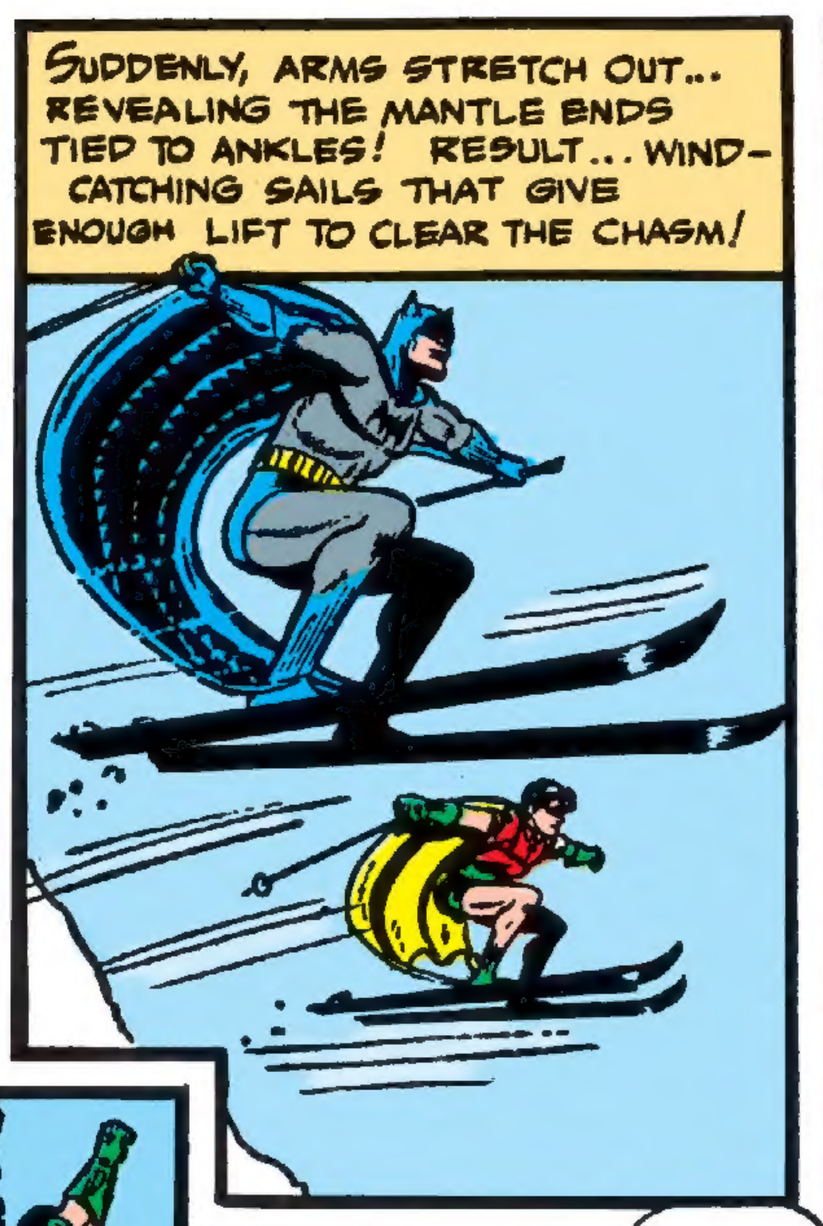
NOW I'M GONNA PLUG YOU THREE IN THE BACK... JUST LIKE I DID NOLAN!
NO, ROCCO! YOU KILL THEM AND EVERY COP IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE OUT FOR US!

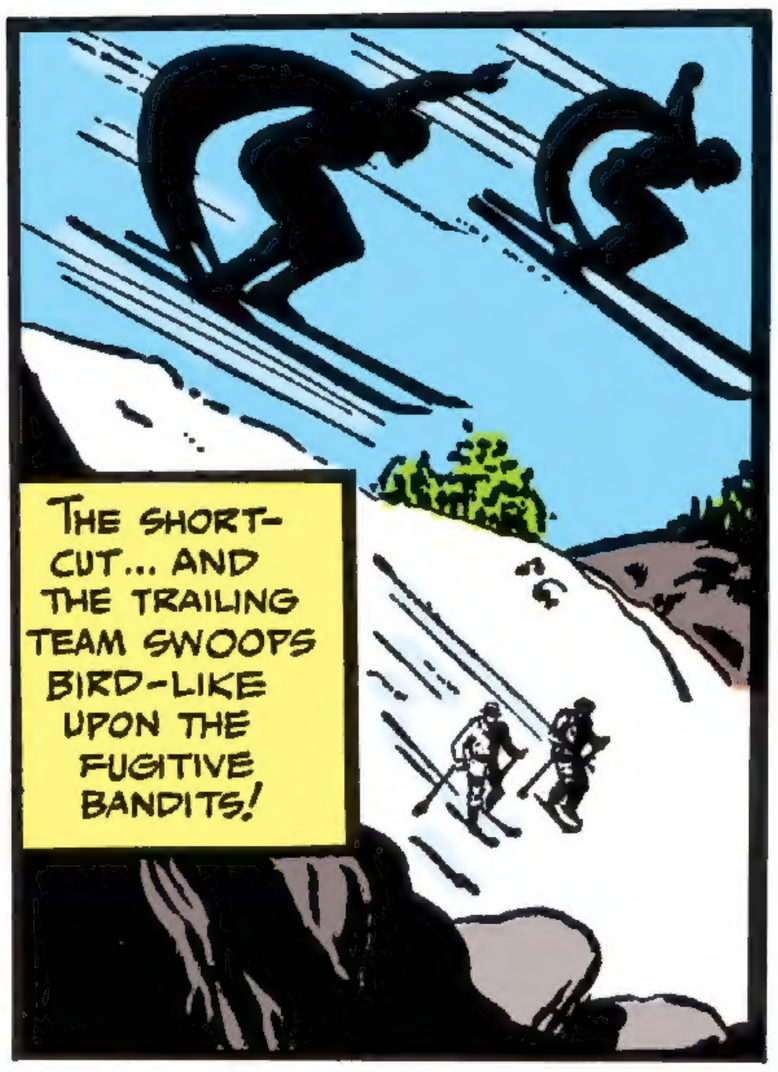
BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE IMPORTANT GUYS. DON'T FORGET IT! YEAH!
YEAH! WE DON'T WANT NO MANHUNT! OKAY... BUT I HATE TO LEAVE THEM LIKE THIS! WELL... LET'S BLOW!
12

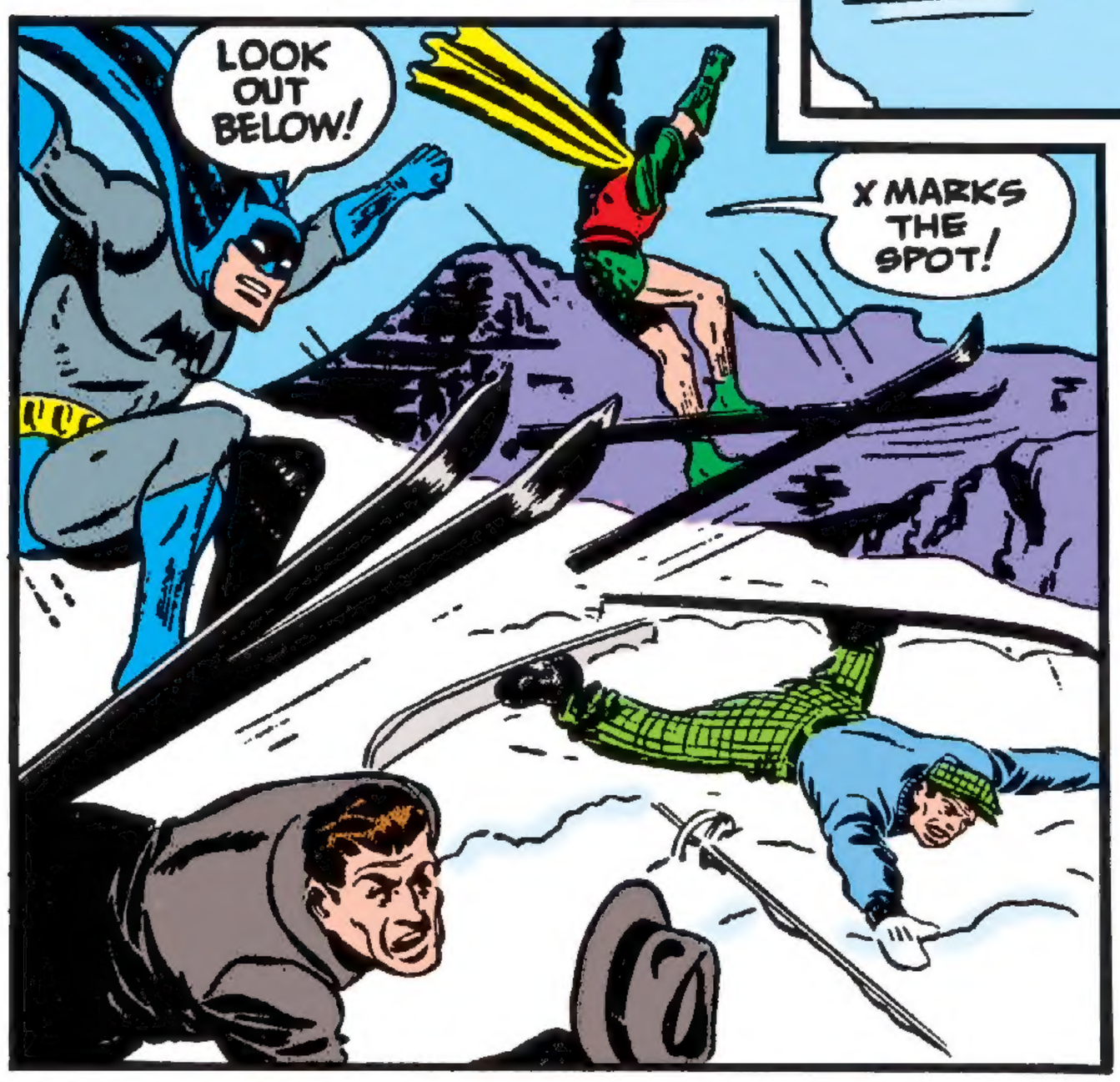

AS SOON AS THE BANDITS LEAVE...
BATMAN, I FEEL LIKE A FOOL! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! I...
THEN DON'T SAY ANYTHING! TIME TO TALK AFTER WE GET THOSE RATS!
MOVING THEIR FINGERS DEXTEROUSLY, THE TWO UNTIE EACH OTHER'S BONDS!


A MOMENT LATER, THE TRIO STREAKS DOWNHILL AFTER THE THUGS!
THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY! ISN'T THERE A SHORT-CUT AROUND HERE?
YES...OVER A WIDE CHASM... BUT THERE'S NO SKI SLIDE BEFORE IT TO GIVE YOU THE LIFT NECESSARY TO CLEAR THE CHASM!
MAYBE WE WON'T NEED A SLIDE! I'VE AN IDEA!


A SCANT MOMENT AFTER, TWO MANTLED FIGURES SHOOT DOWNHILL AT EXPRESS TRAIN SPEED... TOWARD THE OPEN CHASM...

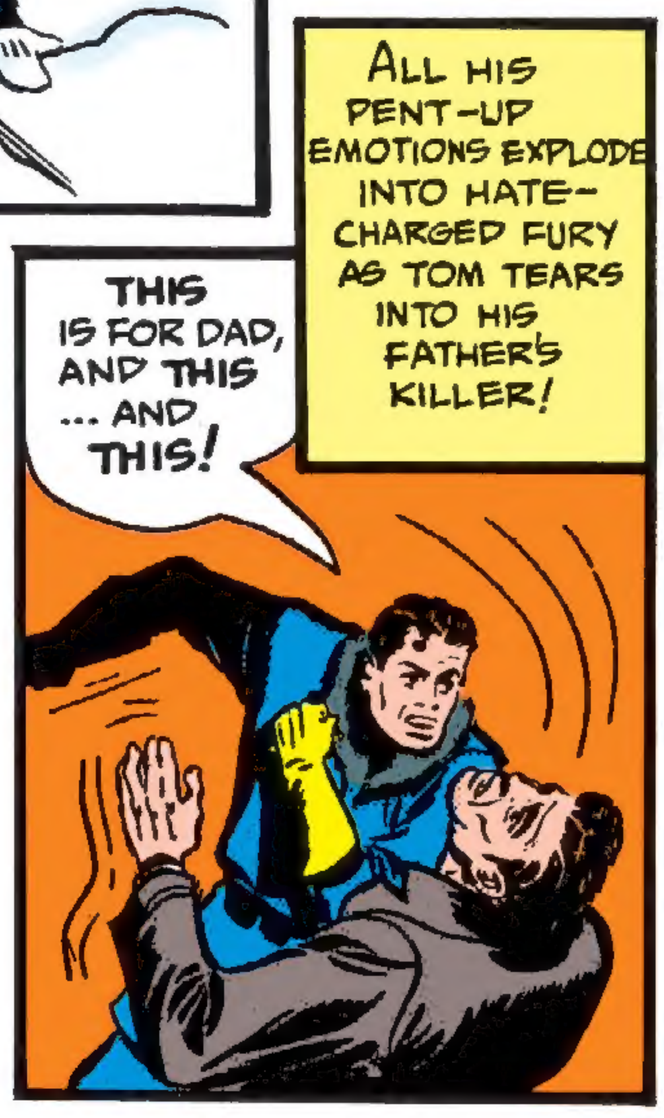

SUDDENLY, ARMS STRETCH OUT... REVEALING THE MANTLE ENDS TIED TO ANKLES! RESULT... WIND-CATCHING SAILS THAT GIVE ENOUGH LIFT TO CLEAR THE CHASM!


THE SHORT-CUT... AND THE TRAILING TEAM SWOOPS BIRD-LIKE UPON THE FUGITIVE BANDITS!


LOOK OUT BELOW!
X MARKS THE SPOT!

THEY CERTAINLY USE HARD WOOD FOR SKIS, DON'T THEY?
I'M PUTTING YOU ON ICE, ROCCO, FOR SOMEBODY ELSE!

HERE! I SAVED HIM FOR YOU!
NO...NO! HE'LL KILL ME!... HE'LL KILL ME!
NO...I'M JUST GOING TO BEAT YOUR HEAD OFF!
13


ALL HIS PENT-UP EMOTIONS EXPLODE INTO HATE-CHARGED FURY AS TOM TEARS INTO HIS FATHER'S KILLER!
THIS IS FOR DAD, AND THIS ... AND THIS!

Later...
THERE! IT'S GONE! THE WEIGHT I'VE CARRIED FOR YEARS! I'M GLAD! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE BATMAN NEVER USES A GUN... I'M SORRY!
SORRY FOR WHAT? FOR HONORING YOUR FATHER'S MEMORY? DON'T BE SORRY, TOM. YOU'RE A GOOD SON... AND A GOOD COP! SO LET'S SHAKE HANDS, PAL!
The End

Having earned the respect of the police force and the fear of criminals, Batman and Robin patrol the streets of Gotham City, protecting the innocent from returning super-villains such as the Joker, Catwoman and Scarecrow. But now the Dynamic Duo will meet an all-new adversary: the Penguin, the enigmatic master criminal who terrorizes the population of Gotham City with his deeds.

dccomics.com

This third volume of BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE collects the Dark Knight Detective's early adventures from BATMAN #8-11, DETECTIVE COMICS #57-65 and WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #4-6.